

**A Journey Through Impressionism  
with**

**Living Arts Collective Ensemble**

Sophie Shao, cello

Norman Shankle, tenor

Danielle DeSwert Hahn, piano

**Presented by**

**Chamber Music Maryland at the Peale**

**Sunday, April 27th, 2025 | 3:00 PM**

**Henri Duparc (1848-1933):**

“L’invitation au voyage”

**Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921):**

Cello Sonata No. 1 in C minor, op.32

Allegro

Andante tranquillo sostenuto

Allegro moderato

**Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924):**

“La Bonne Chanson”

1. Une sainte en son auréole
2. Puisque l'aube grandit
3. La lune blanche luit dans les bois
4. J'allais par des chemins perfides
5. J'ai presque peur, en vérité
6. Avant que tu ne t'en ailles
7. Donc, ce sera par un clair jour d'été
8. N'est-ce pas?
9. L'hiver a cessé

**Nadia Boulanger (1887-1979):**

Trois pièces pour violoncelle et piano

Moderato

Sans vitesse et à l’aise

Vite et nerveusement rythmé

This performance is kindly sponsored by the William G. Baker, Jr.  
Memorial Fund, and the John J. Leidy Foundation

**Sophie Shao**, winner of the Avery Fisher Career Grant and top prizes at the Rostropovich and Tchaikovsky Competitions, is a versatile cellist praised by The New York Times for her “eloquent, powerful” playing and described as “deeply satisfying” by The Washington Post.

She has performed as a soloist with orchestras including the Houston Symphony, BBC Concert Orchestra, and Taiwan’s National Symphony, and appears regularly at festivals such as Chamber Music Northwest, Santa Fe, Marlboro, and Vail. Her recordings are available on EMI Classics, Sony Classical, and Bridge Records.

A Houston native, Shao studied at the Curtis Institute and Yale University, where she earned degrees in both Religious Studies and Music. She teaches at the University of Connecticut and performs on an 1855 Honore Derazey cello once owned by Pablo Casals.

**Norman Shankle**, American tenor, is internationally acclaimed for his elegant and expressive interpretations of Mozart and Rossini. Praised by The Boston Globe as “a real find” and by the San Francisco Chronicle as “clearly a singer to watch,” he continues to captivate audiences around the world.

In the 2024–2025 season, Shankle makes debuts with the Buffalo Philharmonic (Sanctuary Road) and South Florida Symphony (Handel’s Messiah and Mozart’s Requiem), and returns to the National Philharmonic. Recent engagements include performances with the Washington Chorus, Knoxville Symphony, and Penn Square Music Festival.

Shankle has appeared at the Edinburgh Festival, Palais des Beaux-Arts in Brussels, and with orchestras across the U.S. including the Cincinnati and Houston Symphonies. A former Adler Fellow with San Francisco Opera, he is a recipient of the ARIA Award, a Richard Tucker Career Grant, and the McAllister Award.

**Danielle DeSwert Hahn** is a pianist and arts leader, currently serving as Head of Music Programs at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC, where she curates and produces year-round concerts. A former principal pianist with the Baltimore Opera Company and Washington Concert Opera, she has also worked with numerous opera companies nationwide.

Hahn performs regularly in chamber music and vocal recitals with members of the National Symphony Orchestra, Kennedy Center Opera Orchestra, and North Carolina Symphony, where she is principal keyboardist. Based in both DC and North Carolina, she is also the founder of the Living Art Collective Ensemble (LACE), a collaborative group that fuses visual and performing arts to explore socially relevant themes.