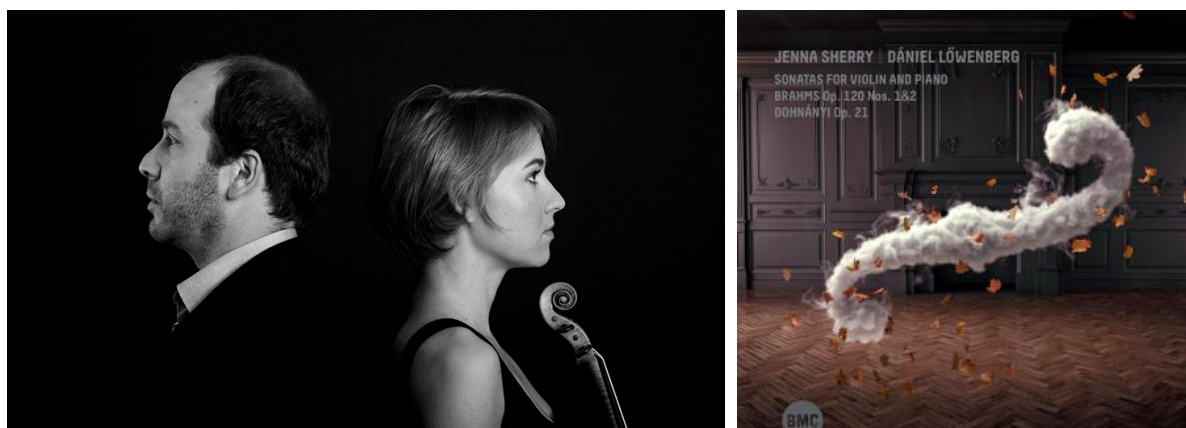


Jenna Sherry, Violin, and Dániel Lőwenberg, Piano, Perform Three Rarely-Recorded Works: Johannes Brahms’s Violin Versions of His Two Sonatas Op. 120, and Ernő Dohnányi’s Violin Sonata, Op. 21, on a New Budapest Music Center Records Release Out November 6

Sherry’s recording debut inhabits a “clarinet-inspired” aesthetic.

Jenna Sherry is the founder and artistic director of Birdfoot Festival in New Orleans, which marks its tenth anniversary in 2021.



Dániel Lőwenberg and Jenna Sherry (photo by Zsuzsi Kőfaragó); BMC Records release

Jenna Sherry is a versatile young American violinist based in London who is a member of the EnsembleExperimental of the SWR ExperimentalStudio in Freiburg and John Eliot Gardiner’s Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique, and is the founder and artistic director of Birdfoot Festival, an international chamber music festival in her native New Orleans. For her debut recording, she has teamed with Hungarian pianist Dániel Lőwenberg for a disc of Johannes Brahms’s Sonatas Op. 120, in the composer’s own versions for violin, and Ernő Dohnányi’s Violin Sonata, Op. 21. This disc of three rarely-recorded works, a Budapest Music Center Records release, is available November 6, 2020.

As Sherry writes, “Brahms’s Sonatas Op. 120, dating from 1895, are much played and loved in their versions for clarinet and viola. However, the composer’s independent edition of these sonatas for violin has been neglected by violinists and remained out of print for over a century, until 2016. Although they were played by violinist Marie Soldat-Roeger and also by Joseph Joachim, who otherwise shunned transcriptions, should we really call these ‘violin sonatas,’ or, rather, loving transcriptions of works originally imagined for clarinet? The chance to explore these questions and their musical implications on tempo, character, vibrato, and so much more, proved irresistible! The challenge of navigating between

the three instrumental identities, each with its distinct voice, became an essential part of the rehearsal process (instruments were borrowed, friends consulted), and a source of constant inspiration. The beauty is inseparable from the ambiguity.” Read more of Jenna Sherry’s thoughts on the recording on her [website](#).

While others have approached the works with a full-throated violin sensibility, Sherry and Lőwenberg have chosen what Sherry calls “a clarinet-inspired, more transparent, flexible, and vulnerable aesthetic,” perhaps well suited to what Márton Kerékfy in the recording’s liner notes describes as the “intimate, nostalgic tone” of the sonatas. “The open octaves of the beginning of the F minor sonata, the frequent open fifths as it continues, and the emphatic use of the low register of the piano, conjure up images of the passing of things, valedictory moods and mourning. ... Brahms’s two late sonatas and Dohnányi’s work [written in 1912], in their different ways, both bid farewell to the rich legacy of musical late Romanticism at the turn of the 20th century, still in ‘blissful peacetime.’”

Sherry and Lőwenberg first met and began collaborating at the International Musicians Seminar Prussia Cove, the chamber music festival that Sándor Végh founded in Cornwall, England (Lőwenberg has authored the only biography to date of that Hungarian violinist and conductor). This recording was made on an 1898 Steinway model B that formerly belonged to György Kurtág.

