

Melody for Peace

«*L'Italiana in Algeri*»

Rossini, but not only...

A dialogue between classical, traditional
and contemporary music



26 November 2007 - UNESCO, Paris

3 December 2007 - Avery Fisher Hal at Lincoln Center, New York



Organized and produced by
"Melody for Dialogue among Civilizations" Association



Maison de l'UNESCO, salle I
le 6 novembre 2006



**Melody for Dialogue among Civilizations
Mélodie pour le Dialogue entre les Civilisations**

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Awarded the UNESCO 60th Anniversary Medal (December 2006)

and

The Marrakech International Prize (June 2005)



Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Message de Mme Françoise Rivière, Sous-Directrice générale pour la culture de l'UNESCO

L'accent particulier que l'UNESCO entend porter à la sauvegarde et la promotion du patrimoine immatériel trouve dans le domaine musical un champ privilégié. Rien ne se communique si vite qu'une mélodie, rien n'est plus réceptif aux influences qu'un répertoire, et cependant, rien ne signe mieux une culture que sa musique.

Aussi, est-il particulièrement intéressant d'explorer la problématique des musiques en tant que porteuses d'identités parfois immémoriales alors même qu'elles relèvent aussi de l'éphémère. Fragiles et robustes, légères et déterminantes, les diverses formes de la musique sont une superbe introduction à toute la problématique du patrimoine vivant.

C'est donc avec un plaisir particulier que l'UNESCO accueille une initiative conjointe de l'Université Northeastern de Boston et de l'Association Mélodie pour le dialogue visant à réunir des spécialistes et praticiens pour débattre de la musique comme vecteur du dialogue entre les cultures, à Paris ce 26 novembre.

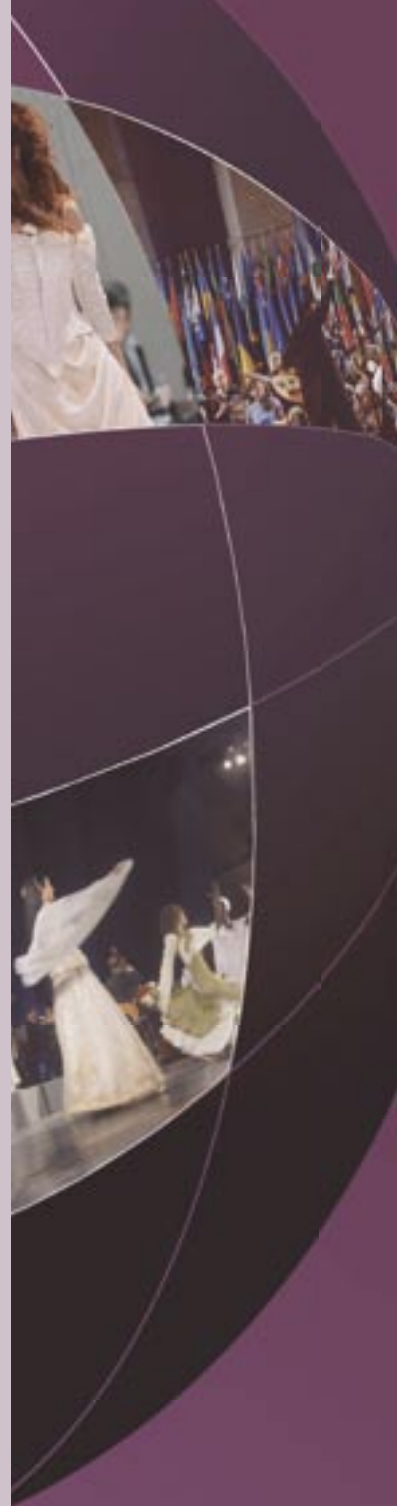
Mais la musique est avant tout un plaisir des sens, et c'est tout naturellement par deux concerts, l'un à Paris ce soir, l'autre à New York le 3 décembre prochain, que sera donnée à entendre la rencontre de traditions musicales diverses à partir d'une partition célèbre, celle de l'Italienne à Alger, de Rossini.

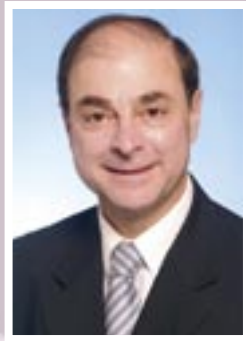
L'exercice, difficile, peut sembler hardi. Il est une étonnante réussite sous la baguette du chef d'orchestre Richard Boudharam et grâce au talent de près de quarante musiciens issus de tous les continents, qui jouent ici avec l'une des plus prestigieuses formations symphoniques, l'orchestre philharmonique de Prague.

Ainsi s'illustrent d'une manière qui parle au cœur et à l'esprit les possibilités d'une communication interculturelle, dont l'association Mélodie pour le Dialogue, qui a porté ce projet et en anime le programme, a fait son objectif principal. Je remercie les Etats membres, les commissions nationales et les autres généreux donateurs qui ont apporté leur soutien à cet élan, en facilitant notamment la venue d'artistes remarquables.

Puisse le dialogue entre les cultures et les peuples, si cher à l'UNESCO, s'en trouvé renforcé, et grandi.

Françoise Rivière





***Message by Joseph E. Aoun
President of Northeastern University,
Boston, MA – United States of America***

Global. It's a word that is fast becoming part of the lexicon of today's society. We speak of the growing global economy, the global health of people and nations, the globalization of technology and science. Everyday, new bridges cross the historical divides between people, disciplines, and geography. Yet, nowhere is the word "global" such a natural and integral part of our diverse world than in the arts. From the beginning of time, art and music have spanned cultural boundaries to bring understanding, deeper meaning, and peace to people of different backgrounds. At no time has this been more true than today.

At Northeastern, we believe that creative expression is a fundamental part of understanding the human condition. We appreciate art for its own sake, and we celebrate its ability to make a difference—from the classroom to the conference room, from the library to the lab, from the studio to the stage, from Boston to the far corners of the world. The Melody for Dialogue Among Civilizations Association embodies those beliefs in its tireless mission to use music to communicate among different cultures, resolve conflicts, and promote cultural diversity. With each note played here this evening we come closer to the true essence of what it means to be living in a global society—that our many differences need not be transcended, but rather embraced in ways that promote peace, harmony, and a greater common good.

I would like to thank the "Melody for Dialogue Among Civilizations" Association and UNESCO for assembling this memorable evening of music. I would also like to thank the talented musicians from all over the world who have assembled here tonight. Northeastern is delighted to cosponsor this event, and we are particularly proud to have the chair of our University's Music Department, Professor Anthony De Ritis, included among this esteemed group of composers and performers. Tonight truly promises to be an unforgettable experience of the many innovative ways that music celebrates diversity and bridges divides.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph E. Aoun". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Joseph E. Aoun, President - Northeastern University



***Message by Mehri Madarshahi
President, “Melody for Dialogue
among Civilizations” Association***

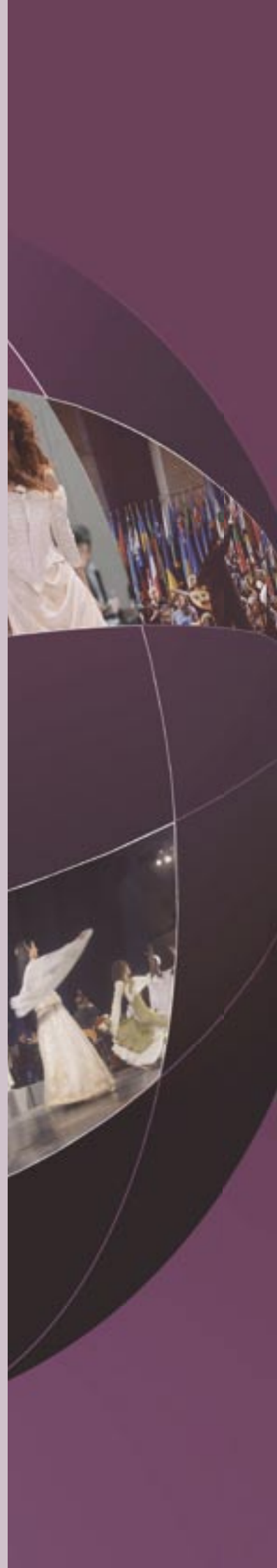
Tonight we celebrate a landmark event in the life of this Organization: recognition of music as an important element of intangible cultural heritage and of intercultural dialogue. I am proud that the Association «Melody for Dialogue among Civilizations» has been able to make a modest contribution to help achieve this goal. Over some 3 years, it has brought together over 400 international artists from some 70 countries of all regions of the world who have performed and engaged in a rare version of multi-cultural dialogue. They provided proof that music is an important element in human culture and that it deserves a larger space in our complex world. Our efforts underlined the potential of music beyond being a means of entertainment consumed in our homes and in concert halls, as a powerful means of communication, dialogue, mutual understanding and tolerance. Indeed, music engenders respect for those beyond our own sphere of living and experience. Music may evoke manifold emotions among people of different origins, races and value systems. It may soothe feelings, create a peaceful environment or even peace - but it may equally raise emotions, stoke aggressions or conflict. Beyond any doubt, music is apt to build respect, admiration and friendships. It can trespass barriers and the realm of unknown. As the Greek philosopher Plato once said: «Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything».

Today we know more - in scientific terms - about the role and impact of music than ever before. When developing his theory of relativity, Albert Einstein once said «It occurred to me by intuition, and music was the driving force behind that intuition. I often think in music and my discovery was the result of musical perception.»

Although hardly documented, but music has left its indelible mark in science, mathematics, philosophy and the arts. In the complex and troubled world of today we need music and may be well advised to resort to it in order to unleash its potential for the resolution of conflicts and to establish a creative basis for generating a better understanding of others. As our global village becomes smaller and as the inhabitants of this shrinking village are becoming ever more heterogeneous, we need to resort to a solid tool of communication to create the «oneness» of humanity. As the composer Johannes Brahms once said «Music is the power from which all truly great composers like Mozart, Schubert, Bach and Beethoven drew their inspiration.... It is the power that created our earth and the whole universe.»

It is in this spirit that the Melody for Dialogue among Civilizations Association will pursue its modest efforts to help bring about a more harmonious world, founded on respect and tolerance for differences. All power to music!

Mehri Madarshahi, President (MDACA)



Master of Ceremony (New York)

Ian Williams



Journalist born in Liverpool, United Kingdom, Ian Williams graduated from Liverpool University. He had a variegated career path, which included a drinking competition with Zhu En Lai and an argument about English literature with Madame Mao before taking up journalism, briefly taking time off to be a speech/article writer for British Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock in the 1987 election campaign.

Twice President of the UN Correspondents Association, he has been writing about the United Nations since 1989 for newspapers, magazines and academic journals around the world.

He “pundits” on BBC, CNN, MSNBC, FOX, CBC and innumerable radio stations. He appears on everything from Scarborough Country to the O’Reilly Factor arguing for rational and balanced coverage of the world. His unflappable sense of humor is the secret for the return calls and the frequent speaking engagements across the United States. He speaks regularly at World Affairs Councils, United Nations Associations, universities and colleges across the world, from Almaty to Alaska, on UN and world affairs.

