

KAUFMAN MUSIC CENTER PRESENTS

What Makes it Great?

Beethoven, the Pandemic & the Power of Connection
The Kreutzer Sonata

Featuring Duo Prism: Jesse Mills, *violin* and Rieko Aizawa, *piano*

2020-21



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Online Performance Filmed at
Merkin Hall at Kaufman Music Center
Streamed Monday, October 5, 2020 at 7 pm

Kaufman Music Center
presents

What Makes It Great?®

Beethoven, the Pandemic & the Power of Connection

The Kreutzer Sonata

Rob Kapilow, *commentator and conductor*

Duo Prism: Jesse Mills, *violin* and Rieko Aizawa, *piano*

Music Examples: Discussion and Demonstration

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN
(1770-1827)

Violin Sonata No. 9 in A major, Op. 47
"Kreutzer" (1802-04)

- I. Adagio sostenuto — Presto
- II. Andante con variazioni
- III. Finale. Presto

*Join the conversation at a live post-concert Q&A
with Rob Kapilow*

All 2020-21 Kaufman Music Center performances are online, filmed in safe, socially distanced locations observing health and safety protocols, and streamed to the safety of your home.

Steinway is the official piano of Merkin Hall

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About the Host

For over 30 years, **Rob Kapilow** has brought the joy and wonder of classical music – and unraveled some of its mysteries – to audiences of all ages and backgrounds. Characterized by his unique ability to create an “aha” moment for his audiences and collaborators, whatever their level of musical sophistication or naiveté, Kapilow’s work brings music into people’s lives: opening new ears to musical experiences and helping people to listen actively rather than just hear.

Kapilow’s range of activities is astonishingly broad, including his *What Makes It Great?*[®] presentations (now for over 20 seasons in New York and Boston), his family compositions and Family Musik[®] events, his Citypieces, corporate programs, and residencies with institutions as diverse as the National Gallery of Canada and Stanford University. The reach of his interactive events and activities is wide, from Native American tribal communities in Montana and inner-city high school students in Louisiana to audiences in Kyoto and Kuala Lumpur, and from tots barely out of diapers to musicologists in Ivy League programs.

As the music world largely shifted to the virtual arena this summer, Mr. Kapilow recorded a new, three-part, socially-distanced series of *What Makes it Great?* programs entitled “Beethoven, the Pandemic and the Power of Connection” filmed in New York City’s Merkin Hall with Kaufman Music Center. He created Livestream programs for the Caramoor Festival as well as Stanford Live, and taught a 7-week online course, “Inside the Great American Songbook from Gershwin to Sondheim” for the Thurnauer School of Music of the Kaplan JCC of the Palisades, and worked with related themes in a unique, virtual corporate program on listening for CEOs in Istanbul and Dubai.

A summer highlight was a collaboration with the innovative dance group Pilobolus in which Mr. Kapilow helped curate and perform, as well as compose a new choral work based on a Rumi text, for their remarkable, live, car-safari-experience-in-the-woods at their Five Senses Festival in Washington Connecticut. In addition to the Rumi choral composition, Mr. Kapilow also worked intensively on his new, large-scale choral/orchestral composition, *We Came to America*, based on immigrant stories, and previewed parts of the work on a special 2-hour evening on WWFM radio combining demonstrations and discussions of the new work along with analyses of music ranging from Beethoven’s Fifth Symphony to Harold Arlen’s “Over the Rainbow.”

In June, Mr. Kapilow signed a new, two-book contract with Norton/Liveright, and he is currently hard at work doing research for both books, the first on the music of the Woodstock Generation.

Kapilow has appeared on NBC’s *Today Show* with Katie Couric; he presented a special *What Makes It Great?*[®] for broadcast on PBS’s *Live From Lincoln Center*; and he has written two books published by Wiley/Lincoln Center: *All You Have To Do Is Listen*, which won the PSP Prose Award for Best Book in Music and the Performing Arts, and *What Makes It Great* (2011), the first book of its kind to be especially designed for the iPad with embedded musical examples. His new book, *Listening for America: Inside the Great American Songbook from Gershwin to Sondheim*, published by Norton/Liveright is now available.

