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Spivey Hall Celebrates Opening of 28th Season

Twin Sister Pianists CHRISTINA AND MICHELLE NAUGHTON Take the Stage in Hall's First Series Concert of the Season

Patrons Invited to Opening Celebration Reception Following the Recital

MORROW GA (August 21, 2018) – Clayton State University's [Spivey Hall](#) launches its 28th Season (and its **Spivey Piano Series**) with the captivating piano duo [Christina and Michelle Naughton](#), taking the Spivey stage on **Sunday, September 30, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.** A **Season Opening Celebration Reception** for the entire audience in honor of the twin sisters, hosted by the Spivey Hall Friends, will immediately follow the recital.

"Spivey Hall is proud to showcase the extraordinary artistry of Christina and Michelle Naughton performing on our excellent Steinway & Sons grand pianos made in Hamburg, Germany," said Spivey Hall Executive and Artistic Director Samuel C. Dixon. "We've named the pianos 'Robert' and 'Clara' after a leading 19th-century German musician power-couple – the renowned Romantic-period composer Robert Schumann and celebrated pianist/composer Clara Wieck Schumann. For their Spivey Hall debut, Christina and Michelle have the honor of being our first guest artists to perform on Robert and Clara in our annual Spivey Series concerts by outstanding international musicians."

"A moving and breathtaking duo" (*Scherzo Magazine*), the sisters burst onto the professional music scene after studying at The Juilliard School and then The Curtis Institute of Music, where they were each awarded the Festorazzi Prize. These identical twins began piano lessons at age four and played as single-piano musicians until age ten, when they tried duets and four-hand pieces. From that moment on, they played as one.

They made their European debut at Herkulesaal in Munich, where the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* proclaimed them "an outstanding piano duo." They made their Asian debut with the Hong Kong Philharmonic, where the *Sing Tao Daily* said of their performance, "Joining two hearts and four hands at two grand pianos, the Naughton sisters created an electrifying and moving musical performance." An appearance with the Philadelphia Orchestra led *The Philadelphia Inquirer* to characterize their playing as "paired to perfection," while the *Saarbrücker Zeitung* exclaimed "this double star could soon prove to be a supernova." They have captivated audiences throughout the globe with the unity created by their mystical musical communication, as featured by *The Wall Street Journal* in Christina's own words: "There are times I forget we are two people playing together."

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The sisters' Spivey program will feature a piano duet (four hands on a single piano), Maurice Ravel's suite *Ma Mère l'oye (Mother Goose)*, and piano duos (four hands on two pianos), including *Recuerdos (Reminiscences)*, a lively work that combines 19th-century American piano-rag virtuosity with traditional Latin American dances, by Pulitzer and Grammy award-winning American composer William Bolcom, who this year celebrates his 80th birthday; Claude Debussy's quietly evocative *En blanc et noir (In Black and White)*; and Sergei Rachmaninov's powerful Suite No. 2 for Two Pianos, written in the richly expressive Russian Romantic style.

Tickets are priced starting at \$15 (with discounts for subscribers, groups, students and Georgia educators), and are available for [purchase](#) now. Ticket price includes the Season Opening Celebration Reception with the artists and the audience, immediately following the concert.

The Spivey Hall debut of Christina and Michelle Naughton is made possible through the generosity of Spivey Hall Friends Concert Sponsors Dr. William and Mary Land.

For tickets or more information, call the Spivey Hall Box Office at (678) 466-4200, or visit spiveyhall.org. In addition to the standard ticket pricing indicated for each performance, there is a 20% discount available to students and Georgia educators with ID. The Spivey Hall box office is open Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; discounted subscriptions of four or more concerts remain available both through the Box Office and online for purchase.

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About Spivey Hall

Soon to open its 28th season, **Spivey Hall** is the South's most acoustically superior recital hall, presenting the best in classical, jazz and world music. Located on the picturesque campus of Clayton State University in Morrow, Georgia, just fifteen miles southeast of Atlanta, the Hall wins accolades from artists, patrons and journalists alike. An intimate venue with just 390 seats, Spivey Hall promotes for the concert-goer a personal connection with the artist both during and after the performance. Spivey's extraordinary acoustics and reputation for distinguished programming attract outstanding international musicians who regularly perform at the nation's major concert venues such as Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall. Spivey Hall also presents regular performances on its magnificent 4,413-pipe Albert Schweitzer Memorial Organ, custom-built in Italy by Fratelli Ruffatti.

Clayton State University's Spivey Hall gratefully acknowledges support received for the 2018-2019 concert season from the Walter and Emilie Spivey Foundation, the Chaparral Foundation, and the Spivey Hall Friends, as well as from media partners [WABE 90.1 FM](#) and [Jazz 91.9 WCLK](#).

For more information, visit clayton.edu/spiveyhall, and follow Spivey Hall on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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About Clayton State University

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