

Guest artists bring passion and precision to Max Noah Recital Hall

Presleigh Pilgrim

The Baldwin Bulletin

The Max Noah Recital Hall filled with quiet anticipation Feb. 24 as students, faculty, and community members gathered for a Guest Artist and Faculty Recital presented by Georgia College's Department of Music. Violinist Ari Streisfeld and pianist Lev Ryabinin took the stage at 7:30 p.m., delivering a program that blended technical precision with emotional storytelling.

The evening opened with selections from Ernest Bloch's *Baal Shem*, followed by Johann Sebastian Bach's *Sarabande from Partita No. 2 in D Minor*, performed as a solo. In the quiet hall, every bow stroke felt exposed and intimate. Later, Streisfeld performed Grazyna Bacewicz's *Sonata No. 2 for Solo Violin*, a demanding piece that felt dramatic and almost conversational, as if the violin were questioning and answering itself.

The final performance, Edward Elgar's *Violin Sonata in E Minor*, Op. 82, stood out as one of the most powerful moments of the night. At times, the violin and piano almost sounded like they were arguing,

The music felt intense, like the two instruments were passionately communicating back and forth. The violin would rise sharply, almost demanding attention, while the piano responded with strong, full chords. The constant shifts in volume made the piece feel dramatic and unpredictable.

Earlier in the program, another section created a completely different mood. Instead of tension, it felt calm and smooth. The violin's melody was long and flowing, almost like it was singing, while the piano played softer chords underneath. The contrast between the two styles showed how differently the same instruments can tell a story.

Throughout the recital, dynamics and timbre shaped the listening experience. Some sections were loud and powerful, while others suddenly softened,

making the music feel alive. The violin sounded sharper and more emotional in the higher notes, while the piano felt deeper and fuller. The contrast between their sound qualities strengthened the sense of conversation between them.

Ryabinin, who serves as staff accompanist and piano instructor at Georgia College, received warm applause from the audience. For many in attendance, seeing a faculty member collaborate with a visiting artist added a sense of pride to the performance.

For some listeners, classical music may seem calm or relaxing. This recital proved otherwise. It showed that instrumental music can be dramatic, intense, and deeply emotional without using a single word. By the end of the night, it was clear that music does not need lyrics to tell a powerful story.