

MANSION
STRATHMORE
Music in the Mansion

**FLUTIST BRANDON PATRICK GEORGE &
PIANIST HUI-CHUAN CHEN**

Thursday, September 4, 2025, 7:30pm



PROGRAM

Undine Smith Moore: Three Pieces for Flute and Piano

- I. Introduction
- II. March
- III. Dance

William Grant Still: Suite

1. African Dancer
2. Mother and Child
3. Gamin

Florence Price: Four Songs

1. Night
2. The Moon Bridge
3. Dark Virgin
4. Travel's End

Valerie Coleman: Fanmi Imèn

~~pause~~

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor: Three Silhouettes (arr. Katherine Needleman)

- I. Tambourine
- II. Lament
- III. Valse

H.T. Burleigh: Three Spirituals

- I. Deep River
- II. I Got a Robe
- III. Steal Away

Valerie Coleman: *Wish Sonatine*

MEET THE ARTISTS

Brandon Patrick George is a Grammy-winning flutist whose repertoire extends from the Baroque era to today. He is the flutist of Imani Winds and has appeared as a soloist with the Atlanta, Baltimore, and Albany symphonies, American Composers Orchestra, and the Orchestra of St. Luke's, among others. He has been praised as "elegant" by *The New York Times*, as a "virtuoso" by *The Washington Post*, and as a "knockout musician with a gorgeous sound" by *The Philadelphia Inquirer*.

Brandon has performed at the Elbphilharmonie, the Kennedy Center, the Dresden Music Festival, and the Prague Spring Festival. In addition to his work with Imani Winds, Brandon's solo performances include appearances at Lincoln Center, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, 92nd Street Y, Tippet Rise, Bridgehampton Chamber Music Festival, and the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. In 2021, Brandon was part of the inaugural class of WQXR's Artist Propulsion Lab, a program designed to advance the careers of early and mid-career artists and support the future of classical music. During his year-long residency at WQXR, Brandon guest hosted Evening Music, interviewed Ford Foundation president Darren Walker about diversity and equity in the performing arts, and recorded with pianist Aaron Diehl and harpist June Han.

Prior to his solo career, Brandon performed as a guest with many of the world's leading ensembles including the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, and the International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE). He has appeared as guest principal flute with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, performing at Walt Disney Concert Hall and at the Hollywood Bowl with Music Director Gustavo Dudamel. His ensemble work allowed him to work closely with some of the foremost composers of our time, including John Adams, Louis Andriessen, Tania León, Steve Reich, and George Lewis.

Brandon has collaborated with many illustrious musicians and composers in chamber settings, including with the Escher Quartet, pianists Aaron Diehl and Lowell Liebermann, harpsichordist Mahan Esfahani, harpist Bridget Kibbey, and composers Valerie Coleman and Sullivan Fortner.

In September 2023, Brandon's latest album, *Twofold*, was released on In a Circle Records. *Twofold*, Brandon's second solo album, explores musical dialogues that transcend space, time, and identity by pairing canonical works for solo flute with new compositions. The recording features music by C.P.E. Bach, Claude Debussy, Reena Esmail, Saad Haddad, Shawn E. Okpebholo, Ruth Crawford Seeger, and Toru Takemitsu. *BBC Music Magazine* gave

Twofold a four-star rating for both the performance and recording, calling the album "a superb collection." *Twofold* follows the success of Brandon Patrick George's debut solo album, which includes music by Kalevi Aho, J.S. Bach, Pierre Boulez, and Sergei Prokofiev, and was released in 2020 on Haenssler Classics. Brandon was profiled in *The New York Times* around the album's release, in an article titled "A Flutist Steps into the Solo Spotlight," which described the album as "a program that showcases the flute in all its wit, warmth and brilliance."

Brandon Patrick George regularly serves on panels about diversity in classical music, being repeatedly asked what institutions can do to support and reflect the communities they serve. The many conversations, and desire to use his platform for change, inspired him to create his latest commissioning initiative, BPG: The Community Concerto Project. Brandon proposes a new concerto, which features students that he will mentor during his collaboration in the community. Having a new commission that tells the story of that community, while also representing the community on stage, encompasses Brandon's vision of helping orchestras deepen their connections with their audiences, inspire young musicians of color, and expand the repertoire with programming that reflects the community in which they serve. In June 2024, the Albany Symphony presented BPG: The Community Concerto Project in a new concerto performed by Brandon and the Albany High School Choir, composed by Michael Gilbertson. Brandon will continue to work with symphonies and students across the country in future seasons, helping to build connections between various communities and orchestral institutions.

Raised by a single mother in Dayton, OH, Brandon is the proud product of public arts education. He draws on his personal experiences in his commitment to educating the next generation, performing countless outreach concerts for schoolchildren every year, and mentoring young conservatory musicians of color embarking on performance careers. Brandon trained at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music with Michel Debost, in Paris with Sophie Cherrier, and received a Master of Music from the Manhattan School of Music, studying with Marya Martin. He continued his studies under the guidance of Lorna McGhee, now principal flutist of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

Brandon serves on the faculty of the Curtis Institute of Music since 2021 and was appointed to the flute faculty at the Mannes School of Music in January 2025. He has spent many summers on the faculty of the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity in Canada. In 2024, he was appointed as the Music Consultant at The Morgan Library & Museum, where he oversees the development and implementation of its music program.

Pianist **Hui-Chuan Chen** leads a diverse career as a concert pianist, chamber musician, and educator. She has performed widely throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia, and has appeared in major performance venues, including Carnegie Hall (Weill Recital Hall), The Kennedy Center Concert Hall, and The Supreme Court of the United States of America. She has featured at the Aspen Music Festival (Aspen, CO), The National Gallery of Art and The Phillips Collection in Washington DC, the Barge Music Festival in New York City, The Accademia Musicale Chigiana in Siena, Italy, the Walters Arts Museum and An Die Musik in Baltimore, MD, and the Heifetz International Music Festival in Staunton, VA.

Hui-Chuan has collaborated and toured with celebrated soloists, including Amit Peled, Marina Piccinini, Demarre McGill, Chee-Yun Kim, Jennifer Frautschi, and Robert McDuffie. She returns regularly to The Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University as a collaborator and is a long-term partner of the Washington International Competition, The National Symphony Orchestra Youth Fellowship Program, and the Arts Club of Washington. She served as music director for The Figaro Project in Baltimore, and First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Towson, MD.

She has earned awards from the Wonderlic Piano Competition in Baltimore, the Music Academy International in Siena, and the Kaohsiung City Competition, National Taiwan Normal University Piano Competition, and Kawai Piano Competition in Taiwan. She has also won awards and held prominent fellowships at The Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University.

Since completing her Doctor of Musical Arts degree at The Peabody Institute, Hui-Chuan is devoted to teaching and academia. She previously served as faculty for the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University, Washington Conservatory of Music, and the Heifetz International Music Institute. She currently holds faculty and collaborative positions with the University of Maryland Baltimore County.

Create Your Legacy

Join generous and thoughtful patrons like you who want to ensure the arts thrive for generations to come. Making a planned gift of any size—such as a gift in your will to Strathmore—is often the easiest and most meaningful way to create your personal legacy in support of the arts.

Strathmore.org/legacy

Strathmore extends its gratitude to Live Better Hearing + Balance for supporting Music in the Mansion at Strathmore.



Scan the QR code to meet like-minded arts patrons like you.