His first book was *The Alms Trade* on the historical development of NGOs, which has just been reprinted by Cosimo Press. The second was *The UN for Beginners*. He also authored *Deserter* (2004) and *Rum* (2005) and contributed to many others including *George Orwell into the 21st Century* (2005), *The UN And World Affairs* (1993) and *No Peace To Keep* (1995).

He wrote the chapter “The UN and Iraq” in *The Iraq War: Causes and Consequences*, (edited by Rick Fawn and Raymond Hinnebusch, Lynne Rienner Press, 2006). He also contributed to *The Cambridge Companion to George Orwell* (edited by John Rodden Cambridge University Press) and *Why Kosovo Matters: The Debate on the Left Revisited* (edited by Danny Postel, Cybereditions, due 2008).

He has written papers for a number of international journals, including the *International Human Rights Journal* and *Vereinte Nationen*. Further, he has written for newspapers and magazines around the world, ranging from the *Australian*, the *Jamaica Gleaner*, the *Scotsman*, the *New York Observer*, the *Village Voice*, the *New Statesman*, *Newsday*, the *Financial Times*, the *Daily Telegraph*, and the *Guardian*. He is the UN correspondent for the *Nation*, *Tribune*, and *Asia Times*, among others.

He has written extensively for *Middle East International*, the *Washington Report on Middle East Affairs*, *Al Wasa*, and has appeared on *Al Arabiya* and *Al-Jazeera TV*.

Master of Ceremony (Paris)

Andrea Sanke



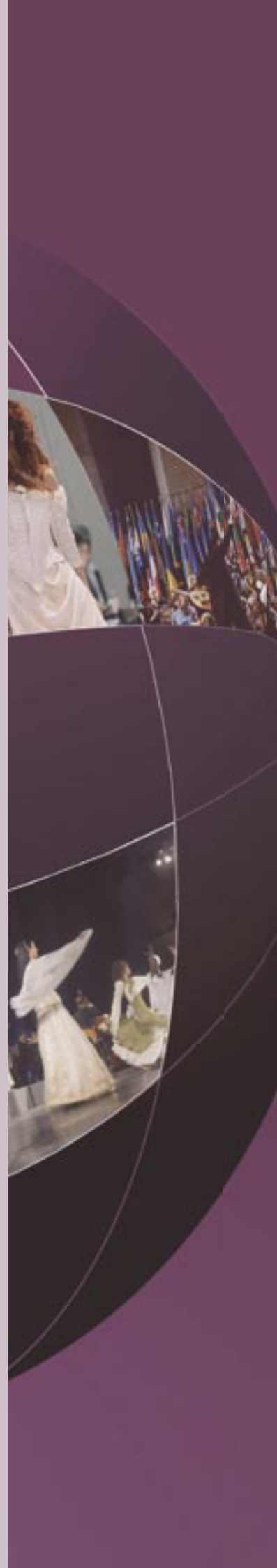
Andrea is Senior Presenter for France24's English channel. In this capacity she hosts the channel's prime time, daily debate program, as well as the France24 one-on-one interview segment. Prior to moving to Paris to help launch the channel in December 2006, Andrea spent two years at CNN international in London, working as an anchor and correspondent for the channel's various news and business programs. Before joining CNN in July 2004, Sanke was based in Berlin where she worked for Germany's international news channel, Deutsche Well.

Prior to moving to Berlin, Andrea spent two years as a midday news anchor and reporter for Chicago ABC Radio affiliate Newstalk 89. From 1996 to 1997, she lived in Bogota, Colombia, where she reported for Caracol TV's national morning news programme, covering social issues ranging from the plight of former Colombian guerrillas and their reintegration into civilian society, to social workers struggling to assist the poor in Bogota's most violent neighbourhood.

During the past nine years, Andrea has lived and worked in five different countries in varying journalistic capacities. This did not prevent her from volunteering for charity organization "Task Brasil", caring for abandoned and socially disadvantaged children in Rio de Janeiro.

She holds a Bachelor of Journalism in Broadcast News and a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish from the University of Missouri. She also studied liberal arts at the Universidad San Francisco de Quito in Ecuador and the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana de Bogota, Colombia.

Originally from Chicago, Illinois, USA, she speaks fluent Spanish and Portuguese as well as German and Italian.



Programme
Paris, UNESCO house
26 November, 20h

Orchestre Philharmonique de Prague - Philharmonic Orchestra of Prague

Under the baton of Maestro Richard Boudarham (France)
(Guest Conductor)

Melody Ensemble

Under the baton of Maestro Igor Vljajnic (Croatia)

Choir: Bel Arte

Master of Ceremony/Maitre de Ceremonie
Andrea Sanke

Melody for Peace
“L’Italiana in Algeri” (Rossini, but not only...)

Un dialogue entre la musique classique, traditionnelle et contemporaine
A dialogue between classical, traditional and contemporary music

-
- ▶ Discours de Mme Françoise Riviere, Sous-Directrice Generale de l’UNESCO pour la Culture
 - ▶ Discours de Mme Mehri Madarshahi, Presidente de l’Association « Melodie pour le Dialogue entre les Civilisations »
-

Serguei Rachmaninov

Prelude C-sharp minor

▷ *Serguei Markarov, piano (Russian Federation)*
UNESCO Artist for Peace

Johann Sebastian Bach

Concerto for Two Violins (second movement)

New interpretation

▷ *A dialogue between Erhu (Gan Quo - China) and Violin (Carlos Damas - Portugal)*

Anthony Paul De Ritis

Melody for Peace

new composition - world premiere

A dialogue for Jazz, traditional and classical music

Gioacchino Rossini

L'Italiana in Algeri

(excerpts)

A new interpretation with classical and traditional orchestras

(Nouvelle interpretation - une exécution innovatrice avec un dialogue entre l'orchestre classique et des instruments traditionnels)

Moustafa : Patrice Berger (bass), France

Isabella: Laura Vlasak Nolen (mezzosoprano), United States of America

***Tedeo: Boris Trajanov (baritone), FY Republic of Macedonia
UNESCO Artist for Peace***

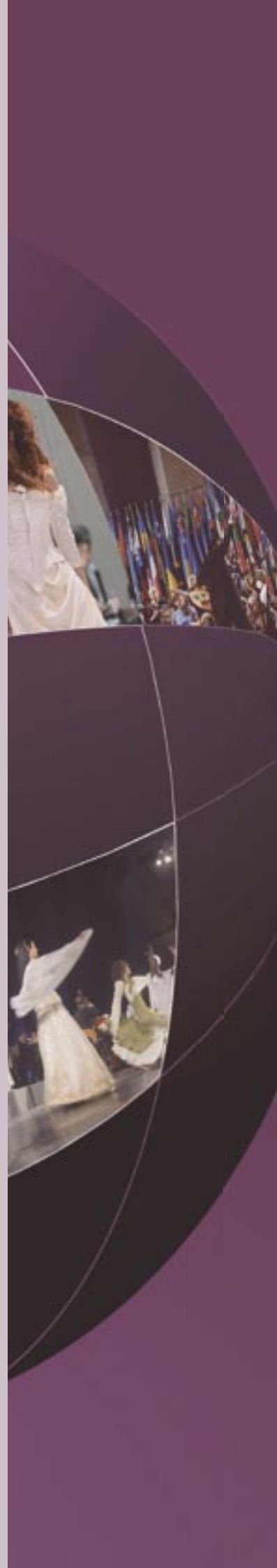
Lindoro: John Bellemer (tenor), United States of America

Zulma: Manon Strauss Evrard (soprano), France

Angelica de la Riva (mezzosoprano), Brazil

Artists of the Melody Ensemble: Ara (talking drums - Nigeria), Shyamal Maitra (tabla -India), Dragan Dautovsky (kaval, tanbura - FY Republic of Macedonia), Mucahit Isik saz - Turkey), Ismail Isik (baglama - Turkey), Bahman Panahi (setar - Persia), Petras Vysniauskas (soprano saxophone - Lithuania), Oliver Leicht (clarinet - Germany), Sawar Hussein (sarangi - India), Asana Borhan Azad setar, oud - Iran), Sehvar Besiroglu (Kanun - Turkey), Kang Hyo-Sun (flute - Republic of Korea), Yula Toyoshima (No flute - Japan), Fawzi Al Langawi (oud - Kuwait), Gao Hong (pipa, China), Guo Gan (erhu – China)

Produced by: Mehri Madarshahi



programme

Programme

NEW YORK

Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center

3 December 2007

7:30 pm

Orchestra of St.Luke's

**Under the baton of Maestro Richard Boudarham (France)
(Guest Conductor)**

Melody Traditional Ensemble

Under the baton of Maestro Igor Vlainic (Croatia)

Chorus; Canori Ensemble

Master of Ceremony: Ian Williams

Melody for Peace

"L'Italiana in Algeri" (Rossini, but not only...)

***Un dialogue entre la musique classique, traditionnelle et contemporaine
A dialogue between classical, traditional and contemporary music***

Johann Sebastian Bach

Concerto for two violins in D minor, BWV 1043

- ▷ *A dialogue between Violin: Chee-Yun (Republic of Korea)*
- ▷ *Ino Mirkovic (Croatia), UNESCO Artist for Peace*
- ▷ *Erhu: Guo Gan (China)*
- ▷ *Erhu: Li Yuan Yuan (China)*

Anthony Paul De Ritis

Melody for Peace

new composition - world premiere

- ▷ *A dialogue for Jazz, traditional and classical music*
-

L'Italiana in Algeri

Gioacchino Rossini

(excerpts)

A new interpretation with classical and traditional orchestras

Chorus: Conori Ensemble

Moustafa : *Patrice Berger (bass), France*

Isabella: *Laura Vlasak Nolen (mezzo soprano), United States of America*

Tedeo: *Boris Trajanov (baritone), FY Republic of Macedonia*
UNESCO Artist for Peace

Lindoro: *John Bellemer (tenor), United States of America*

Zulma: *Manon Strauss Evrard (soprano), France*

Elvira: *Angelica de la Riva (mezzosoprano), Brazil*

Haly: *Brace Negron, baritone (Brazil)*

Artists of the Melody Traditional Ensemble: Ara, talking drum (Nigeria); Shyamal Maitra, tabla (India); Dragan Dautovsky, kaval, tanbura (FY Republic of Macedonia); Ismail Isik, baglama (Turkey); Bahman Panahi, setar (Persia); Petras Vysniauskas, soprano saxophone (Lithuania); Sawar Hussein, sarangi (India); Sehvar Besiroglu, kanun (Turkey); Kang Hyo-Sun, piri (Republic of Korea); Fawzi Al Langawi, oud (Kuwait); Famoro, balafon (Guinea); Yacouba Sissoko, kora (Mali); Min Xiao-Fen, pipa (China); Kali Z. Fasteau, shakuhachi (USA); Andriy Milavsky, frula (Ukraine); Gan Guo, erhu (China); Li Yuan Yuan, erhu (China)

Produced by: Mehri Madarshahi



Richard Boudarham

◆ Conductor ◆ France ◆

Maestro Boudarham was born in Paris, France. He studied piano and clarinet. Since a young age, he was fascinated by conducting an orchestra. Soon after his university studies, he studied with R.P. Chouteau and Sergiu Celibidache. He became conductor of « L'Orchestre Symphonique de l'Académie de Musique d'Ile-de-France » which then was renamed the « Orchestre Symphonique Bel'Arte ». Maestro Boudarham has conducted more than 300 concerts with various orchestras in France and numerous other countries. He has performed with outstanding soloists such as Igor Oistrakh, Aldo Ciccolini, Yury Boukoff, Christophe Boulier, Jean-Marc Phillips, and opera star Sumi Jo. In 2000, he directed the Oratorio Society of New York at Carnegie Hall and was invited as a Guest Conductor with the Westchester Symphony Orchestra. He also participated in several music festivals in France, London and Hungary. In 2007 alone, Richard Boudarham performed with more than 14 orchestras and directed operas such as « The Magic Flute » at UNESCO and « Myriel » at the Hungarian Opera Festival. He has also conducted music for numerous movies. Since September 2007, he acts as the Artistic Director of the « l'Il de France » Opera.

