

BERKELEY PIANO CLUB

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2021

10:00 AM

LaDene Otsuki, Chair

Ellen St. Thomas, Lectures Chair

VIRTUAL PROGRAM

Sonata in A Minor, K. 310 Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Allegro maestoso (1756—1791)
Andante cantabile
Presto

MARGRET ELSON, piano



Sonata for cello and piano Vladimír Godár
(in memory of Viktor Shklovsky) (b. 1956)
Largo - molto tranquillo
Presto agitato
Largo, molto tranquillo

MONICA SCOTT, cello
HADLEY McCARROLL, piano

**VIRTUAL LECTURE VIA ZOOM TO FOLLOW PROGRAM
FEATURING RUTH SLENCZYNSKA,
MODERATED BY JAMES MEREDITH**

Ruth Slenczynska was born in Sacramento, California on January 15, 1925. Her father, Joseph Slenczynski, a violinist, imposed a rigorous and disciplinary practice routine on her beginning at age three. She began her piano studies in Europe at age four and took lessons with Arthur Schanabel, Egon Petri, Alfred Cortot, Joseph Hofmann, and even performed for Sergei Rachmaninoff. She performed her debut in Berlin at age six, and made her debut in Paris with a full orchestra at age eleven. She became an instant musical sensation in Europe, heralded as the first child prodigy since Mozart.



Following her New York City debut at the age of eight, which Olin Downes of the New York Times called “an electrifying experience,” Slenczynska has performed more than 3,000 recitals on both hemispheres, crisscrossing the globe many times, performing concerts in Europe, South Africa, Asia, the United States, and South America and has appeared with most of the world’s greatest orchestras. She has been called “the greatest among women pianists today” by the London Times.

Ms. Slenczynska has an extensive discography and has written two books, “Forbidden Childhood” which deals with life as a child prodigy, and a book on piano technique, “Music At Your Fingertips.” Her articles on a variety of musical subjects appear regularly in “Clavier”, “Piano Quarterly” and “Music journal.”

She is a popular adjudicator as well as master class teacher. In 1999, Ms. Slenczynska was the only woman as well as the only U.S. delegate to judge the Busoni Competition and the Franz Liszt International Piano Competition.

She was awarded the Golden Cross of Merit by the country of her ancestors, Poland. and has been honored by several crowned heads in Europe and five United States presidents. She has received the Lifetime Achievement Awards for Excellence in the Fine Arts from the Arts Education Council of St. Louis.

