



CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

presents

AMERNET STRING QUARTET

Strings of the Heart Series

with

Sergiu Schwartz ~ violin

Sylvia Kim ~ violin

Dmitry Pogorelov ~ viola

Johanne Perron ~ cello

and

Tao Lin ~ harpsichord

Friday, October 17, 2003

7:30 p.m.

Amarnick-Goldstein Concert Hall
de Hoernle International Center

Program

String Quartet No. 19 in C Major, K 465 "Dissonance" W. A. Mozart
(1756-1791)

Adagio-Allegro
Andante Cantabile
Menuetto-Allegro
Allegro

Amernet String Quartet
Misha Vitenson ~ violin
Marsha Littley ~ violin
Michael Klotz ~ viola
Javier Arias ~ cello

Concerto in d minor for Two Violins, BWV 1043 J. S. Bach
(1685-1750)

Vivace
Largo ma non tanto
Allegro

Sergiu Schwartz ~ violin
Misha Vitenson ~ violin
Marcia Littley, Sylvia Kim ~ violin
Michael Klotz, Dmitry Pogorelov ~ viola
Javier Arias, Johanne Perron ~ cello
Tao Lin ~ harpsichord

INTERMISSION

Octet, Op. 20 Felix Mendelssohn
(1809-1847)

Allegro moderato
Andante
Scherzo - Allegro leggierissimo
Presto

Misha Vitenson, Sergiu Schwartz, Sylvia Kim, Marcia Littley ~ violin
Michael Klotz, Dmitry Pogorelov ~ viola
Javier Arias, Johanne Perron ~ cello

Biographies

Amernet String Quartet

The Amernet String Quartet, Ensemble-in-Residence at Northern Kentucky University, has garnered worldwide praise and recognition as one of today's exceptional young string quartets.

It rose to international attention after only one year of existence, after winning the Gold Medal at the 7th Tokyo International Music Competition in 1992. Three years later the group was the First Prize winner of the prestigious 5th Banff International String Quartet Competition. The Amernet String Quartet has been described by The New York Times as "an accomplished and intelligent ensemble," and by the Nürnberger Nachrichten (Germany) as "fascinating with flawless intonation, extraordinary beauty of sound, virtuosic brilliance and homogeneity of ensemble."

The Amernet String Quartet formed in 1991, while two of its members were students at The Juilliard School. Founding members Marcia Littlely and Javier Arias have been joined by fellow Juilliard graduates, violinist Misha Vitenson and violist Michael Klotz.

Their busy performance schedule has taken the group across the United States. They also have performed concerts in Japan, Canada, Germany, France, Switzerland, Korea, and Mexico. The Amernet's New York debut was at Merkin Hall in 1994, with a return engagement in 1995.

Subsequent New York appearances include Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall in 1996 and 1998, the Americas Society in 1998, and Alice Tully Hall in 1997 and 1998, which The New York Times described as "immensely satisfying... most notable for the quality of unjaded discovery that came through so vividly."

Since September of 2000 the Amernet String Quartet has been appointed Corbett String Quartet in Residence at Northern Kentucky University, to head the Patricia A. Corbett String Program. Previous to that, the group held a residency at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music where they taught chamber music for four years.

Biographies

Amernet String Quartet (continued)

The Amernet String Quartet has received grants from the Corbett Foundation, the Greater Cincinnati Foundation, the LaSalle Foundation, the Fine Arts Fund, the Cincinnati Chamber Music Society and the Amernet Society for school outreach projects, commissions of new chamber music works and for their unique concert and conversation series. The group was the recipient of a Chamber Music Rural Residency Award in 1995. During that year they divided their time among the communities of Johnstown, Somerset and Indiana, Pennsylvania.

The Amernet Quartet has conducted workshops and master classes in Buffalo NY, Memphis TN, Erie PA, Los Angeles CA, Logan UT and other cities. They are founders of The Norse Festival, a summer chamber music workshop at Northern Kentucky University that provides an opportunity for young musicians to work intensively in chamber groups, under their guidance.

The group has recorded the Concerto for Clarinet, Oboe, String Quartet and Bass by John Harbison with Sara Lambert Bloom and Charles Neidich as soloists, *The Butterflies Began to Sing*, a work for String Quartet, Bass, MIDI keyboard and computer, by Morton Subotnick, a complete CD of quartets by American composer Stephen Dankner, as well as a recording of the Debussy String Quartet and the Chausson Concerto for Piano, Violin and String Quartet. The Amernet Quartet maintains a connection with today's composers, and has worked closely with such composers as Anthony Brandt, John Corigliano, Stephen Dankner, David Epstein, Toshi Ichiyangi, Gerhard Samuel, and Morton Subotnick. Their most recent commission, sponsored by the Amernet Society, *Prairie Songs*, is a work for string quartet and choir by Grammy award winning composer Mike Reid.