Rob Kapilow dedicates his summer months to writing and composing new music. He was the first composer to be granted the rights to set Dr. Seuss’ words to music, and his *Green Eggs and Ham* has been called “the most successful piece written for families this half century.” A CD featuring Nathan Gunn and Isabel Leonard in two more of his popular Family Musik[®] compositions, Chris van Allsburg’s

Polar Express and Dr. Seuss's *Gertrude McFuzz*, was released in 2014, and his new piece for the 25th anniversary of Ottawa Chamberfest based on Louise Bourgeois' spider sculpture, "Maman." received its premiere in August of 2019. He is currently working on a large new piece for the JCC based on immigrant stories called *We Came to America* to be premiered in 2021.

Kapilow's career has been marked by numerous major awards and grants. He won First Place in the Fontainebleau Casadesus Piano Competition and was the second-place winner of the Antal Dorati Conductor's Competition with the Detroit Symphony. He was featured on Chicago Public Radio's Composers In America series, and is a recipient of an Exxon Meet-the-Composer grant and numerous ASCAP awards.

Kapilow has conducted many of North America's major orchestras, as well as new works of musical theater, ranging from the Tony Award-winning *Nine* on Broadway to the premiere of *Frida* for the opening of the Brooklyn Academy of Music's Next Wave Festival, and premieres of works for the American Repertory Theater. At the age of 19, Kapilow interrupted his academic work at Yale University to study with the legendary Nadia Boulanger. Two years later, after graduating Phi Beta Kappa from Yale, he continued his studies at Eastman School of Music. After graduating from Eastman, he returned to Yale, where he was an assistant professor for six years at the university. He lives in River Vale, NJ, with his wife and three children.

About the Artists

Comprised of pianist Rieko Aizawa and violinist Jesse Mills, **Duo Prism** is a dynamic ensemble committed to the full spectrum of works composed for violin and piano. The metaphor of a three-sided prism represents the perfectly balanced relationship which these two artists together make with the composers of the works that they present. Duo Prism won 1st Prize at the Gaetano Zinetti International Chamber Music Competition in Verona, Italy, in 2006. Since then they have established themselves as a force in the chamber music world. They are also founding members of the Horszowski Trio and Artistic directors of the Alpenglow Chamber Music Festival.

Both Aizawa and Mills are graduates of The Juilliard School. **Rieko Aizawa**, a native of Japan, also studied at the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia, where she was the last pupil of Mieczyslaw Horszowski. On the recommendation of the pianist Mitsuko Uchida, she began her career with a US debut at the age of fourteen at the Carnegie Hall and at the Kennedy Center with the New York String Orchestra conducted by Alexander Schneider. Praised by the *New York Times* for an "impressive musicality, a crisp touch and expressive phrasing," Aizawa has performed throughout the US, Canada and Europe, including New York City's Lincoln Center, Boston's Symphony Hall, Chicago's Orchestra Hall, Vienna's Konzerthaus, and Wigmore Hall in London.

Since his concerto debut at the Ravinia Festival in 2004, two-time Grammy-nominated violinist **Jesse Mills** has established a unique career, performing music from classical to contemporary, as well as composed and improvised music of his own invention. Mills earned two Grammy nominations for his work on several discs of Arnold Schoenberg's music, released by NAXOS. The *Washington Post* claimed, "Mills played [Messiaen] as if he'd just received it from some distant, vast and magnificent reach of the cosmos." As a composer and arranger, Mills has been commissioned by venues including Columbia University's Miller Theater, the Chamber Music Northwest festival in Portland, OR and Bargemusic in NYC.

Aizawa and Mills are on the faculty at Brooklyn College and at Longy School of Music of Bard College.

See a Concert. Take a Class. Connect through Music.

Founded in 1952 as a community music school, today's Kaufman Music Center is home to **Merkin Hall**; **Lucy Moses School**, New York's largest community arts school; **Special Music School**, New York's only K-12 public school that teaches music as a core subject; and the acclaimed youth new music ensemble **Face the Music**.

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