BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS AND COMMUNICATIONS
School of Music

presents

Guest Artist Recital

Primrose Memorial Concert

Garth Knox, viola

7:30 p.m.
23 February 2019
Madsen Recital Hall
Harris Fine Arts Center
PROGRAM

Such Sweet Sorrow
Rory Boyle
b. 1951

Notturni Brillanti, no. 1
Salvatore Sciarrino
b. 1947

A Bird Came Down the Walk
Toru Takemitsu
1930–1996

7 Preludes from Op. 34
Dmitri Shostakovich
1906–1975

arr. E. Strachov

INTERMISSION

Viola Spaces
Garth Knox
b. 1956

Nine Fingers
One Finger
Up, Down, Sideways, Round

Garth Knox, viola
Mary Eyre, viola
Madison Moline, viola
Ethan Sherman, viola
Madilynn Riley, viola

Marin Marais Variations
Garth Knox
b. 1956

Garth Knox, viola
Claudine Bigelow, viola
Madison Moline, viola
Ethan Sherman, viola

This musical event is the 56th performance sponsored by the BYU School of Music for the 2018–2019 season.
Garth Knox was born in Ireland and spent his childhood in Scotland. Being the youngest of four children who all played string instruments, he was encouraged to take up the viola and quickly decided to make this his career. He studied with Frederic Riddle at the Royal College of Music in London where he won several prizes for viola and for chamber music. Thereafter he played with most of the leading groups in London in a mixture of all repertoires, from baroque to contemporary music.

In 1983 Knox was invited by Pierre Boulez to become a member of the Ensemble InterContemporain in Paris, which involved playing both solos (including concertos directed by Pierre Boulez) and chamber music, touring widely, and performing in international festivals.

In 1990 Knox joined the Arditti String Quartet, which led him to play in all the major concert halls of the world, working closely with and giving first performances of pieces by most of today’s leading composers including Ligeti, Kurtag, Berio, Xenakis, Lachenmann, Cage, Feldman, and Stockhausen (the famous “Helicopter String Quartet”).

Since leaving the quartet in 1998 to concentrate on his solo career, he has given premieres by Ligeti, Schnittke, George Benjamin, and many others, including pieces which were written especially for him by composers like Henze, Haas, Saariaho, and James Dillon. He also collaborates regularly in theatre and dance projects and has written and performed a one-man show for children.

Knox has recently become a pioneer of the viola d’amore, exploring its possibilities in new music (with and without electronics), and is in the process of creating a new repertoire for this instrument.

Knox now lives in Paris, where he enjoys a full-time solo career: giving recitals and performing concertos and chamber music concerts all over Europe, the US, and Japan. He is also an active composer, and his Viola Spaces, the first phase of an on-going series of concert studies for strings (published in 2010 by Schott), combines ground-breaking innovation in string technique with joyous pleasure in the act of making music. The pieces have been adopted and performed by young string players all over the world.

Knox is a visiting professor of viola at the Royal Academy of Music in London.