The Amernet Quartet enjoys collaborations and has performed with numerous artists and ensembles, such as the Tokyo, the St. Lawrence, and the Ying Quartets, Steve Ansell, Miriam Fried, Toby Hoffman, Ida Kavafian, Paul Katz, Anton Kuerti, Ruth Laredo, Eugene Pridonoff, Sandra Rivers, Shauna Rolston, Nathaniel Rosen, James Tocco, Dame Gillian Weir, Kyung Wha-Chung, and many others.

Biographies

Misha Vitenson, violin

Misha Vitenson, Bachelor of Music 2000, began his violin studies with his father, Yuri Vitenson, in his native city of Tashkent, Uzbekistan. In 1990, Misha immigrated to Israel and continued his studies with Chaim Taub. Misha's prizes and awards in Israel include annual America-Israel Cultural Foundation scholarships and the prestigious Braun Zingel Award, which he won in a competition held at the Rubin Music Academy in Jerusalem.

In 1996, Mr. Vitenson began studying with Sergiu Schwartz at the Harid Conservatory. Subsequently, he was awarded top prizes in international violin competitions, including "Premio Paganini" (Italy, 1998) and Pablo de Sarasate (Spain, 1997) and First Prize in the 1998 Citta d' Andria International Violin Competition (Italy). Mr. Vitenson is the winner of the 1999 Aspen Music Festival Concerto Competition and First Prizewinner at the 2000 National Society of Arts and Letters Violin Competition. He is also both a two-time winner of the Harid Conservatory Concerto Competition and a two-time recipient of the Harid Conservatory's Joseph Gingold Award for Excellence (1998 & 2000). Mr. Vitenson's recent engagements have included appearances as a soloist with all major orchestras in Israel, including the Israel Philharmonic under Zubin Mehta, and the Israel Chamber Orchestra; the Padova e Veneto Orchestra on tour in Brazil, the National Uzbekistan Orchestra, the Aspen Music Festival Symphonia Orchestra, the Harid Philharmonia and the Harid Chamber Strings. Mr. Vitenson has participated in recitals and chamber music concerts throughout Israel, the United States, Canada, South America and Europe. As a member of the Kinneret Piano Trio, Mr. Vitenson was invited to participate in the Isaac Stern Chamber Music Workshop at Carnegie Hall in 1995.

After receiving his bachelor's degree from the Conservatory of Music at Lynn University, Misha Vitenson was a student of Joel Smirnoff at the Juilliard School, where he received a Master of Music degree. There he appeared as a soloist with the Juilliard Orchestra in Avery Fisher Hall under the baton of Hugh Wolff. In the fall of 2002 Mr. Vitenson joined the Amernet String Quartet and the faculty at Northern Kentucky University as an Artist-in-Residence, teaching violin and chamber music.

Biographies

Sergiu Schwartz, violin

Sergiu Schwartz's international concert appearances have taken him to major music centers on three continents, including twenty European countries, Israel and over forty U. S. states, as soloist with over two hundred leading orchestras, in recitals and chamber music concerts. "Following in the footsteps of his fellow countrymen Itzhak Perlman and Pinchas Zukerman, he is a product of the best of European romantic interpretative style and 20th-Century American technical acuity," states New York's *Newsday*, while *Le Soleil* (Canada) notes that "he stands out as one of the best violinists of his generation." Recent solo orchestral engagements include the Dresden Staatskapelle, Jerusalem Symphony, London Symphony, Sarajevo Philharmonic, Dresden Philharmonic, Slovak Philharmonic, European Community Chamber Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra of Mexico, Florida Philharmonic, Chicago's Grant Park Festival Orchestra, among numerous other distinguished ensembles in the U. S. and worldwide. Mr. Schwartz has collaborated in performances with preeminent conductors, including Sergiu Comissiona, James Judd, Peter Maag, Giuseppe Sinopoli, and Bruno Weil. He has performed in major concert halls, including New York's Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall; Kennedy Center (Washington); Barbican Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, and Wigmore Hall (London); Royce Hall (Los Angeles); and Academia Santa Cecilia (Rome), among many others. Mr. Schwartz is a frequent guest at national and international music festivals in the United States (including Aspen, Newport, Interlochen), Israel, Switzerland, Finland, England, France, Holland, Romania and Bulgaria. He has been featured in broadcasts for major radio and TV stations, including the BBC, NPR and CNN, and WXEL-TV's "Great Performances," and has recorded for Vox, Gega-New, Arcobaleno, Naxos, Nonesuch, Romeo Records, CRS Records, and Discover/Koch International.

