

Rothko Chapel

WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK
The Official UN Observance in the 1st Week of February



Poetic Reflections featuring the Gerling-Mut Duo



Concert in the Chapel ~ Tuesday, February 5, 2019 ~ 7pm



The Program: *Poetic Reflections* was performed by Dr. Ingrid Gerling (violin/voice) and Dr. Andreea Mut (piano). Each piece in the program was based on meditation, sacred text, or religiously inspired poetry, written by composers of different religious backgrounds and nationalities. *Poetic Reflections* aimed to share an experience of universal spirituality that can be deeply felt through music. One of Houston's most notable composers, Paul English, debuted a piece composed for Gerling-Mut Duo, centering around the mission of the Rothko Chapel. Gerling-Mut Duo were joined by guest musicians Gabriel Santiago, guitar, and Cassio Duarte, percussion. An audience of 85 filled the Chapel for the intimate, uplifting performance, and a reception on the plaza followed, allowing space for conversation, comradery and community.



About the Chapel: An important part of Houston's diverse landscape, the Rothko Chapel is a key community organization that uses the arts, spirituality and human rights to foster peace, justice and societal transformation. Developed by art patrons Dominique and John de Menil and opened in 1971, the Chapel interior features fourteen monumental canvasses painted by abstract expressionist artist Mark Rothko. On the outside plaza, opposite the Chapel building, stands Barnett Newman's *Broken Obelisk* dedicated to the life and service of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Together, these works of art continue to call and inspire people to contemplation and action on the critical spiritual, social justice and community issues of the day. Open every day of the year, free of charge, the Rothko Chapel is, for many, a kind of pilgrimage destination, attracting 115,000 visitors from over 100 countries in 2017-18.



The mission of the Chapel is to inspire people to action through art and contemplation, to nurture reverence for the highest aspirations of humanity, and to provide a forum for global concerns. Central to the mission is a deep commitment to support those who are marginalized and to strengthen our collective efforts to address the world's most divisive and difficult problems, including income inequality, mass incarceration, immigration reform and climate change. Undergirding our mission is the affirmation of the importance of spirituality as the bedrock for social transformation and discovering how one's spirituality is expressed and sustained through prayer, meditation, creative practices and collective action. As such, the Rothko Chapel ensures that a diversity of religious and spiritual leaders, artists, and social change leaders representing distinct issues and community sectors are engaged in the design and presentation of our programming.

About the Gerling-Mut Duo: A Brazilian violinist and Romanian pianist who share a passion for classical music, the Gerling-Mut Duo are known for their dynamic performances and creative programming. Dr. Ingrid Gerling and Dr. Andreea Muț are re-energizing the concept of the violin and piano duo. They began their musical collaboration in 2012, while pursuing their Doctorate of Musical Arts degrees at the University of Houston. Upon graduating in 2015, they officially formed the Gerling-Mut Duo with the mission to bring new life to this traditional genre. They perform a wide range of repertoire, and share a strong commitment to performing contemporary music. Since its formation, the Gerling-Mut Duo has given multiple recitals at the University of St. Thomas and performs weekly for the Harmony in the Air series at the Hobby Airport in Houston, Texas.



Their recent performances at San Jacinto College and at the Memorial Classical Music series were received with great enthusiasm, and they have since been invited to give recitals at St. Stephen's United Methodist Church and Grace United Methodist Church. The Gerling-Mut Duo was also featured at Miller Outdoor Theatre and the Rice University Boniuk Institute for Religious Tolerance as part of the Arts of Tolerance program. Future plans include another series of recitals at University of St. Thomas and other venues in Houston, outreach performances throughout Houston, and a recital tour in Brazil.

This program was presented in celebration of World Interfaith Harmony Week | February 1 - 7, 2019