Keenly interested in the pedagogical aspects of music, Maestro Boudarham has taught at the National Conservatory of Issy-les-Moulineaux since 1982. He has conducted two multi-cultural concerts with the « Melody for Dialogue among Civilizations » Association in 2006 (The Magic Flute of W.A. Mozart) and in 2007 (L'Italiana in Algeri of G. Rossini) at UNESCO.



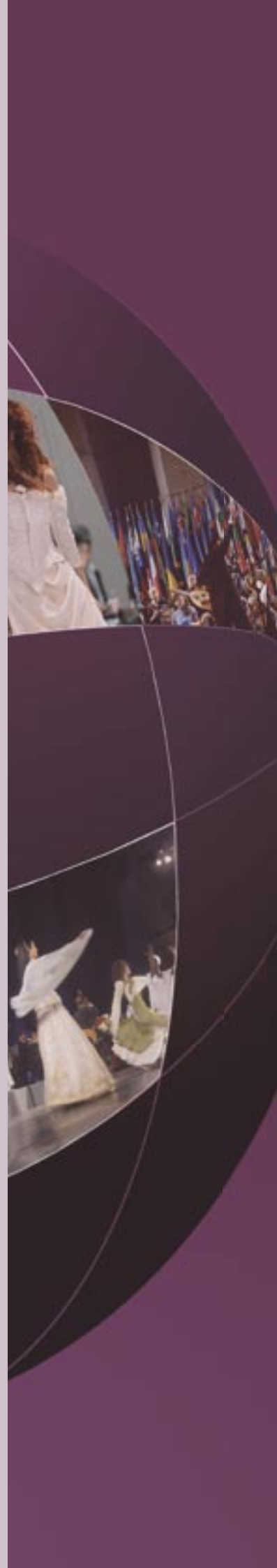
Igor Vlajnić

◆ Conductor ◆ Croatia ◆

Born 1984 in Osijek, Croatia, Igor Vlajnić distinguished himself as an opera singer with various cultural artistic societies. He worked with the Croatian National Theater in Osijek and the Opera of the National Theatre in Sarajevo. At the age of 17, he enrolled in the "Ino Mirkovic" College in Lovran where he studied and specialized in composition and conducting under Professors L. Nikolaev (Russia) and M. Homen (Croatia). Already as a student, he worked for the Croatian National Theater in Rijeka.

In 2004, he was awarded a Master Class scholarship with Maestro Kurt Masur. Upon finishing his studies in November 2005, he is associated with the "Melody for Dialogue among Civilizations" Association and has conducted a number of multi-cultural concerts at UNESCO-Paris and two regional concerts in Abuja, Nigeria and Havana, Cuba.

He also performed in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Italy and Austria. At present he conducts operas at the Croatian National Theatre "Ivana pl. Zajca" in Rijeka, Croatia.





Anthony Paul De Ritis

◆ Composer ◆ United States of America ◆

Music technologist and composer Anthony Paul De Ritis was born on Long Island, New York in 1968, and is currently Chair of the Department of Music and Director of Digital Media programs at Northeastern University in Boston, Mass. De Ritis' music has been called "cutting edge", "revolutionary" and "groundbreaking". De Ritis, whose works have been performed throughout Europe, North America, and China, is perhaps best known for his work, *Devolution*, a Concerto for DJ and Symphony Orchestra. Premiered under the direction of Michael Morgan and the Oakland East Bay Symphony (March 2004) additional performances include the New Haven Symphony (Sept. 2004) under Jung-Ho Pak, and the Boston Modern Orchestra Project at Harvard's Sanders Theatre under Gil Rose (May 2007) – all performances have featured Paul D. Miller aka DJ Spooky That Subliminal Kid as the soloist.

In 1999, his electroacoustic work *Plum Blossoms*, based on samples of the Chinese pipa as played by pipa virtuoso Min Xiao-Fen, received its premiere at the International Computer Music Conference in Beijing, China, and was later the basis for a "live" version for pipa, strings, glockenspiel and electronic sounds commissioned and performed by the San Diego Symphony (2000). Additional commissions to compose for the pipa followed, including *Zhongguo Pop* (2005), a solo work for pipa virtuoso Wu Man (pipa soloist for Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Project) and *Ping-Pong*, a Concerto for Pipa and Chinese Orchestra, written for Min Xiao-Fen and premiered by the Taipei Chinese Orchestra in Taiwan (2004).

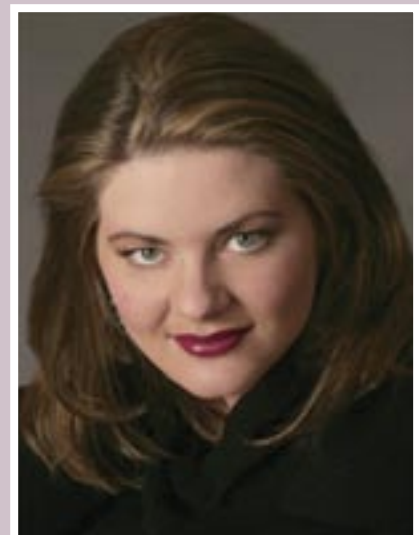
He is the founder and lead developer of the Online Conservatory collaboration between the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Northeastern University, which has been featured in the *New York Times*, the *Chronicle for Higher Education*, *Newsweek*, *Symphony magazine* and the *Boston Globe*. The Online Conservatory (www.bso.org/conservatory) allows viewers to explore BSO programs in-depth before their performances.

De Ritis has a Ph.D. in music composition from the University of California, Berkeley, and a Masters in Business Administration with an emphasis in High Tech from Northeastern University. In 2006, De Ritis was honored as Alumnus of the Year for the College of Fine Arts, Ohio University.

Laura Vlasak Nolen

◆ Mezzosoprano ◆ United States of America ◆

Recently hailed by the *Financial Times* for her «large and lush mezzo-soprano,» Texas native Laura Vlasak Nolen has quickly established herself on the operatic scene. Ms. Nolen was recently honored and awarded by New York City Opera with the Richard F. Gold Career Grant. As she continues to garner critical acclaim for each new appearance, it is no wonder *Opera News* claims «a talent like hers can't possibly stay a well-kept secret for long». In the 2007-08 season, Laura Vlasak Nolen returns to both the Metropolitan Opera as Waltraute in *Die Walküre* and the Opera Orchestra of New York to sing the role of Teresa in *La sonnambula*. She also performed Beethoven's *Mass in C* with the Honolulu Symphony, Dvorák's *Stabat Mater* with the Bel Canto Chorus and Orchestra.



Ms. Nolen's 2006-07 season included the role of Malcolm in New York City Opera's production of *La Donna del Lago*, an engagement with the Opera Orchestra of New York in their production of *Otello* and, in a reengagement with the Caramoor Festival in summer 2007, Rossini's *Petite Messe solennelle* and *Pierotto in Linda di Chamounix*. In concert she appeared as soloist at Avery Fisher Hall with the Richard Tucker Foundation under Asher Fisch conducting members of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, in Mendelssohn's *Elijah* with the Danbury Symphony, and in Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde* with the Westfield Symphony. She made her debut at New York City Opera in 2005-06 singing *Sélysette* in *Ariane et Barbe-Bleue* which she later recorded with the BBC Symphony under the baton of Leon Botstein. Ms. Nolen has also sung the title role in Opera Theater of Connecticut's production of *Giulio Cesare*, *Fanny* in Strauss' *Intermezzo* with the Sante Fe Opera, *Eustazio* in Handel's *Rinaldo* with Berkshire Opera, and *Enrichetta* in *I Puritani* and *Isaura* in *Tancredi*, both with the Caramoor Festival. Ms. Nolen was the New England Regional Winner and National Semi-Finalist in the 2005 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and has won Encouragement Awards in the 2005 George London Foundation Competition and the 2006 Sullivan Foundation Competition. She is also a recent finalist in the Bel Canto Vocal Scholarship Academy and has participated in the Renata Scotti Opera Academy at both the Music Conservatory of Westchester and in Rome at the Accademia di Santa Cecilia.

Patrice Berger

◆ Bass ◆ France ◆

After his studies and a successful career, which brought him the gold medal of the C.N.R of Dijon and the first prize of S.N.S.M. de Paris en Tuba, he continued his career as a lyric artist at the international level. In 1994, he was unanimously selected as first place in the Béziers competition. He was entrusted with the role of Valentin de « *Faust* » de Gounod at the Festival de Marmande. In 1995, he played the role of Hérode in Massenet's « *Hérodiade* » in Dijon. Given his great success in French opera, he has been invited to play many roles including those of Escamillo in « *Carmen* »,



Zurga in « *Les pêcheurs de perle* », Athanaël in « *Thaïs* », Ourrias in « *Mireille* », les diables in « *Les contes d'Hoffman* », Ramiro in « *L'heure Espagnole* ». (Angers, Nice, Massy, Limoges, Dijon, Marseille, Montpellier). In 2002, he was invited to Amsterdam for « *Le dialogue des Carmélites* » and in June 2005, he played Athanaël in « *Thaïs* » at the Opera of Rome.

In 2006, he sang the rôle of prisonnier in « *Maria Golovin* » of Menotti at the Opéra of Marseille. In July 2006, he sang Nabucco of Verdi in the arena of Bayonne. In October, November and December 2006, he performed for the first time the Falstaff of Verdi in Limoges. He triumphantly sang the role of Escamillo in « *Carmen* », first in Calabria and then at the Opera of Rome. As Athanaël in Massenet's « *Thaïs* » he made his debut in the United States in the Opera of Palm Beach. In summer 2007, he interprèted Amonasro in « *Aïda* » in Nantes and Bayonne. He also sang the rôle of Figaro in « *Le barbier de Séville* » de Rossini.

In October 2007, will sing the four roles of diables in « *Les Contes d'Hofmann* » à Limoges. In November 2007 he will appear in the role of « *Mustapha* » in *L'Italiana in Algeri* » at UNESCO and again in December 2007 at Avery Fisher Hall , NY. These multi-cultural concerts were produced by the Melody for Dialogue among Civilizations Association



Boris Trajanov

◆ Baritone ◆ FY Republic of Macedonia ◆



The icon of Macedonian voices, Boris Trajanov studied lyrics with his father Goga Trajanov, Biserka Cvejic (Belgrade) and Pier Miranda Ferraro (Milan). He is a winner of several international singing competitions. During the 20 years of his international career, he has performed in more than 80 renown opera companies in Europe (Italy, Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Norway, UK and others), as well as in South Africa, Brazil and the USA. He performed 43 principal roles in more than 600 opera performances. He is now performing as a Principal in 13 productions in Italy (Rome, Bologna, Palermo, Parma,

Trieste, Bergamo, Pisa, Ravenna), Germany (Hamburg, Frankfurt), Austria (Vienna, Graz), the Israeli Opera and the Pacific Opera in the United States. In February 2005 he was appointed as "UNESCO Artist for Peace". Boris Trajanov appeared as a Guest Artist with the Melody for Dialogue among Civilizations Association in celebration of the 60th anniversary of UNESCO in November 2006 in Paris.

