

Fredericksburg Music Club, Inc. Presents Rodica and Friends - In Concert November 18, 2019

Rodica and Friends, Rodica Gonzalez (Strings and Piano)

Rodica Gonzalez was born in Bucharest, Romania, where she began her violin studies at the age of four. She gave her first concerto performance with the orchestra at the age of 11 while studying at the George Enescu Music School. At the age of 18, she enrolled in the Ciprian Porumbescu Conservatory in Bucharest. Rodica received her master's degree from the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University. Her mentors include Modest Iftinchi, Sergiu Luca, and Christoph Eschenbach.

Rodica Gonzalez, Violin

She is currently a member of the Houston Symphony and an affiliate artist at Houston Baptist University. She has performed extensively as a recitalist and chamber player throughout Romania, Austria, Italy, Switzerland, Canada, Mexico, and the United States; she has also appeared as soloist with the Houston Symphony. As a founding member of Houston Baptist University's resident piano trio, Tre Voci, she has participated and lectured in masterclasses during a tour of China and released a CD in 1999.

Recent performances include the Bruch Violin Concerto with the Bucharest Philharmonic and the Doctor's Orchestra of Houston. She made her Carnegie-Weill Recital Hall debut in 2002 and was invited back for numerous recitals. Last June she returned to Carnegie Hall with her sister Mihaela Oancea-Frusina and pianist Ilonka Rus. In May 2011 she will be returning to Carnegie with the Fidelis String Quartet which she is the founding member along with her colleagues in the Houston Symphony-Mihaela Frusina-violin, Wei Jiang-violin and Jeffrey Butler-cello. Rodica and her husband Robert Gonzalez are proud parents of Matthew (3 yrs.), Andrew (12 yrs.), and Austin (15 yrs.).

Jeffrey Butler, Cello

Jeffrey Butler has been a cellist in the Houston Symphony since 1986. He holds degrees in music performance from Boston University and the University of Michigan School of Music, where he was recipient of that school's highest award, the prestigious Stanley Medal. He began cello studies at an early age with his parents, both professional cellists, and continued studies with Jerome Jelinek, George Neikrug, and Claus Adam. Mr. Butler has served on the faculty of the Stetson University School of Music, where he was a founding member of the Stetson Trio. Before joining the Houston Symphony he was a member of the Detroit Symphony.

As a member of the Boston Composers Quartet, Mr. Butler premiered many new works with Composers in Red Sneakers and Nu-Classix Composers. In Houston he has performed chamber music with the Bad Boys of Cello and Tre Voci, trio in residence at Houston Baptist University. He is the cellist of the Fidelis String Quartet, which recently performed to acclaim in San Juan, Puerto Rico and Weill Recital Hall in Carnegie Hall, and has appeared as soloist with the Houston Chamber Orchestra and the Galveston Symphony.

Sherry Cheng, Piano

Pianist Sherry Cheng holds a Master of Music degree in piano performance from the University of Maryland and a Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance from the University of Oklahoma. She moved to Houston in 1999 with her husband, Houston Symphony violist Wei Jiang. They enjoy performing together and raising their two young children. Ms. Cheng performs frequently in chamber music concerts in the Houston area, collaborating with musicians from the Houston Symphony and other freelance musicians. Most recently she has performed with her husband at the Wuhan Conservatory of Music, in Jones Hall with HSO cellist Christopher French, with pianist Ilgin Aka in duo piano recitals at HBU and the University of Texas in Brownsville, and collaborated with the Quartus Chamber Players and soprano Misha Penton on various projects. Ms. Cheng is the founder and director of the HCC Chamber Music Series, which brings innovative classical chamber music programming featuring some of Houston's finest professional musicians to the community at large.

