

The Alba Rosa Viëtor Concert Series Presents...

*Keys through the  
Millennium:*

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

Monday, April 5

8:00 pm

Clarke Hall



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# *Keys through the Millennium:*

A Showcase of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Piano Works by  
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## Program

Noche de Verano (1949)  
Piccola danza (1914)

*Performed by Jamila Tekalli*

Duetto Fugato All'Antica (1950)

*Performed by Jamila Tekalli & Tian Ying*

Allegro Appassionato (1918)

*Performed by Tian Ying*

Tango Habenera (1949)

Billy's Prayer (1966)

Preludio (1951)

Indian Dance (1935)

*Performed by Nick Cholapat Chongstitwattana*

Frolics (1966)

Nocturne (1936)

*Performed by Marion Scott*

Barcarola (a Jan) (1918)  
Valse romantique (1939)

*Performed by Ella Xiong*

Calma (1936)  
Scherzo (1937)  
Capriccio (1914)

*Performed by Dean Shelly Berg*

## *What to Listen For*

### Characteristics of Piano Music by Alba Rosa Viëtor\*

#### 1. The full range of the piano

- Listen to how she uses all of the notes from high to low

#### 2. Scales

- Feel the notes as they go step by step up and down the piano

#### 3. Octaves

- Hear how Viëtor doubles a low note with the same note in the higher register

#### 4. Dissonance

- Experience the notes that hold a tension between them, giving a blaring effect

#### 5. Humor

- Alba Rosa included a great amount of humor in her music, reflecting a side of her personality that permeated every aspect of her life. So go ahead and laugh if you feel the need to do so!

\*Contributed by musicologist Robijn Tilanus in *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 and, showing a unique and extraordinary talent, became the youngest student, at age 9, to attend the Conservatorio Giuseppe Verdi. She would continue to study 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 such greats as Camille Saint-Saëns. 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. However, her son, Hendrik, has reached out to the Frost School of Music at the University of Miami and through their joint efforts, 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, Nancy Castleman-Dion, Marianne Mijares, Nilda Pradera, Nancy Zovac and Thuong Vothang, the Frost School of Music Staff, Tian Ying, and the extraordinary musicians at the Frost School of Music.

## **Mark Your Calendars!!**

The Alba Rosa Viëtor Concert Series Presents...

# *The Volume of the Violin:*

A Showcase of Violin Works by  
Alba Rosa Viëtor

Wednesday, September 29    8 pm    Clarke Hall  
Free Admission

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