Manon Strauss Evrard

◆ Soprano ◆ France ◆

French Soprano Manon Strauss Evrard is one of the most promising young artists of today. Her professional operatic debut was as Violetta at the Prague State Opera in the 2006 production of *La Traviata*. Miss Strauss Evrard made her Asian debut as Juliette in Gounod's *Romeo et Juliette* with Maestro Paolo Olmi at the Hong Kong Opera and at the New Jersey Opera Theater in 2007. She opens the 2007-2008 season as Musetta in Puccini's *La Bohème* at the Den Norske Opera in Oslo, and will be both the four heroines in *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* and the title role in *Lucia di Lammermoor* with Virginia Opera.

Miss Strauss Evrard has been enrolled since September 2004 as a resident artist at the prestigious Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia, where she has performed the roles of Gilda in Verdi's *Rigoletto*, Anita in Massenet's *La Navarraise*, Donna Elvira in Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, Musetta in Puccini's *La Bohème*, and the title role in Tchaikovsky's *Iolanta*. In spring 2007 she performed in Massenet's *Manon* in a new production at the Academy of Vocal Arts.

Miss Strauss Evrard's dramatic and yet agile voice combine with her outstanding musicality enables her to tackle the most demanding roles in the Bel Canto repertoire. Among the roles she has been working on the past few years are the title roles of Rossini's *Armida* and *Semiramide* and the heroines of Bellini's *I Puritani*, *Il Pirata*, and *La Sonnambula*.

A native of Nancy, Miss Strauss Evrard won second place with the Gerda Lissner Foundation in 2007, is a Great Promise Award recipient and Eastern Regional Winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions of 2006, a second Place Winner of the Giargiari Bel Canto Competition 2005, a First Prize winner of the *Competizione Internazionale di Canto Lirico di Rocca della Macie* (Italy) 2004, a recipient of the Opera Norske Oslo Award from the International Belvedere Competition 2005, the Encouragement Award from the Marian Anderson Competition 2004, the French awards of the Gold Medal at the Conservatoire National de Région de Nancy, the Adami's Prize of the Golden Voice Competition 2002, and received the Virginia Zeani's special award at the Francisco Vinas Competition.





John Bellemer

◆ Tenor ◆ United States of America ◆

The young American tenor John Bellemer is quickly gaining a reputation for his strong portrayals in a very wide repertoire. The New York Times calls him “clarion-toned” and after his Don José in Carmen, the San José Metro wrote that he “gave a powerful and precisely drawn performance, internalizing his characterization with compelling consistency. Be it through mere physical presence, or via his radiant tenor voice, Bellemer evolved in perfect step with Don José’s tragic situation.”

In the 2006-07 season, Mr. Bellemer performs Macduff in Macbeth with the Vancouver Opera, Toni in Henze’s Eleggý for Young Lovers with the Teatro di San Carlo in Naples, and Roméo in Roméo et Juliette with the Opera Grand Rapids. He also joined the roster of San Francisco Opera.

Mr. Bellemer’s 2005-06 season included performances with Shreveport Opera, Palm Beach Opera, Opera Ontario, and Nevada Opera. He also appeared in recital with the Estonia National Opera with his wife, mezzo-soprano Sarah Blaze.

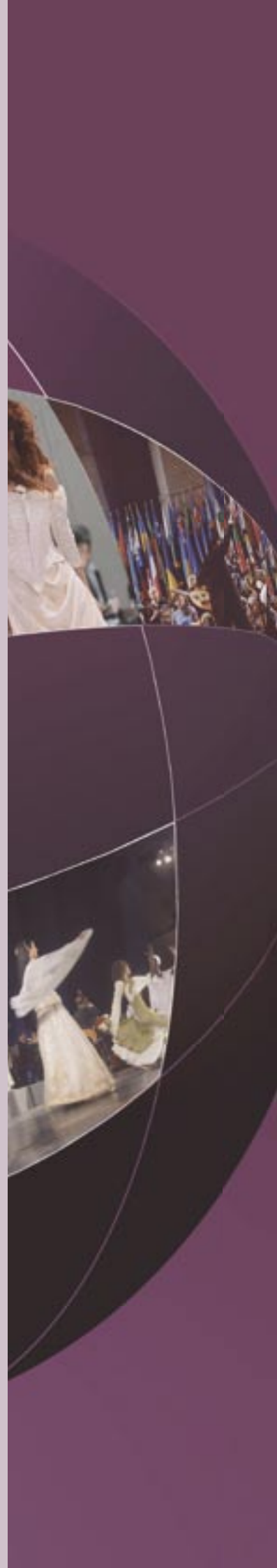
On the international stage, Mr. Bellemer’s highlights include performances of the Duke in Rigoletto and Alfredo in La Traviata in Belgium, Macduff in Macbeth and Ferrando in Così fan tutte with Opéra National de Bordeaux, and Pinkerton in Madama Butterfly with Opéra de Rennes. He was Almaviva in Il Barbiere di Siviglia with Stadtteater Giessen, Don Ottavio in Don Giovanni with Opéra Royal de Wallonie, and Tamino in Die Zauberflöte and Sali in Delius’ A Village Romeo and Juliet with Teatro Lirico di Cagliari.

North American highlights include performances of Alfredo in La Traviata with Cleveland Opera, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Arizona Opera, Berkshire Opera, and Calgary Opera.. Other engagements include performances as Don José with New York City Opera and Boston Lyric Opera. He also performed with Minnesota Opera, Hawaii Opera Theatre, Dayton Opera and Eugene Opera.

Mr. Bellemer has performed in gala concerts presented by the Richard Tucker Foundation, Arizona Opera, the Nevada Opera, and the San Jose Symphony and many others. A gifted concert artist, Mr. Bellemer has appeared in the US and European operas among them, with the New York Choral Society at Avery Fisher Hall, and as soloist in Handel’s Messiah with both the Reno Chamber Orchestra and the Fresno Philharmonic Orchestra. He joined the American Symphony Orchestra in a performance conducted by Music Director Leon Botstein. The tenor made his Carnegie Hall debut with the New England Chamber Ensemble

Committed to the art of the vocal recital, John Bellemer toured with pianist John Wustman from 1992-1998 in a programme entitled “The Songs of Franz Schubert.”..

Mr. Bellemer is the recipient of the American Opera Project’s Brian Scott Memorial Award. He also won both the Grace Elizabeth Wilson Memorial Award for Excellence in Singing and the Dorothy Gonzelas Memorial Award from the University of Illinois. The tenor was also a winner of the Illinois Opera Guild Competition in Chicago. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree from James Madison University and a Masters of Music degree from the University of Illinois.





Angelica de la Riva

◆ Mezzosoprano ◆ Brazil ◆

Brazilian/Cuban Mezzo Soprano, Angelica de la Riva moved to New York in 2003 to study singing at Mannes College of Music. She now holds a Masters degree in voice from Brooklyn College - Conservatory of Music, where she sang the lead role as Poppea in Monteverdi's "L'Incoronazione di Poppea", Desirée in Stephen Sondheim's musical "A Little Night Music", The Countess in Mozart's "Marriage of Figaro" and Ravel's "L'Enfant et les Sortilège"

Born in Rio she majored in acting at the University of Rio de Janeiro. In 2001, Ms. De la Riva starred in O Cavalinho Azul an operetta by Tim Rescala and Maria Clara Machado at the Tablado Theater in Rio. A year later, she appeared in the Disney production of The Beauty and the Beast in Sao Paulo.

In New York (2006), she played the role of Titania in the off-Broadway musical adaptation of Shakespeare's "Midsummer Night's Dream", Fools in Love, as well as Sprite in an adaptation of "The Tempest" Fools.

A passion for Iberian-American art song, inspired by her Cuban/Spanish ancestry, has led Ms de la Riva to specialize in this repertoire and to introduce Brazilian classical music to a wider audience. In May 2007, her outstanding interpretation of this music led to an invitation to perform in Spain as featured artist in the inaugural concert of La Fresneda Concert Hall in Asturias, accompanied by the Orchestra de Camara de Sieros.

In 2006 Ms. de la Riva appeared as a guest artist at the Spanish Song Festival in Granada with Teresa Berganza and participated in several other international festivals, such as "The Chiari Opera Festival" in Milan in 2005, the "International Institute of Vocal Arts" where she interpreted "Nedda" in "Pagliacci", "Mussetta" in "La Boheme" and Puccini's "Tosca". With the "The Little Opera Theater of New York" in 2004 and 2005, she starred as "Sandrina" in Mozart's "La Finta Giardinera". In concert she performed Brahm's "Liebeslieder" and "Neue Liebeslieder", including in New York.

Brace Negron

◆ Bass-Baritone ◆ Brazil ◆

Bass-baritone Brace Negron was born in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and raised in the United States. Mr. Negron has been a prolific performer since his arrival to New York in 1998. Past accomplishments include an Asian debut in Singapore with Singapore Theatre works in 2001 as the baritone lead The Cowherd in The Silver River by Bright Sheng, the Lucerne Festival in Lucerne, Switzerland, performing under Maestro Pierre Boulez and Daniel Reusse in 2006 and Gregorio in Romeo et Juliette and 2nd Armored Man in Zauberflote both with New Jersey Opera Theater this past July.

He has performed with such companies as Utah Festival Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera, DiCapo Opera and Opera North. Upcoming performances include Jupiter in Orpheus in the Underworld with Bronx Opera, the Herald in Rigoletto with New Jersey Opera, and Figaro in Le Nozze di Figaro with Queens College Opera Studio. Mr. Negron received his master's degree from Manhattan School of Music and his undergraduate degree from Stetson University in Deland, Florida. He is a current voice student of Vivian Mordo and coaches with Liora Maurer.



Chee-Yun

◆ Violin ◆ Republic of Korea ◆

BViolinist Chee-Yun's combination of flawless technique, beautiful tone and compelling musical temperament has quickly captured the attention of the music world. Her brilliant artistry has been shared with audiences and praised by critics on five continents.

Her career highlights include appearances at the Kennedy Center's «Salute to Slava» gala honoring its departing Music Director, Mstislav Rostropovich, the Mostly Mozart Festival in New York, including the Festival orchestra's tour to Japan and the Pacific, a performance with Michael Tilson Thomas in the inaugural season of Carnegie Hall's Zankel Hall and the American premiere of the Penderecki Sonata No. 2 with pianist Barry Douglas. Other recent highlights include her tours of the United States with the San Francisco Symphony (Michael Tilson Thomas conducting), Japan with the NHK Symphony and the Tokyo Metropolitan Orchestra, and her performance at the American Ballet Theatre Fall Gala.