Sergiu Schwartz studied at the Israel Rubin Academy in Tel Aviv, where he also gained exposure to world-class artists such as Isaac Stern and Yehudi Menuhin during master classes at the Jerusalem Music Center. He continued his studies with Yfrah Neaman at the Guildhall School in London, and with Dorothy DeLay at The Juilliard School in New York, where he was also awarded scholarships from the America-Israel Cultural Foundation. Mr. Schwartz's honors include major prizes in international violin competitions in London, Switzerland, Chile and the United States, as well as awards from the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Foundation for the Advancement of the Arts.

Biographies

Sergiu Schwartz (continued)

A teacher of prize winning students in prestigious international competitions, including Paganini (Italy), Pablo Sarasate (Spain), Henryk Szeryng (Mexico), Prix d'Europe (Canada), and Coleman and Carmel Chamber Music Competitions (California), Mr. Schwartz combines his performing career with his position on the artist faculty of the Conservatory of Music at Lynn University. As a visiting artist, Mr. Schwartz regularly conducts master classes and lectures at music schools, colleges, and universities worldwide, including Interlochen and Idyllwild Arts Academies, UCLA, San Francisco Conservatory, Eastman School of Music, Oberlin Conservatory, New York's LaGuardia School for the Performing Arts, Jerusalem Rubin Academy of Music, Reina Sofia Academy (Madrid), Royal Academy of Music (London), as well as summer master courses in Finland, France, Italy, Switzerland, Holland, Bosnia, Romania, and Bulgaria. He has also served as juror in major international competitions in Spain, Mexico, Italy, France, Poland, Canada, the US and Russia, including the Tchaikovsky International Violin Competition in Moscow. He has been named for outstanding achievement with a full-length life history in prestigious professional international directories, including International Who's Who in Music and Musicians (Cambridge, England) and Who's Who in America.



Biographies

Sylvia Kim, violin

Recent Gold Medalist and First Prize winner at the 2003 Henryk Szeryng International Violin Competition in Mexico and special jury prize winner at the 2001 Sarasate International Violin Competition in Spain, violinist Sylvia Kim has been a steady winner in local, national and international competitions since age 11, when she received a special award in the National Arts and Letters Violin Competition. Sylvia's top prizes include Florida Federation of Music Clubs (1996 and 1997), Florida State Music Teachers' Association (1996), National Music Teachers' Association (1998), Blount Young Artist Concerto Competition, Montgomery, Alabama (1999, 2000 and 2001), Bach Festival Young Artist Competition (2001), Walenstein Violin Competition, Miami (1999), Harid String Competition for Young Musicians (1999), Strad Violin Competition (2003), and Mizner Arts Foundation Competition (2003).

Sylvia Kim appeared as soloist with the Florida Philharmonic at South Florida's major venues for the performing arts including the Broward Center, Kravis Center and Dade County Auditorium as winner of the orchestra's 2002 Beethoven Concerto Competition. She has also appeared as soloist with the National Symphony Orchestra of Mexico, Montgomery Symphony, Sunrise Symphonic Pops, North Miami Beach Symphony Orchestra, Luzerne Festival String Orchestra, Harid Philharmonia, and Lynn University Philharmonia as a winner of the Conservatory Concerto Competition.

Sylvia regularly participates at music festivals in the United States and abroad. In 1989, she was awarded a full scholarship at the Tanglewood Institute, where she served as concertmaster under violinist-conductor Joseph Silverstein. She has also participated in the String Orchestra Seminar at Carnegie Hall, Luzerne Music Festival and Indiana String Academy in the United States and the Soesterberg Festival in the Netherlands. She has performed in recitals and chamber music concerts throughout South Florida and appeared on WXEL-TV and on radio broadcasts.

A student of artist faculty Sergiu Schwartz since 1997, Sylvia Kim is in her second year at the Lynn University Conservatory of Music.

Biographies

Dmitry Pogorelov, viola

Dmitry Pogorelov, already a prizewinning young virtuoso violinist, is the youngest member of a well known family of outstanding musicians in his native Russia. After winning the international violin competition held at the prestigious Gnessin School in Moscow and the International Competition of Chamber Music in St. Petersburg, Dmitry has continued to garner prizes since coming to the United States two years ago. He also participated with honors in the Tchaikovsky International Competition for Young Violinists in Japan and attended master courses in Italy and Germany.

