

4-19-2017

## Guest Recital: Peter Sheppard Skaerved, violin

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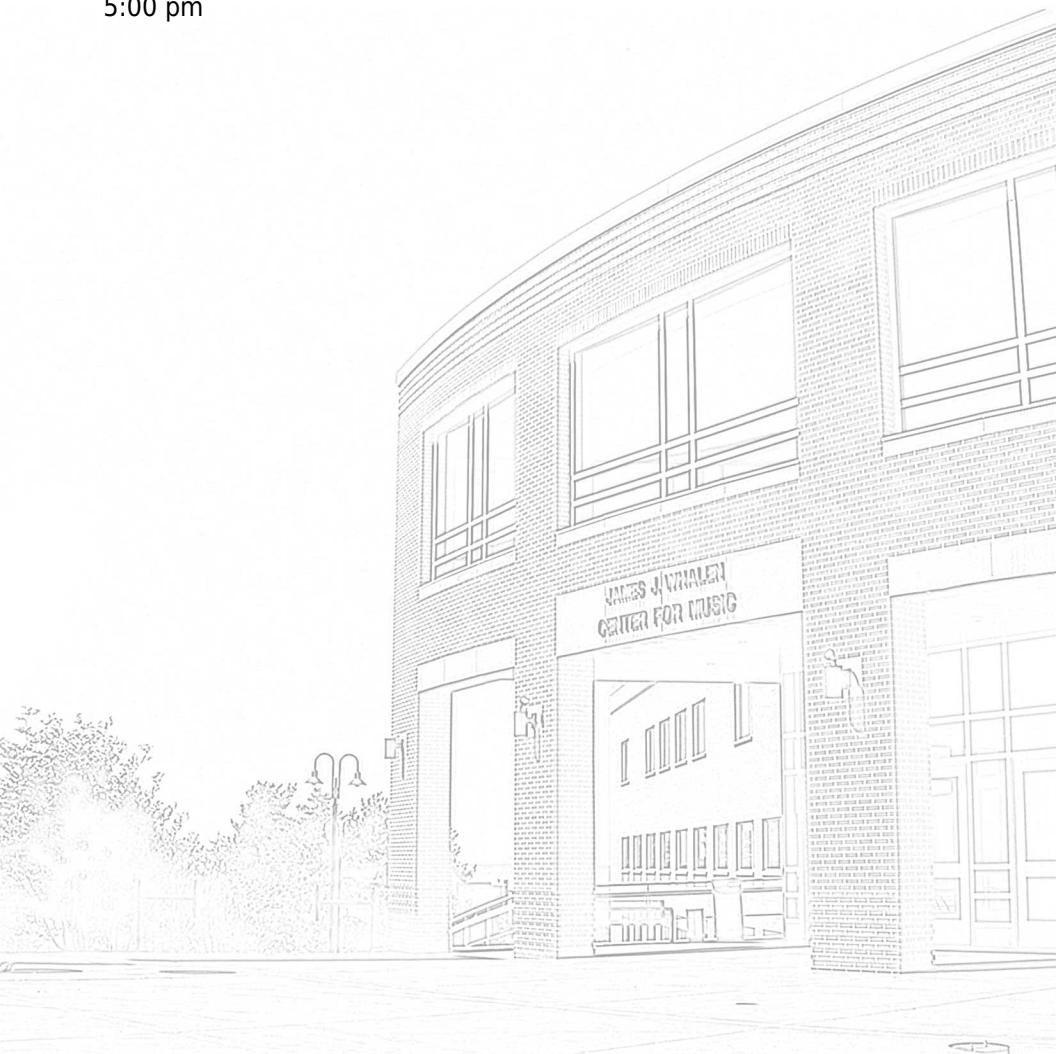
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Guest Recital:  
**Peter Sheppard Skærved, violin**

Featuring the music of Ithaca College composers

Hockett Family Recital Hall  
Wednesday, April 19th, 2017  
5:00 pm



**ITHACA COLLEGE**

School of Music

# Program

Drifting Eclipse (2016) Dallas J. Howard

The Sky Was an Ocean (2016) Duncan Krummel

Danse Tiganesc (2016) Nick O' Brien

Familial (2017) Parker Callister

Miserere (2016) Emmanuel Berrido

Seeking (2016) Jacob Kerzner

17th Century works for solo violin by composers including Torelli, Lonati, Matteis, Colombi and anonymous (from the Rost Codex & Klagenfurt Handschrift). To be announced. Various

## **Program Notes**

### **Dallas J. Howard - "Drifting Eclipse"**

Drifting Eclipse was inspired from Michael Gordon's solo cello piece "Industry". What drew me to write this piece was wishing to develop harmonic tension and intensity via bending double stops. This technique allowed me to blend melodic and lyrical sections with aggressive dissonance to form a unique sonic atmosphere. I highly enjoy the function of dissonances and aggression in this work to prime a more introspective lyrical line as it manifests organically. I cannot thank Peter Sheppard Skærved enough for all his work, collaboration and most importantly his conversations during the creation of this work. For that inspiration and the many others he inspires through his travels, I dedicate this work to him. (DJH)

### **Ducan Krummel - "The Sky Was an Ocean"**

The Sky Was An Ocean is written to evoke a particular pathos. It is a bittersweet sensation concerning feelings of "what might have been." I happen to find this to be an experience brought about equally when looking at the sky.