Chee-Yun has performed with many of the world's foremost orchestras, including the Philadelphia Orchestra, the London Philharmonic, and the Toronto, Houston, and National Symphony Orchestras, and with such distinguished conductors as Hans Graf, James DePriest, Jesus Lopez-Cobos, Michael Tilson Thomas, Krzysztof Penderecki, Neeme Järvi, and Pinchas Zukerman. She has also appeared with Germany's Braunschweig Orchestra, the MDR Radio Leipzig, the St. Petersburg Camerata, the Bamberg Philharmonic, the Bilbao Symphony, the London Festival Orchestra, the Nagoya Philharmonic, KBS Symphony Orchestra, the Seoul Philharmonic, the Atlanta Symphony and the Orchestra of St. Luke's.

Highlights of her 2006-7 season include return engagements with the China Philharmonic and the Guangzhou Symphony Orchestra in China and an Ireland and UK tour with Barry Douglas and Camerata Ireland, including a performance at Cadogan Hall in London. Her chamber music appearances include recitals at the Theatre des Champs-Elysees in Paris, the Kirishima Festival in Japan and two tours of Korea, including recitals at the Seoul Arts Center. As a recitalist, Chee-Yun has performed in many major cities including New York, Chicago, Washington, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Atlanta.

Chee-Yun has been heard frequently on National Public Radio's Performance Today and on WQXR and WNYC radio stations in New York City. She also appeared on PBS as a special guest on Victor Borge, in a live broadcast at Spivey Hall in Atlanta concurrent with the Olympic Games.

Chee-Yun's first public performance, at age 8, took place in her native Seoul after she won the Grand Prize of the Korean Times Competition. At age 15, she appeared as soloist with the New York String Orchestra under Alexander Schneider at Carnegie Hall and at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

Chee-Yun has been the recipient of numerous awards including the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant and winner of the Young Concert Artists International Auditions. Her recording awards include nomination for Best Debut in the first annual Cannes Classical Awards at the MIDEM international music convention.

In 1993, Chee-Yun returned to Korea to receive the «Nan Pa» award, the country's highest musical honor. She was honored in a different manner in the United States, when she was invited to perform at the White House for President Bill Clinton and his guests in honor of the recipients of the National Medal of the Arts. Chee-Yun has received exceptional acclaim as a recording artist



Serguei Markarov

◆ Piano ◆ Russian Federation ◆



Born in Baku in 1953, Mr. Markarov studied in St Petersburg and Moscow. He won the first prize for piano, teaching, chamber music and accompaniment at the Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatory in St. Petersburg and the 1982 Alessandro Casagrande International Piano Competition in Italy. Since 1993, he has been performing in Europe's most prestigious concert halls and at many festivals. He is also a member of several international competition juries and teaches at the Paris Ecole Normale de Musique and Conservatoire Municipal Jacques Ibert de Paris as well as at the

Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory. He is the artistic director of the Festival of Piano of St. Petersburg and performs regularly with the Kirov Orchestra under the direction of Valery Gergiev.

In 2002, Mr Markarov was nominated as UNESCO Artist for Peace. In 2007 he has been named "Chevalier de..." by the French Academy of... and obtained the medal offrom the Russian Federation in 2007.

He is a regular featured artist of the "Melody for Dialogue among Civilizations" Association.

Ino Mirkovic

◆ Violin ◆ Croatia ◆

Ino Mirkovic was born in 1960 in Rijeka, Croatia, into a family of professional musicians. At the age of 5 he began studying violin and enrolled at the Music School in Rijeka. In 1979 he began his studies at the Moscow State Conservatory "P.I. Tchaikovsky" where he specialized for several years in the classes of Professors M.S. Glezarova and A.B. Korsakov. He received a doctorate degree from the Moscow State Conservatory.

Since 1980, he has been a member of the Association of Music Artists of Croatia. Mr. Mirkovic played his first recital at the age of 11 and since then he gave over 1000 performances in almost all European countries, North and South America and the Middle and Far East. Among these performances feature appearances in Koloniji Hall (Moscow), the Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatory, the Herkulesaal (Munich), the Great Hall "Vatroslav Lisinski" (Zagreb), the "Auditorium" (Palma de Mallorca), the UNESCO Great Hall (Paris), the Concert Hall of the Seoul Arts Centre and the United Nations General Assembly Hall (New York).

In 1998, Ino Mirkovic was awarded the title of "UNESCO Artist for Peace" and has featured regularly in a number of multi-cultural concerts organized by the "Melody for Dialogue among Civilization" Association, including in Abuja, Nigeria and Havana, Cuba.



Carlos Damas

◆ Violin ◆ Portugal ◆

Damas is the finest Portuguese violin player of his generation and critics call him "...one of best in Europe". He was born in Coimbra, Portugal. At the age of 3, he attended the Conservatory of his home city and made his first contacts with the world of music. At the age of 6, he moved to Lisbon and started his violin studies with Professors Vasco Brôco, Alexandra Mendes and Leonor Prado (violinists of Lisbon Gulbenkian Foundation). He played as soloist for the first time at the age of 15 with the National Radio Symphonic Orchestra of Portugal, conducted by Sir Silva Pereira. In 1989 Carlos Damas represented his country at the International Music Camp. The American String Teachers Association awarded Carlos Damas a prize for "Excellence in Performance and Leadership". Having worked with the conductor Joseph Giunta, he won the Portuguese Youth Musical Competition. In 1990, he took residence in Paris where he attended the Conservatory, where he studied with the great pedagogue Jacqueline Lefèvre and with Master Ivry Gitlis. In 1992, he became concert master of the International Orchestra of the «Cité Internationale de Paris». During these years, he also had the opportunity to work under the guidance of Sir Yehudi Menuhin.

In 1993, he graduated and obtained the title of "most accomplished student". He often is invited to

participate in the Salzburg Mozart Festival. In September 1996 he was invited as assistant concert master of the Macau Chamber Orchestra and later on played also as second violin principal. In China he played with the Orchestra of Macau, the Canton Symphony and the Hong Kong Philharmonic. He participated in the Macau Music Festival and the Arts Festival of Macau and was the only European to be invited to the 5th Arts Festival of the Peoples Republic of China. Between 1998 until 2000, Carlos Damas played regularly in chamber music ensembles and as a soloist in Europe, Asia and the Americas. In 2002, he played the 10 Beethoven violin sonatas in 40 concerts in Spain and France, five concerts with the Brahms Piano Quartet and six concerts with the Prokofiev Quintet with winds. In 2004 the name of Carlos Damas was rated by www.theviolinsite.com as a "prominent international violinist". He has recorded a number of CD albums and plays on a fine violin by Marceau, one of the pupils of David Oistrakh. His specially made violin case is by Musafia of Cremona, Italy.



Min Xiao-Fen

◆ Pipa ◆ China ◆

Chinese pipa player and composer Min Xiao-Fen is known for her fluid style. She is a world recognized virtuoso and a courageous pioneer in both orchestral and underground projects. For more than ten years, she was a pipa soloist with the famed Nanjing Traditional Music Orchestra of China. She also won the Jiangsu national pipa competition. After Ms. Min came to the United States in 1992, she worked with composers John Zorn, Philip Glass, Wadada Leo Smith, Randy Weston, Tan Dun and many others. She has performed solo concerts at the Utrecht International Lute Festival, the Brussels Lute Festival and the New York Guitar Festival. In 2003, she was invited by Jazz at Lincoln Center to play a solo set of the music of Thelonious Monk and was also invited to play with the Preservation Hall Jazz Band. In 2004, she premiered «Ping Pong», composer Anthony De Ritis' pipa concerto, with the Taipei Chinese Music Orchestra. Her piece «The Loneliest Monk» was commissioned and performed by House Blend at The Kitchen in New York City. Recent highlights included concerts with her Blue Pipa Trio at the JVC Jazz Festival and a guest appearance on Björk's new album, Volta. This year, she was a featured composer and performer with the American Composers Orchestra's «Composer Out Front» project. Ms. Min lives in Forest Hills, New York. She is also the founder of Blue Pipa, Inc.



Guo Gan

◆ Erhu ◆ China ◆



Guo Gan (stage name: Yi-zhen) was born in 1968 into a family of musicians in Shenyang, China. From early age, he was attracted to the erhu, a traditional Chinese instrument. His father, Guo Junming, a famous erhu soloist, taught him his first lesson in erhu playing and, at the age of 4, he appeared for the first time in public playing erhu with his father. Fascinated by Western instruments, Gan rounded out his studies by learning violin, cello and piano while in secondary school (1981-1987). At age sixteen, he accompanied his father on an extensive tour, playing more than 100 concerts in a presentation entitled "Duo for the two-stringed vielle".

In 1987 he entered Shenyang Music Conservatory and in 1991 he won a prize with honours for his thesis on "erhu techniques borrowed from the violin". At the same time he studied Chinese and Western percussion instruments and gave a jazz concert for percussion and piano, an unprecedented event at the conservatory.

From 1991 to 1994, Guo Gan performed with his erhu and percussion groups and played for the dance and theater company of Liaoning Province. In 1992, he won the first prize in a traditional-music competition held in the province. In 1995, he was named professor of erhu and percussion at the Conservatory of Liaoning Province. The same year, he became one of the founders of the jazz group GYQ, well known in China.

Upon arrival to Paris in 2001, Guo Gan enrolled in the Ecole Nationale de Musique where he continued his training in percussion. He also taught erhu and gave concerts. In 2002, Guo Gan was invited by Gabriel Yared to play in a recording of the music for the film "L'Idole" and was soloist in the opening ceremony of the 55th Cannes Festival. The same year, he formed one of the first Asian jazz bands in Paris – Dragon Jazz - and the Fan Yin Trio which won second prize in the Asian music competition in Belgium.

In 2005, he appeared with the contemporary dance group Gang Peng in DIALOGUES as part of the programme of "The Year of France in China" and he was invited to play the erhu and the Chinese drum for "The Year of China in France".

In 2005, Guo Gan was invited by the composer Yvan Cassar to appear as the erhu soloist in the production of the symphonic poem "L'Encre de Chine" with the Orchestra of the Opera de Paris at the Palais des Congrès in Paris. He was also invited by the Chinese filmmaker Zhang Yimou to play in concerts to promote the film "Le secret des poignards volants" and by the Prince of Morocco to give a concert for percussion and erhu. The same year, he published a method for learning to play the erhu. In 2006, Guo Gan was invited by the violinist Didier Lockwood to play in a concert "Violons Croisés". He has been interviewed by TF1, FR3 and France.

Shyamal Maitra

◆ Tablas ◆ India ◆



Born in Calcutta, India, Shyamal Maitra is a multi percussionist and composer. He studied Indian classical music which led him to the mastery of the tablas. Open to occidental influences, he experimented with electro, jazz and contemporary music without renouncing his cultural background. He has played and recorded with international artists GONG, Brian Eno, Khaled, Hector Zazou, DJ Cam, Smadj, Suns of Arqa and also with the most acclaimed Indian classical musicians. He is also involved in educational projects (Charles Cros award in 2002 for the CD nursery rhymes of Bengal) and wrote several music scores for films. In 2004 he received the ARIEL (Mexican Academy Award) for the «best feature film music» for the Mexican movie Vera. In December 2005 he worked with Radio France on the recording of the Grigg Percussion Ensemble (contemporary music of Bielorussia). In 2007, he was nominated for the «Bharat Ratan Award» and the «Jewel Of India Award». One of his compositions can be heard in the film «L'Invité» by Luc Besson (French film maker).

