

The Alba Rosa Viëtor Concert Series Presents...

*Volume of  
the Violin:*

A Showcase of Violin Works by  
Alba Rosa Viëtor

Wednesday, September 29

8:00 PM

Clarke Hall



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# *Volume of the Violin:*

A Showcase of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Violin Works by  
Alba Rosa Viëtor

Wednesday, September 29, 2010  
8:00 pm Clarke Hall

## Program

Canzonetta (1939)

*Performed by Beatriz Vera*

Four Sketches (1957)

- I. Moon and Cats
- II. Lovers and Moon
- III. Moonbeams
- IV. Rain

*Performed by Luis Fernandez, violin, and Sandra Rubio, violin*

Valse Romantique (1939)

*Performed by Beatriz Vera*

Giouchi (1916)

*Performed by Tomas Cotik*

Four Pieces (1968)

- I. Longing
- II. Children Singing
- III. Duet
- IV. Children Playing

*Performed by Jennifer Shea, violin, and Joshua Shepherd, viola*

Elegie (1941)

Sonata (1937)

- Allegro Moderato  
Adagio Drammatico  
Scherzo (Allegretto)  
Finale (Allegro Ritmico)

*Performed by Hector Hernandez*

The piano accompanist for tonight's performance is Maria Holloway.

## *Six Degrees of Alba Rosa Viëtor*

### How Alba Rosa Viëtor was connected to popular figures in classical music

- Youngest student, at age 9, to be admitted into the Conservatorio Giuseppe Verdi
- Studied under famed violinist, Cesar Thomson, and the creator of the Sevcik violin method, Otokar Sevcik
- Viëtor dedicated *Elegie* to her teacher and mentor, reknowned violinist, Jan Kubelik, father of conductor, Rafael Kubelik
- Played violin alongside Camille Saint-Saens on piano during a tour in Argentina in 1916
- Regularly performed at the residence of Donna Cima della Scala, whose ancestors built La Scala Opera House
- Viëtor's compositions were performed in the same program as Charles Ives, Aaron Copland, and John Philip Sousa by the National Gallery Orchestra in 1950

\*Source: *The Story of Alba Rosa Viëtor: Violinist and Composer 1889 - 1979*

## Alba Rosa Viëtor (1889-1979)

Alba Rosa Viëtor was born in Milan, Italy, in 1889 showing a unique and extraordinary talent at a very early age. She studied under some of the most distinguished teachers throughout Europe, including Otokar Ševčík, author of Ševčík Violin Studies, a technique book standard among budding violinists. This would lead to a marvelous career as a professional violinist, playing in concert halls throughout Europe and South America, alongside the great classical artists of her day. After years of traveling and adventure as a concert violinist, Alba Rosa accepted a prestigious teaching position at the Conservatorio Argentino in Buenos Aires.

After a few years at the Conservatorio, with a desire to go on a vacation to the United States, Alba Rosa boarded a ship headed to New York, met a Dutchman named Jan Viëtor, and never returned to Buenos Aires. She and Mr. Viëtor fell in love, started a family in Montclair, New Jersey, and Alba Rosa began building the classical music scene in their community.

Wanting a greater international schooling for the children, and tensions of the Great Depression exerting themselves on the couple, Jan and Alba Rosa decided it would be best for her to relocate to Neuchatel, Switzerland where the children could receive the finest education, while Jan remained in New York to work. Now in her 40s, it was in Neuchatel that Alba Rosa began intensive study of composition. Not long afterwards, and in her 50s, Alba Rosa would move back to Washington, D.C., where her son was attending college, and finally settled down to concentrate on composing.

As a member of the highly esteemed Washington Composers Club, Alba Rosa's works were performed in many noteworthy venues, including The Phillips Gallery, on the same program with composers such as Charles Ives, Aaron Copland, and John Philip Sousa.

Alba Rosa continued to compose until her passing in 1979 at the age of 90. Since then, her compositions have remained in obscurity from the public. To change this, her son, Hendrik, reached out to the Frost School of Music at the University of Miami. Hendrik unfortunately passed away on Tuesday, May 4, 2010, and fulfilling his greatest wishes through the Alba Rosa Viëtor Concert Series, Alba Rosa's music is being revitalized, her fascinating story introduced to new audiences, and her legacy continued.

## Thank You

A sincere thank you to everyone who made this program possible:

Hendrik Viëtor, Mary van Veen-Viëtor, Dean Shelly Berg, Ross Harbaugh, Glenn Basham, Scott Flavin, Pamela McConnell, Tian Ying, Nilda Pradera, Nancy Zovac, the Frost School of Music Staff, and the extraordinary musicians at the Frost School of Music.

## **Mark Your Calendars!!**

The Alba Rosa Viëtor Concert Series Presents...

### *The Instrumental Voice:*

A Showcase of Vocal Works by  
Alba Rosa Viëtor

Wednesday, November 10    8 pm    Clarke Hall  
Free Admission

\*For more information about Alba Rosa Viëtor and upcoming concerts, please visit [www.albarosavietor.com](http://www.albarosavietor.com)!\*