



University of Maryland School of Music Presents

MASTERFUL STRINGS: THE NIGHTINGALE'S SONATA

March 27, 2023 • 8PM

GILDENHORN RECITAL HALL

AT THE CLARICE SMITH PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



**SCHOOL OF
MUSIC**

University of Maryland School of Music Presents

**MASTERFUL STRINGS:
THE NIGHTINGALE'S SONATA**

Irina Muresanu, *violin*

Daniel del Pino, *piano*

Thomas Wolf, *narrator*

This Program is divided into four sections with narration and music. It follows the organization of the Sonata in A Major for Violin and Piano by César Franck as follows:

- I. Allegretto ben moderato
- II. Allegro
- III. Ben moderato: Recitativo-Fantasia
- IV. Allegretto poco mosso

***Masterful Strings is funded in part by
The Tretter Distinguished Faculty Fellowship in Violin and
The Barbara K. Steppel Memorial Faculty Fellowship in Cello.***



THOMAS WOLF, narrator, has had a distinguished career as musician, presenter, administrator, educator, consultant and author. A flute soloist with the Philadelphia Orchestra at the age of sixteen, he founded Bay Chamber Concerts in Rockport, Maine that same year and helped lead the organization for over five decades. He served as flutist and company manager for his Uncle Boris Goldovsky's opera company, leading fifteen national tours and was the founding executive director of the New England Foundation for the Arts. For a number of years, he taught at Harvard University and since 1983 he has served as consultant to major cultural organizations through WolfBrown, his international consulting firm. He is the author of many books including *The Nightingale's Sonata*, which will form the basis of tonight's performance.

THE NIGHTINGALE'S SONATA

Spanning generations, from the shores of the Black Sea to the glittering concert halls of New York, *The Nightingale's Sonata* is a richly woven tapestry centered around violin virtuoso Lea Luboshutz, a story told tonight in words, photographs, and music. For many poor Jews like Lea, music offered an escape from the prejudices that dominated society in the last years of the Russian Empire. But Lea's dramatic rise as an artist was further accentuated by her scandalous relationship with the revolutionary Onissim Goldovsky. As the world around them descends into chaos, between revolution and war, we follow Lea and her family from Russia to Europe and eventually, America. We cross paths with the composer César Franck, violinist Eugène Ysaÿe, dancer Isadora Duncan, impresario Sol Hurok, and writers Émile Zola, Ivan Turgenev, and Leo Tolstoy. The little girl from Odessa will eventually end up as one of the founding faculty of the prestigious Curtis Institute of Music, but along the way she will lose her true love, her father, and watch a son die young. The Iron Curtain will rise, but through it all, she plays on. Woven throughout this luminous odyssey is the story of César Franck's "Sonata for Violin and Piano," a work championed by Lea, one of the first-ever internationally recognized female violinists. It became a touchstone for her, for her multi-generational family of musicians, and for scores of her students who played this masterwork throughout the world.

– Program note by Thomas Wolf