Mr Maitra has performed with the "Melody for Dialogue among Civilizations Association" since its inception in 2005.



Yuka TOYOSHIMA

◆ Nohkan Flute ◆ Japan ◆

In 1983, when Yuka was 8 years old, she started to practice the No theatre which is recognized as one of the most important Japanese cultural and traditional heritage with Master Yoji ISSO and Takayuki ISSO. Soon after she started to learn singing and dancing in No theater with Master Yasutaka IZUMI. In 1993, she entered the National University of Beaux Arts and Music of Tokyo in 1997. She was invited to the Imperial Palace for a concert in the presence of the Imperial Family. She was also selected for the

student exchange program between her university and the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris and in 2002 she obtained a scholarship to study in France under the Japanese Government Overseas Study Programme for Artists. In 2003, she was instrumental in the promoting recognition given by UNESCO to No theatre as a symbol of Intangible Cultural Heritage. Since 2005, she participated as a flutist in the various plays «Kakushidanuki – Le Blaireau Caché» de la Compagnie des Lucioles which has been recipient of the prix Uchimura de l’institut International du Théâtre (ITI/UNESCO).



Dragan Dautovski

◆ Kaval, tambura and other instruments ◆

◆ FY Republic of Macedonia ◆

Born in 1957 in the village of Rusinovo Berovo, Macedonia, Dragan Dautovski has composed many works for various instrumental and vocal soloists, groups, and orchestras, including usage of folk instruments performed or recorded in Macedonia and the South East European region.

He teaches at the University of Sts Cyril and Methodius as professor of the folk instruments kaval, gaida, and tambura. In 1992 he formed the Ensemble “Mile Kolarovski” performing concerts in Macedonia and other countries. This group also composed and performed music for the film “Before the Rain”. Dragan Dautovski is a great musician who has mastered more than twenty different musical instruments. He has performed across Europe and has featured in many articles on Eastern European folk music and art. He recently became the owner of an ancient musical instrument dating back to 2000 BC and is trying to register it as a heritage of his country.

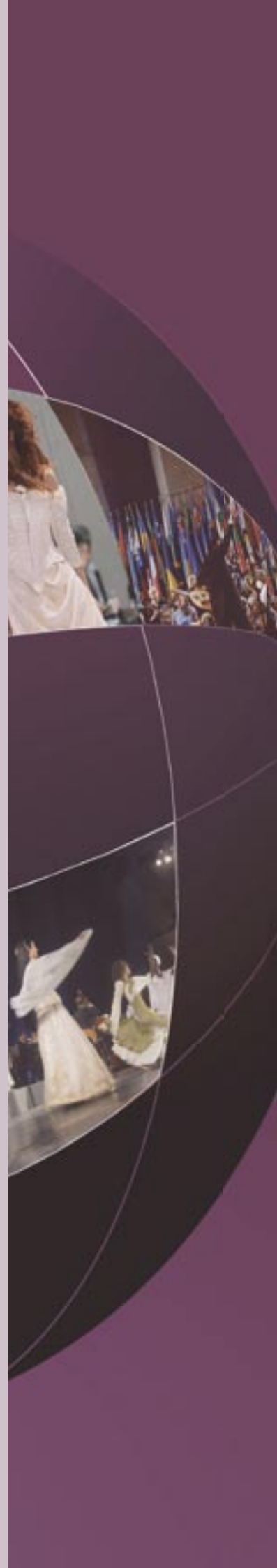
Mr Dautovski has performed as a featured artist with the « Melody for Dialogue among Civilizations» Association since its inception in 2005.

Ara

◆ Talking Drum ◆ Nigeria ◆

The heritage of Ara is African. Her birth was shrouded in mystery, as she was being prepared by the ancestors for the task ahead of her as a music icon.

She was born into an aristocratic family in the early 1970’s, who believes so much in keeping the good name of the family and as such places a premium on education and not “frivolities” like music. She started playing African percussions, like the conga, in her primary school days. She developed her skills up to secondary school where she formed her own band. Later, she joined several bands throughout Africa. She recorded a number of Afro beat tracks for a promotional outfit in Nigeria. In her sojourn for a proper identity of herself, her music, her origin and an identification of her roots, she stumbled on the Motown of Africa known as Atunda ENT.



Petras Vysniauskas

◆ Soprano Saxophone ◆ Lithuania ◆

One of the best soprano saxophonists and a leading figure in the new Lithuanian jazz scene, Petras Vysniauskas ranks as a unique multi-instrumentalist, who plays soprano saxophone and saxophone alto, clarinet and bass clarinet. He represented Lithuania around the world: he toured Europe, the United States, Japan and Australia. For years, he was nominated the best sax player and musician of the former Soviet Union.

He played with Steve Lacy, Han Bennink, Jon Christensen, Tomasz Stanko, Vladimir Chekasin BigBand, Kent Carter, Theo Jörgensmann, Jimmy Owens, Elliot Sharp, Paul Jeffrey, the «Rova Saxophone Quartet», Charly Mariano, Karl Berger, Anatoly Vapirov, Klaus Kugel, Bobo Stenson, Reiner Winterschladen and many others. In addition, he performs in a duo with the distinguished Lithuanian folksinger Veronika Povilioniene.

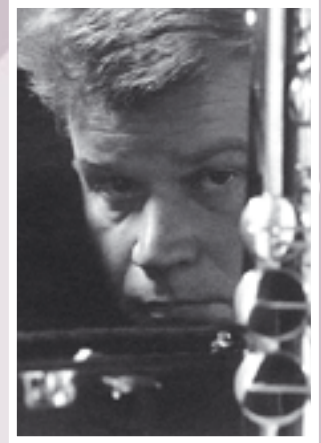
Inspired by his playing, several composers of symphonic or chamber music composed pieces for him. He is creative, versatile and has an extraordinary virtuosity. He is able to incorporate different styles of jazz as well as contemporary concert music into his playing without losing his links with his personal roots - the spirit and profundity of Lithuanian folk music.

Petras performed at over a hundred musical and jazz festivals worldwide and won many prizes.

His occasional gigs with the Lithuanian national symphony orchestra, St. Christopher Chamber Orchestra, Kaunas Chamber Orchestra, and Organists have also brought him added fame.

Since 1988, he lectures at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre. He conducts master classes in Lithuania, Germany, France, Australia, Sweden.

Petras Vyšniauskas recorded music for about 40 plays, he composed several film scores and released over 60 CDs. He has been conferred Lithuanian state decorations, the Lithuanian National Prize of Culture and Art. "...Vysniauskas is one of the best soprano saxists, his playing is filled with fire, passion and lots of ideas"



Oliver Leicht

◆ Clarinet ◆ Germany ◆



Oliver Leicht was born in October 1969 in Germany. He started his first lessons in clarinet at age 10 and saxophone at age 17. From 1986 to 1997 he returned to classical studies of clarinet at the Music Schools in Cologne and Mannheim while pursuing lessons on Saxophone (Jazz) in Cologne.

As an alto player in the Youth Big Band of the State of Hessen and of the German Youth Jazz Orchestra (BuJazzO), he undertook a number of international tours with both groups.

Since 1992 he has produced a number of studio work and CD productions with several musical productions e.g. Starlight Express, West Side

Story, Jekyll & Hyde, the Orchestras of Staatstheater Wiesbaden, Bamberger Symphoniker, Nationaltheater Mannheim,

The Frank Reinshagen Big Band, Ed Partyka Jazz Orchestra, Paul Kuhn Big Band, Sunday Night Orchestra, Bremen Big Band, Glenn Miller Orchestra, Marco Lackner Jazz Orchestra, Peter Herbolzheimer's Rhythm Combination & Brass, the Big Bands of NDR, WDR, RIAS and HR (German broadcasting stations), [re:jazz], Niels Klein Tentett and Bob Brookmeyer's New Art Orchestra.

Since 2005 he has released a number of albums as a leader and arranger with his band "HR Big Band".

Sarwar Hussein

◆ Sarangi ◆ India ◆

Sarwar Hussain was born in 1981 in Gohad district, Bhind in India. He is one of the most accomplished and promising musicians of the younger generation of Sarangi players in Northern India. His musical heritage comes from a long line of distinguished Sarangi players from Gohad near Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh. Born into a home filled with music, Sarwar Hussein began learning Sarangi from his grandfather, Ustab Abdul latif Khan at a tender age of nine. The training he received for 11 years is clearly reflected in his thoughtful and virtuosic playing style. His playing embodies the intricate delicacy and rare and impressive techniques of his grandfather.

Sarwar's solo debut was at the National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA) – Mumbai in 1992. He has represented India in South Korea in 1997. He has also given memorable Sarangi solo performances during his extensive tour of the United States in 2001.



Bahman Panahi

◆ Tar and setar ◆ Persia ◆

Bahman Panahi was born in 1967. He obtained his BA degree in design and visual art from the Fine Arts Faculty of Tehran University and completed studies in calligraphy with the Association of Calligraphers of Persia. He mastered the Iranian classical music in tar and setar early in his life. At present, he is a doctoral candidate at the Sorbonne in Paris. Bahman Panahi conducted many concerts, exhibitions and workshops in England, Syria, India, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Mauritania, the Maldives, Tunisia, Morocco, Spain, Sri Lanka,

Belgium and France.

In 2006 he established his musical group « Voyage » which has performed a number of concerts with Persian traditional music in France and other countries.

He performed with the « Melody for Dialogue among Civilizations » Association during the 60th anniversary of UNESCO in Paris and participated in the Association's dialogue concerts since 2005.

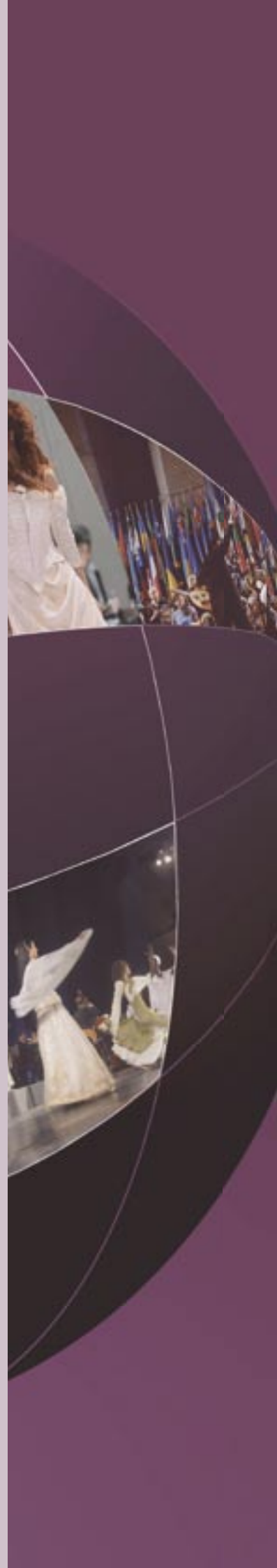


Mucahit Isik

◆ Saz ◆ Turkey ◆

From childhood, Mucahit Isik was interested in music. After years of study, in 1986, he began working with the Council of Ministers for Culture and Tourism of Turkey. Since 2006, he works for the Modern Folk Community of Istanbul.

Mr Isik has conducted numerous concerts and has been invited to a number of festivals in Europe and Asia. He enjoys composing new variations for the Saz family of instruments. He was participating in the various concerts organized by “Melody for Dialogue among Civilizations” Association on the occasion of UNESCO's 60th anniversary in Paris as well as in Nigeria and Cuba.