Not to push clichés, but the practice of lying down and gazing at the sky – especially when cloudless – has a certain physical sensation to it. It is an expanding and contracting of visual and spatial senses. For this reason, it seemed most appropriate to me to describe it as an ocean in the sky. (DK)

### **Nick O'Brien - "Danse Tiganesc"**

I grew up a violinist, with a special love for the music of the late Romantic era that was steeped in traditional folk music. "Danse Tiganesc" is inspired by the nearly two decades I spent playing this music, in particular the folk music of Eastern Europe, as well as some of my family's heritage. The title of the piece is Romanian for "Gypsy Dance," and being a Russian/German Jew, there is a great multitude and rich history of a diverse and captivating folk music tradition, closely related to that of the Roma. "Danse Tiganesc" is a look back at our roots, and where we came from. In looking back that far, we can find out who we are, and where we need to go. (NO'B)

## **Parker Callister - "Familial"**

This piece presents two contrasting ideas that also have similar features. The two motives start to blur and combine into one and begin to demonstrate how similar they really were from the start, eventually causing them both to grow dependent on each other by the end of the piece. (PC)

## **Emmanuel Berrido - "Miserere"**

*Miserere* is the first word in Latin of Psalm 51, which could be translated to "Have mercy" or "Have pity." I composed MISERERE for solo violin after a period in which I had not completed any music — if the reader could only imagine what it means for a creator not to have the time or energy to create!

When I sat down to write this quasi-rhapsodic work, I found myself reciting not the first word "Miserere" of this psalm, but rather the hopeful verse "Domine, labia mea aperies: et os meum annuntiabit laudem tuam" (O Lord, open thou my lips, and my mouth shall declare thy praise). Still unsure why this came to my mind when I started composing after 10 months: the only reason I can think of is that this is the invitation recited in the catholic liturgy (in which I was raised), at the beginning of the first rite in the morning. As I was to begin a new era in Ithaca, NY, and as I had sharpened my pencils and readied my papers to compose once again, I prayed for music to pour forth from my heart once more.

It is my hope, then, that both performer and listener can find in MISERERE a sonic landscape in which feelings of vulnerability and humility come forth. Most importantly, at the end of the work the ascending melody can be heard as an awakening back into life — I am creating once more. I am alive, and I am thankful. (EB)

## **Jacob Kerzner - "Seeking"**

Seeking is a soliloquy, a musical monologue which explores how, when our minds try to attain some goal, they rarely take the most direct route. Instead, they seek the answer through a path which cycles back to some of the same questions over and over, each time revealing a completely different answer. In Steve Jobs' Stanford commencement speech, he said: "You can't connect the dots looking forward. You can only connect them looking backward." This piece gives us a chance to listen to the dots and connect them as we go. (JK)

## About Peter Sheppard Skærved

**Peter Sheppard Skærved** is the only living violinist to have performed on the violins of Niccolò Paganini, Joseph Joachim and G.B. Viotti. He is the dedicatee of over 400 works for violin, by composers including Han Werner Henze, Poul Ruders, David Matthews, Judith Weir and George Rochberg. He has a diverse international career, ranging from solo appearances in over 30 countries, to in-depth projects and residencies on three continents. He has just returned from tours to Norway, Germany and giving concerts on Svalbard (on the 78th Parallel).

Peter is a prolific recording artist, having released over 60 critically acclaimed recordings. These include cycles of sonatas by Tartini, Telemann and Beethoven, and many of the works written for him, resulting in a Grammy nomination, and awards from the BBC Music Magazine. In the past year alone, he has released discs of Henze Concerti, Telemann Fantasies, Tartini Sonatas, Beethoven's Eroica Symphony, Reicha Quartets, as well as discs of works dedicated to him by Sadie Harrison, Nigel Clarke, Mihailo Trandafilovski, David Gorton and David Matthews. Peter is the only musician to have curated an exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery, London and has made projects for the British Museum, Metropolitan Museum New York, the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, and galleries worldwide. In the next year he will be leading and performing a series of concerts of 17th century solo music in 20 of the Wren churches in London's Square Mile.

Peter is the founder and leader of the acclaimed Kreutzer Quartet and the musical director of the virtuoso string collective 'Longbow'. He is married to the Danish writer and poet, Malene Skærved. As a writer, he has published on subjects ranging from 19th Century painting to walking, and for journals ranging from Strings Magazine to Contemporary Music Review. He is the Viotti Lecturer at the Royal Academy of Music, London, where he was elected Fellow in 2013. For recordings, films, writing and more info, visit **[peter-sheppard-skaerved.com](http://peter-sheppard-skaerved.com)**