

PROGRAM |

*Monday Evening, December 3, 2007, at 7:30*

# Melody for Peace

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

### Orchestra of St.Luke's

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

### Melody Traditional Ensemble

Under the baton of Maestro **Igor Vljajnic** (Croatia)

#### CANORI CHORUS

Donald Burnham, *Director*

*Master of Ceremony:*

Ian Williams

Avery Fisher Hall

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# Program

## JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

*Concerto for two violins in D minor, BWV 1043*

*A dialogue between*

CHEE-YUN (Republic of Korea), Violin

INO MIRKOVIC (Croatia), *UNESCO Artist for Peace*, Violin

GUO GAN (China, Erhu)

## ANTHONY PAUL DE RITIS

*Melody for Peace*

New composition – world premiere

A dialogue for Jazz, traditional and classical music

\*\* Intermission \*\*

## GIOACCHINO ROSSINI

*L'Italiana in Algeri* (excerpts)

A new interpretation with classical and traditional orchestras

METROPOLITAN OPERA CHOIR, *Chorus*

Moustafa: PATRICE BERGER, *bass* (France).

Isabella: LAURA VLASAK NOLEN, *mezzo soprano* (United

States)

Taddeo: BORIS TRAJANOV, *baritone* (FY Republic of

Macedonia),

*UNESCO Artist for Peace*

Lindoro: JOHN BELLEMER, *tenor* (United States)

Zulma: MANON STRAUSS EVRARD, *soprano* (France)

Elvira: ANGÉLICA DE LA RIVA, *mezzo soprano* (Brazil)

Haly: BRACE NEGRON, *baritone* (Brazil)

## ARTISTS OF THE MELODY TRADITIONAL ENSEMBLE:

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

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# Orchestra of St. Luke's

Marianne C. Lockwood, *Executive Director and President*

Elizabeth Ostrow, *Vice President of Artistic Planning*

Katy Clark, *Managing Director and Vice President*

**VIOLIN**

Naoko Tanaka  
(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  
Rosalyn Clarke  
Maxine Neuman

**BASS**

John Feeney  
Lewis Paer

**FLUTE**

Elizabeth Mann

**OBOE**

Malanie Feld  
Kelly Pereal

**CLARINET**

Jon Manasse  
Meryl Abt  
Bassoon  
Dennis Godburn

**HORN**

Joe Anderer  
Stewart Rose

**TRUMPET**

Carl Albach

**PERCUSSION**

Barry Centanni

**CONTINUO**

Bob Wolinsky

## PROGRAM

## Meet the Artists

**RICHARD BOUDARHAM***Conductor/Chef d'orchestre* (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 VLAJNIC***Conductor* (Croatia)

Born 1984 in Osijek, Croatia, Igor Vljajnic 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.

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**ANTHONY PAUL DE RITIS***Composer* (United States)

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 "ground-breaking". 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](http://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.

**CHEE-YUN***Violin* (Republic of Korea)

Violinist 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

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(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 2006-2007 season include return engagements with the China Philharmonic and the Guangzhou Symphony Orchestra in China and a tour of the U.K. and Ireland 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.



### INO MIRKOVIC

*Violin* (Croatia)

Ino Mirkovic was born in 1960 in Rijeka, Croatia, into a family of professional musicians. At the age of five 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

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Conservatory, the Herkulessaal (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 with 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.



### 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 16, 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.

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**LI YUAN YUAN***Erhu* (China)

Li Yuanyuan began learning the erhu from the erhu recitalist, Zhu changyao, when she was young. She was the winner of the First Prize in the 1988 National Instrumental Music Competition (Juvenile Section), and four years later, in 1992, she won another First Prize in the Youth Section in the same competition. She entered the Department of Folk Music of the Central Conservatory of music in 1995, where she was taught by the famous Erhu artist, Liu Changfu. She joined the symphony orchestra of the China Opera and Dance Drama Theatre as soloist in 1999, and was transferred to the Chinese National Orchestra in 2001 where she performs as solo artist in Erhu. She has been invited to perform in Japan, Korea, and Greece.

**LAURA VLASAK NOLEN***Mezzosoprano* (United States)

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 2007-2008 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 2006-2007 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 Piarotto 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 2005-2006 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 Scotta Opera Academy at both the Music Conservatory of Westchester and in Rome at the Accademia di Santa Cecilia.



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**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 Athanael 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 interpreted Amonasro in *Aida* in Nantes and Bayonne. He also sang the rôle of Figaro in *Le barbier de Séville* by Rossini.

In October 2007, he will sing four roles of diables in *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* 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* (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, U.K., and others), as well as in South Africa, Brazil, and the U.S. 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.

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**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 Gargiari 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 Region 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)

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 2006–2007 season, Mr. Bellemer performs Macduff in *Macbeth* with the Vancouver Opera, Toni in Henze's *Elegy 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 2005–2006 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

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*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 U.S. 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

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International Institute of Vocal Arts where she interpreted Nedda in *Pagliacci*, *Musetta* 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 Giardiniera*. In concert she performed Brahms'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 Reuss in 2006 and Gregorio in *Romeo et Juliette* and 2nd Armored Man in *Zauberflöte* 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.

### 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.

## PROGRAM

**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 1970s, 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.

**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 Bielourussia). 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.

**DRAGAN DAUTOVSKI**

*Kaval, tambura, other instruments* (Republic of Macedonia)

Born in 1957 in the village of Rusinovo Berovo, Macedonia, Dragan Dautovsky 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.

## PROGRAM

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



### 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 six. 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: *Sar Durnam* (1976), *Anadolu Döktürmeleri* (1978), *Altm Hzma* (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.



### 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, Nigera, 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.



### 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 represents 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,

## PROGRAM

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 gained 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 Vysniauskas 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. "...P.Vysniauskas is one of the best soprano saxists we've heard in many years, his playing is filled with fire, passion and lots of ideas"



### 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.



### 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 Research 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).

## PROGRAM

**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.

**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 Dallam-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.

**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.



## PROGRAM

**KALI Z. FASTEAU**

*Shakubachi flute* (United States)

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.

**ANDRIY MILAVSKY**

*Fruła* (Ukraine)

Andriy Milavsky 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 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.

## PROGRAM



### **MEHRI MADARSHAHI**

*President of the "Melody for Dialogue among Civilizations" Association*

The "Melody for Dialogue Among Civilizations" Association promotes multicultural dialogue and musical interaction as an innovative means of communication to foster tolerance, mutual understanding and respect for cultural diversity. By drawing on the power of music as an internationally recognized and understood language, the Association intends to contribute to peace and peace-building, especially in conflict situations. The Association has produced several unique concerts at UNESCO in Paris as well as regional concerts in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean. Tonight, the Association hosts its first concert in the United States at Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center in New York City. For its contributions, the Association was awarded by the Director-General of UNESCO the 60th Anniversary Medal of the organization.

## **SPECIAL THANKS**

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