Ismail Isik

◆ Baglama ◆ Turkey ◆

Born in Turkey in 1953, Ismail Isik began playing the Turkish traditional instrument baglama (part of the saz family of instruments) at the age of 6. His music studies with various experts in folk music helped him to perfectionize his art of playing and before graduating from university he became a renowned player accompanying famous Turkish singers.

He graduated in 1976 from Middle East Technical University (ODTÜ) as Civil Engineer, and completed his Master Degree in 1978 in Business Management. During this period (1970-1978), he was the President and Conductor of the Turkish Folk Music Society (THBT). He has performed many concerts in Turkey and abroad and he represented the Turkish Ministry of Culture in Japan where he introduced the Turkish traditional music to public.

He has four albums to his credit: Sarı Durnam (1976), Anadolu Döktürmeleri (1978), Altın Hızma (1997) and Bir Nefeste Anadolu (2006). A fifth album is under preparation. All proceed from sales of his albums are donated to poor students who are unable to follow musical studies at university or college.



Asana BorhanAzad

◆ Setar and Oud ◆ Iran ◆

Born in Teheran in 1981, Asana Borhan Azad was interested in music since childhood. She began studying the setar when she was 14 years; at the age of 16, she started her musical career and participated in different concerts and in musical parts of theatre festivals. She entered Music University and was studying setar with

Professor Mohammed Firouzi. At that time, she also started to learn barbat (ood) with him and with Professor Shahram Gholami. Asana Azad is a member of the Tehran Conservatory of Music under the direction of Parichehr Khajeh.

She also studied musicology and pedagogical assistance to children with Prof. Jalali. Furthermore, she teaches at the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults.

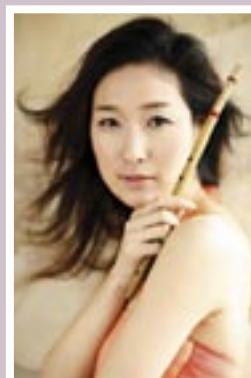
She works on Music for Theatre and she won the theatre musical competitions at the last International Theatre Festival of Tehran in 2006. In 2007, as a member of the orchestra "Conservatory of Music of Tehran", she participated in a number of concerts organized in different countries.

Kang Hyo-Sun

◆ Flute ◆ Republic of Korea ◆

Kang Hyo-Sun is since 2004 a member of the National Centre for Korean Traditional Performing Arts Committee. She holds the Important Intangible Cultural Item Number 46, Classical music PIRI (2004) and serves also as a Member of the Society for the Recherch of Piri (Flute) in the 21st Century. In addition, she lectures at the Chu-gye University for the Arts.

Among the distinctions she received was the Grand Prize of the 19th National Nangae Traditional Music Competition / Wind instrument (1993), the Traditional Music Peace Award received at the first World Culture Open (2004), the Fringe Solo performance at the Tokyo International Music Festival (2005), Verdinia's 12th Performance, Modern & Classic Solo (2005) and Verdinia's 13th Performance, 'Seeing Sounds with our eyes' Solo (2005) as well as the 265th National Center for Korean Traditional Performing Arts Thursday Program for traditional musical ensemble (2006).



Yacouba Sissoko

◆ Kora ◆ Mali ◆



Yacouba Sissoko is a Master Kora player from the jeliya or griot tradition. He was born in Kita, Mali. His grandfather, Samakoun Tounkara, began teaching Yacouba when he was 12 years old. Samakoun's wife, Bintouba Diabate, was a famous singer in her own right. They raised Yacouba and educated him in his griot heritage and taught him many lessons about life. Oumou Tounkara, Yacouba's mother, was a star in the Ensemble National du Mali. In 1993, Souleymane Koli, the leader of the Ensemble Koteba of Abidjan recruited Yacouba and he spent the next five years performing all over the world with this 45 person band. In his career, he has travelled to almost every African country and he has toured most of Europe, Canada, the United States and Australia. He is in demand as one of the best

kora players in the world, playing with jazz, Latin and R&B bands as well as on the occasion of traditional African ceremonies. In addition to his own band, Siya, he is a key member of the group Super Manden.

Siya is a traditional Malinke musical ensemble from Mali and its name is a Malink word for source and is used as an expression for "who we are". The goal of the ensemble is to promote peace and understanding through songs of love as well as classical songs of Mali performed in the jaliya tradition. Siya was founded by Yacouba Sissoko in 1999 as a trio but has since grown to include six musicians and it is in demand for many cultural events. It has performed at Symphony Space, Lincoln Center and the Harlem State in New York as well as at many events throughout the United States. It also participated in events organized by Putumayo and most recently in May 2007 at the Afro Pop Worldwide -Aaron Davis Hall collaborative Harlem stage concert, opening with balafon master Neba.

Kali Z. Fasteau

◆ Shakuhachi flute ◆ United States of America ◆



Hailing from a musical family, Kali Fasteau played since early childhood piano, cello, flute, voice in Paris and New York. She received degrees having studied the music of Asia, Africa, 20th century Europe and Jazz. She travelled for 14 years, living in 18 countries: India (1981-83), Turkey (1976-77), Nepal, Morocco, Senegal, Congo, Italy, Holland, France, Denmark, Belgium, Switzerland, Finland, Zimbabwe, Yugoslavia, Germany, Greece, Haiti and America, performing at many music festivals and concerts, radio and TV programmes, film soundtracks, and university programmes.

Kali's recording and performing associates include: Donald Rafael Garrett, Kidd Jordan,

Archie Shepp, Beaver Harris, Rashied Ali, William Parker, Oliver Lake, Joseph Jarman, Joe McPhee, Hamid Drake, Bobby Few, Noah Howard, Sabir Mateen, and a great many others.

Kali Fasteau's ensemble played her original compositions at New York's Town Hall, Lincoln Center and Guggenheim Museum, the Musee d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, the Museum Theatre in Madras, India, the Boston Center for the Arts, the Vision Festival, the Kerava Jazz Festival, the JVC Festival, the Harare International Arts Festival, and numerous other noted venues worldwide.



Sehvar Besiroglu

◆ Clarinet ◆ Ukraine ◆

Andriy Milavsky, clarinetist and master flutist, holds a Master's Degree in music from the Kyiv State Conservatory in Ukraine. An accomplished clarinetist, he has toured Western and Eastern Europe with State Orchestras such as the Kyiv, Moscow, Tartu, and Lviv, performing classical and folk repertoires at major concert halls. Since his arrival in the United States in 1991, A. Milavsky has appeared with the Kyiv Symphony Orchestra, the Amato and Riverside Operas; worked on experimental projects produced Off Broadway; and taught music privately and institutionally. His teaching experience abroad, as well as Stateside, has set a precedent among educators in music. Currently, A. Milavsky performs regularly as a B-flat, A, E-flat, and bass clarinetist with opera and symphony orchestras, woodwind and string quartets, and clarinet duets.

In the world folk genre, A Milavsky, called "The Charlie Parker of Ukraine" (Next Big Thing/WNYC-Radio), is an Eastern European folk musician par excellence. His experience in Carpathian folk music spans 20 years as a performer, soloist, and orchestra leader/ arranger with the top traditional state collectives in Ukraine. And his Ukrainian folk ensemble Cheres, based in Manhattan, is renowned as the "best purveyor of authentic Ukrainian folk music in the United States" (Archive of Folk Culture/Library of Congress). The group has played sold-out engagements in New York City (Town Hall, Joe's Pub) and major music festivals on the East Coast (Lincoln Center Out of Doors, Smithsonian Festival in Washington, D.C.).



Fawzi Al Langawi

◆ Oud ◆ Kuwait ◆



A fine musician in Arabic traditional music, Fawzi Al Langawi was born in Kuwait. In 1994 he obtained the first prize for interpretation of Oud and in 1998 he received the third prize for Arab song compositions. In 2003, he was appointed Professor of Oud at the Institute of Music in Kuwait where he conducts various workshops and studies. Mr Al Langawi performs often in the United States and throughout Europe and Asia and he participates in various international festivals of music. He has been a regular participant in the concerts produced by the « Melody for Dialogue among Civilizations Association » at UNESCO and in Nigeria and Cuba.

Gao Hong

◆ Pipa ◆ China ◆



Gao Hong, a Chinese musical prodigy and master of the pear-shaped lute, the pipa, began her career as a professional musician at age 12. She graduated with honours from China's premier music school, the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing, where she studied with the great pipa master Lin Shicheng. In both China and the United States Gao has received numerous top awards and honours, including First Prize in the Hebei Professional Young Music Performers Competition; an International Art Cup in Beijing; a Bush Artist Fellowship; two McKnight Artist Fellowships for Performing Musicians; an Artist Assistance Fellowship, an Artist Initiative Grant, and a Cultural Community Partnership Grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board; a LIN (Leadership Initiatives in Neighbourhoods) Grant from the St. Paul Companies; three

Jerome Foundation Travel and Study Grants; an Asian Pacific Award; two Creative Connections from Meet The Composer Inc. in New York; an Encore award, a Subito award, and two Performance Incentive Funds from the American Composers Forum.

As a composer, she has received commissions from the American Composers Forum, Walker Art Center, the Jerome Foundation, Ragamala Music and Dance Theatre, Theatre Mu, IFTPA, and Twin Cities Public Television for the six-part series *Made in China*. *Song of the Pipa*, a play based on Gao Hong's life and the life of Chinese poet, Bai Juyi, received 20 performances in the spring of 2000 by Theatre Mu and featured live musical accompaniment and new compositions by Gao Hong. In 2007, her first choral composition, "Coming of Spring," was one of five pieces selected for a reading session by Vocal essence out of 128 applicants nationwide. Her new commission from Jerome Foundation "Awakening" was world premiered by Gao Hong.

As a performer, Gao has performed throughout Europe, Australia, Japan, Hong Kong, China, and the U.S. in solo concerts and with symphony orchestras, jazz musicians, and musicians from other cultures. She has performed at many major festivals worldwide. She has performed at the Lincoln Center Festival; the San Francisco Jazz Festival; the Smithsonian Institution; the Next Wave Festival; Festival d'Automne a Paris in Paris and Caen, France; the International Festival of Perth, Australia; and the Festival de Teatro d'Europa in Milan, Italy. Her performances of pipa concerti with symphony orchestras include several world, U.S., and regional premieres and performances with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Pasadena Symphony, Heidelberg Philharmonic, the Women's Philharmonic in San Francisco, and the Portland (Maine) Symphony. In addition, she performed with the Lincoln Center production of *The Peony Pavilion*.

Since her arrival in the United States in 1994, Gao Hong has been featured in over 90 newspaper and magazine articles and four television documentaries. She has presented hundreds of educational workshops for elementary through college-age students, and has been on the faculty of Metropolitan State University and MacPhail Center for the Arts. She is currently on the music faculty of Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota, where she teaches Chinese instruments, and is a roster artist with the Minnesota State Arts Board, and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra's CONNECT Program.

