

PROGRAM NOTE:

*Many Songs I've Heard: Melodies From Eastern Europe* draws on tunes found in an old Soviet music theory text. I chose them for their simplicity and loveliness, only later discovering their somewhat enigmatic titles. *Are You Not My Radiant Sunset* (Russian) opens the suite in the lively style of neo-classic Stravinsky. *Vanyusha, the Steward* (Russian) evokes a melancholy Chekovian country estate. *The Vistula* (Polish) and *Outside, Dusk is Falling* (Ukrainian) are two waltzes, their setting reminiscent of Smetana's homage to his beloved river Moldau. *Dubinushka, My Trusty Cudgel* celebrates the intrepid Russian peasant. *Don't Wake the Young Wife* (Russian) closes the suite with a rollicking flourish. *Many Songs* was written for Mia Chung and Alina Polyakov, superb piano duo team at Gordon College. It unites two of my long-time loves: tinkering with Eastern European folk songs, and playing piano duets—the joy of informal ensemble playing is hard to top!