Birdfoot Festival – Tenth Anniversary in 2021

As New Orleans was picking itself up after Hurricane Katrina, its arts community was galvanized with a renewed sense of purpose to celebrate its unique artistic life and heritage. In 2012, inspired to combine chamber music with the cozy listening culture of her native city, Jenna Sherry founded Birdfoot Festival (named for the branching footprint of the Mississippi River) which takes place at the end of May with performances the week after Memorial Day. Over the past nine seasons, Birdfoot has presented more than 160 events featuring a roster of 82 musicians from across the globe in intimate venues throughout the city such as jazz clubs, community centers, theaters, and galleries.

In addition to presenting a 12-18 concert festival, Birdfoot emphasizes creating time and space for artists to do their best work – each festival opens with an artist residency to allow for deep exploration of the music on the festival programs. Birdfoot also includes a series of free Community Concerts in locations throughout the city, and a Young Artists Program, which works with local teachers to provide coachings, workshops, masterclasses, and performance opportunities for young musicians. In 2013, Chris Waddington described the festival in the Times-Picayune as “...fiery, committed, intensely personal readings... [where] the risk-taking energy was palpable...,” concluding, “Birdfoot delivered what I want from any Louisiana festival.”

The tenth anniversary season of Birdfoot Festival is currently being planned as a combination of in-person and online events. www.birdfootfestival.org

Violinist **Jenna Sherry**, originally from New Orleans, now lives in London. Deeply shaped by her roots in her hometown’s bohemian culture, she is at home in both historical performance and contemporary music. She is a member of the Freiburg-based EnsembleExperimental and John Eliot Gardiner’s Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique, has collaborated with cellist Steven Isserlis and composers Unsuk Chin and Julian Anderson, and has performed at venues including the Kennedy Center, Barbican Hall, and in the Aldeburgh Festival, the Warsaw Autumn Festival, and the Salzburg Chamber Music Festival. Jenna has recorded Unsuk Chin’s *Double Bind?* for solo violin and electronics for BBC broadcast, collaborating with the composer and the work’s original creators at IRCAM and most recently

performing the piece with the SWR ExperimentalStudio in Cologne's Acht Brücken Festival. Jenna regularly plays with groups such as the Irish Chamber Orchestra and Spira Mirabilis and has participated in chamber music festivals around the world, including the Geelvinck Fortepiano Festival (Netherlands), Taos Chamber Music School and Festival (U.S.A.), and the International Musicians Seminar Prussia Cove (U.K.) where she regularly attends the invitation-only Open Chamber Music sessions. Selected as a Marshall Scholar by the British government, Jenna studied with David Takeno at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama and previously at Indiana University with Mark Kaplan, where she was a Herman B. Wells Scholar. Growing up in New Orleans, her formative teachers were Mary Anne Fairlie and Valerie Poullette. More recent inspiration has come from work with Ferenc Rados, András Keller, and Pavlo Beznosiuk. In 2017, Jenna joined the faculty of the Royal Conservatory The Hague's School for Young Talent. www.jennasherry.com

Pianist **Dániel Lőwenberg** was born in Budapest, and as a soloist and chamber musician, he has performed in many countries around the world. He is often invited to international festivals, including the Budapest Spring Festival (Hungary), Christchurch Arts Festival (New Zealand), and IMS Prussia Cove – Open Chamber Music (UK). His repertoire encompasses all periods of piano and chamber music literature. He earned his master's degree under Imre Rohmann at the Mozarteum in Salzburg. He currently teaches chamber music at the Bartók Béla Conservatory in Budapest. In 2012 he published a biography of the Hungarian violinist and conductor Sándor Végh, which to this day is the only monograph on this world-famous musician. www.daniellowenberg.com

Watch Jenna Sherry and Dániel Lőwenberg perform the Dohnányi Sonata in C-sharp minor, Op. 21, on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SOB-iI96r8M&feature=emb_logo

Watch Jenna Sherry perform Unsuk Chin's Double Bind? on YouTube:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sA7vcqarnHM&feature=emb_logo

Jenna Sherry, violin | Dániel Lőwenberg, piano

Sonatas for Violin and Piano

Johannes Brahms:

Sonata in F minor, Op. 120, No. 1 (1895)

Sonata in E-flat major, Op. 120, No. 2 (1895)

Ernő Dohnányi:

Sonata in C-sharp minor, Op. 21 (1912)

Budapest Music Center Records BMC CD295

Recorded at BMC Studio, Budapest, on January 30-31, 2018, and January 3-5, 2020

Link to recording on streaming services: <https://orcd.co/brahms-dohnanyi-sonatas>

Link to recording on U.S. distributor MVD site:

https://mvdshop.com/products/jenna-sherry-daniel-lowenberg-sonatas-for-violin-and-piano-cd?_pos=1&_sid=fc8edf55e&_ss=r

Link to press kit with CD booklet and photos:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1CSk37MEDSZvMtV4RtF18iGFNBdnSCuFE>

October 29, 2020