China's foremost music publication, *People's Music*, wrote of Gao Hong that «like the famous Luoyang peony, she has gradually emerged as the best of all beautiful flowers...her performance has extremely strong artistic appeal and belongs under the category of 'fine wine'...the more you listen, the more beautiful it gets



Famoro Dioubate

◆ Balafon ◆ Guinea ◆

Famoro Dioubate's musical training began 800 years before his birth. As a griot and balafon player, he is a living exponent of the balafon tradition that dates back to the court of Sundiata Keita, who founded the Mande Empire in 1235. Since moving to New York City from his native Guinea, Famoro has been a leader in the flowering of African music. He performs as a soloist, an educator and as a member of Fula Flute and Dallah-Dougou, Brooklyn's premier African-Hungarian jazz band. In 2003, he founded Kakande, a nine-piece band bringing together flute, electric guitar, jazz, sax, cello, lush vocals and a powerful rhythm section.



Tinatin Daparidze

◆ Singer ◆ Georgia ◆



« Let every border that divides become a meeting of hearts and minds/ Every flag we salute fly with the gentle wind of gratitude.» – Tinatin

Hailing from the Republic of Georgia, Tinatin began her career in 1998 when she auditioned with legendary Professor Luigi Alva at La Scala in Milan, Italy and had the distinction of being offered a place at the Academy. An

accomplished singer/songwriter, Tinatin co-wrote and recorded a penultimate, contemporary anthem honoring the mission of the United Nations called «We the Peoples», recently debuting on U.K. National Radio and released worldwide on iTunes. Tinatin's roles as a member of the UN. Correspondents' Association, a stringer for Russian and American media, a host of a self-produced UN radio shows in New York and an active global advocate for AIDS awareness have made the 23-year-old artist a global citizen who expresses that solidarity through song.

While adding the final touches to her debut album between New York and London with top producers and songwriters on both sides of the Atlantic, Tinatin has also written and dedicated her song «I Pray» to the global struggle against HIV/AIDS with the goal to donate her artist royalties and efforts throughout her album campaign to raising awareness and funds for AIDS among young people. Tinatin is also scheduled to join the cast of a new Broadway show that is being developed by L. Jarvis called «Duke and The Duchess», a story about Eleanor Roosevelt's efforts to convince Duke Ellington to perform at Carnegie Hall benefiting Russian war relief.



Asad Qizilbash

◆ Saroud ◆ Pakistan ◆

This year's Melody of Dialogue Among Civilizations brings a master of the saroud, the sensuous Pakistani and South Asian lute. Asad Qizilbash was born in Pakistan in the early 1960s to the famous violinist K H Qizilbash who was responsible for closing the gap between western and eastern classical music and bringing many talented Pakistani musicians to the attention of the world, including the inimitable Nusrat

Fateh Ali Khan. This has made Asad a foremost proponent of musical dialogue between cultures and civilizations.

The young Asad learned the violin quickly under the strict but inspired supervision of his father but when teenage hormones kicked in he became more interested in kicking out rock and roll jams on his guitar. Then, one fateful day in 1981, Azad attended a concert by the great saroud player, Amjad Ali Khan at the Liaquat Hall in Rawalpindi . The conversion was immediate and total. Azad later declared, «before Amjad Ali Khan, there was no Asad Qizilbash.» He threw out his guitar and devoted himself to the saroud, learning by listening to cassettes by his hero and mentor.

Whilst working for an oil drilling company in the Middle East , Asad would sweeten his spare time with ragas by Amjad Ali Khan and when he moved to Germany in 1989 he gave his very soul to learning the instrument, night and day. After years of blood, sweat, tears and devotion Asad Qizilbash achieved saroud virtuosity and when he returned to Pakistan in 1992 and settled in Islamabad , he became the country's only master of the instrument.

Asad continues to draw accolade throughout the world with his humility and creativity, coming alive on stage when creating a dialogue with another instrument or voice.



Philharmonic Orchestra of Prague



Boris JEDLIKA

Director, Philharmonic Orchestra of Prague

Violin

Addeh André
Broftová Šárka
Galiáš Robert
Hipman Petr
Lajčík Milan
Mezey Josef
Pachner Martin
Pavlíček Petr
Pribyl Ladislav
Šaršonová Jaroslava
Šrámek Marek
Tyc Oldrich
Vánová Jitka

Viola

Trnka Michal
Stránská Irena
Tomášová Eva
Novotný Miroslav

Cello

Pražák Josef
Cermák Vojtech
Lhotka František
Lhotková Sona

Bass

Suske Martin
Benda Aleš
Zeman Tomáš
Dolejší Petra
Vaníček Ondrej
Melkusová Hana
Šesták Jirí
Uhlík
Parík Jan
Ulman Pavel
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Jirásek Pavel
Aubus Martin
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Balcarík Pavel
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Orchestra of St. Luke's



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(Concertmaster)
Mayuki Fukuhara
Robin Bushman
Karl Kawahara
Anca Nicolau
Ellen Payne
Robert Shaw
Rebecca Muir
Sara Parkins
Elizabeth Lim-Dutton
Laura Seaton-Finn
Gregor Kitzis
Fritz Krakowski

Viola

Louise Shulman
Ronald Lawrence
Ann Rogegen
Liuh-Wen Ting

Cello

Myron Lutzke
Daire Fitzgerald
Roselyn Clarke
Maxine Neuman

Bass

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Flute

Elizabeth Mann

Oboe

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Jon Manasse
Meryl Abt

Bassoon

Dennis Godburn

Clarinettes

Claude Moret
Philippe Robert

Bassons

Vincent Reynaud
Marie-Frédérique Denis

Horn

Joe Anderer
Stewart Rose

Trumpet

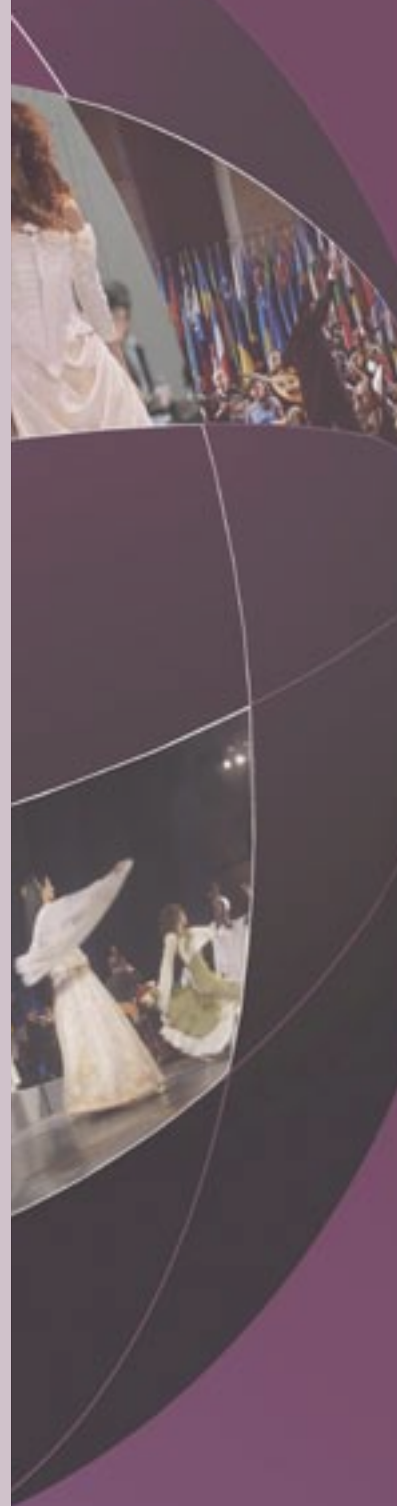
Carl Albach

Percussion

Barry Centanni

Continuo

Bob Wolinsky



Les chœurs Bel'Arte

UNESCO - Paris

Tenors 1 :

Nicolas CHOPIN
Christian CABIRON
Adrian BRAND
Maurice DELAUNAY
Bertrand DUBOIS

Tenors 2 :

Dominique GUILLEMIN
Eugen OSTOLAZZA
Régis DUCROCQ
Charles ALVES

Barytons :

Richard TRONC OK
MAIS
Jean-Christophe
ROUSSEAU
Mark PANCEK
Jean-Louis DEPOIL

Basses :

Vincent LECORNIER
Philippe EYQUEM
Pierre BENUSIGLIO

Canori Choir

Donald Burnham, Director

Avery Fisher Hall-New York

First Tenor

Will Erat
Chad Graham
Kevin Pease
Justin Vickers

First Bass:

Russell Ashley
Don Barnum
Aaron James
W. Barto Jones

Second Tenor

Frank Burzio
Jeff Picon
Doug Purcell
Ivan Rivera

Second Bass:

Daryl Hendriksen
David Alan Marshall
Michael O'



Special Thanks

The concert has been made possible thanks to the generous artistic support of:

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Laura Vlasak Nolen, *Mezzo Soprano*

Brace Negron, *Baritone*

Boris Trajanov *Baritone*

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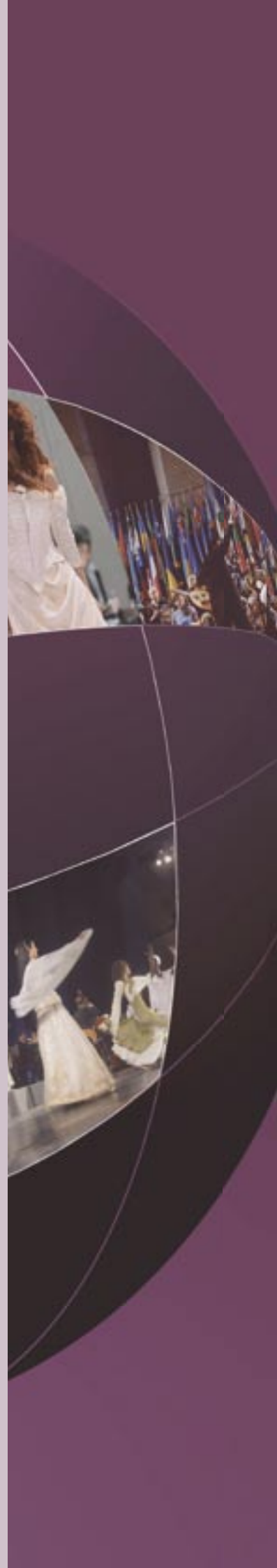
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Traditional Musicians: Farid Ali (Gambus; Malaysia), Pedro Morais Andrade (Violin; Portugal), Ara (Talking Drum; Nigeria), Sehvar Basiroglu (Kanun; Turkey), Dragan Dautovski (Kaval; Tambura; Macedonia), Fomoro Dioubate (Balafon; West Africa), Bora Dugic (Flute; Serbia), Liu Fang (Pipa; China/Canada), Karen Han (Erhu; China), Sarwar Hussain (Sarang; India), Múcahit Isik (Saz; Turkey), Fawzi Al Langawi (Oud; Kuwait), Oliver Leicht (Carinet; Germany), Shyamal Maitra (Tabla; India), Petras Vyšniauskas (Soprano Saxophone; Lithuania), Yacouba Sissoko (Kora; Mali), Yuka Toyoshima (Flute; Japan), and others...

Johann Sebastian Bach
**Concerto for Two Violins
in D minor, BWV 1043**
A dialogue between violin and
Chinese erhu Karen Han

Anthony Paul De Ritis
Melody for Peace
A dialogue between traditional,
classical and contemporary music

Gioachino Rossini
L'Italiana in Algeri
Excerpts from the operatic drama giocoso



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