Dmitry has appeared in solo recitals and as a soloist with orchestras in the US, Germany, Italy, France, Japan, and performed in prestigious concert halls in Moscow and St. Petersburg including the Rachmaninoff Hall of the Moscow Conservatory, Maly Hall of the St. Petersburg Conservatory and the St. Petersburg Stadtskapella among other venues.

Dmitry won a special jury prize at the 2003 Ludwig Spohr International Violin Competition in Germany. He is also a laureate of the 2003 Strad Violin Competition where he won the Audience Prize, and is a winner of the Mizner Arts Foundation Competition, both held in South Florida. He appeared as a soloist with the Lynn University Philharmonia as a winner of the Conservatory Concerto Competition and has received numerous conservatory awards including the "Award for Excellence in Violin Performance" and the "Award for Best Solo Performance."

A student of artist faculty Sergiu Schwartz, Dmitry Pogorelov is currently a junior at the Lynn University Conservatory of Music. In addition to his accomplishments as a violinist, Dmitry also plays the viola, as he does in tonight's concert.

Biographies

Johanne Perron, cello

Internationally acclaimed cellist, Johanne Perron has performed in recitals and as a soloist with several orchestras in Canada, Brazil, the United States, Mexico and throughout Europe. She has been soloist with many symphony orchestras including the orchestras of Montreal, Mexico, Quebec, and Portugal. Ms. Perron has collaborated with conductors such as Otto Werner-Muller and Charles Dutoit. As a first-prize winner and founding member of the Duo Cellissimo!, she presently pursues a career as chamber musician, soloist and teacher. She has been broadcast in Canada and on WQXR in New York.

Born in Chicoutimi, Quebec Province, she was awarded the first-prize in cello and chamber music at the Conservatoire de Quebec while studying with Pierre Morin. As a scholarship recipient from the Arts Council and the Ministry of Cultural Affairs of Canada, she pursued her studies with Aldo Parisot at Yale University where she obtained her Master of Music degree. She continued her studies in cello as a special pupil of Leonard Rose at The Juilliard School. She won the Prix d'Europe in 1984 and was given first prize in the string division of the Tremplin International des Concours de Musique du Canada. She has participated in several master classes with distinguished artists such as Janos Starker in Banff, Canada; Pierre Fournier in Geneva; and Paul Tortelier in California.

As a Jeunesses Musicales artist, Ms. Perron has given recitals and concerts throughout Brazil, Canada, Italy, Portugal, Switzerland, and the United States. The critics of Musical America described her as "a player of extraordinary musical dimension, compelling intensity and deep inner serenity."

Ms. Perron has served on the faculty of the University of North Carolina in Greensboro. She teaches and gives master classes at summer festivals in Brazil, Canada and the United States. She is currently the artist faculty - cello at the Lynn University Conservatory of Music.

Biographies

Tao Lin, harpsichord

A frequent and heralded performer in nearly a hundred programs each year, Tao Lin was born into a musical family in Shanghai, China. He has appeared in concerts and recitals in Asia, North America, and Europe. As a soloist, he has performed with the Winnipeg Symphony, Miami Chamber Orchestra, Knoxville Civic Orchestra, University of Miami Symphony, and the Harid Philharmonia. Mr. Lin was awarded top prizes in the competitions of the National Society of Arts and Letters, the Music Teachers National Association, Palm Beach International Invitational amongst others. He was also a finalist in the 1st International Piano-e-Competition and the 1st Osaka International Chamber Music Competition as a member of the Shanghai Trio.

As a chamber musician, Mr. Lin performs regularly with the renowned Jacques Thibaud Trio, as well as the Miami, Bergonzi, Alcon, and Rosalyra String Quartets. He has also collaborated with distinguished soloists such as Ida Haendel, Charlie Castleman, Roberta Peters, and Philip Quint.

A three-time full scholarship student at the Aspen Music Festival, Mr. Lin has worked with a series of distinguished teachers including Joseph Kalichstein, John Perry, Leon Fleisher, Rita Sloan, Stephen Hough, and Vladimir Feltsman. He is a graduate of the Harid Conservatory (where he received the Award for Outstanding Performance) and the University of Miami (where he received Award of Academic Merit), he studied under Ivan Davis and Roberta Rust.

Mr. Lin has recorded for the Piano Lovers record label on which he features works by Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert and Balakirev.



Upcoming Events

OCTOBER 2003

Sunday 19

4:00 P.M.

Jazz Meets Tango

The Core Ensemble: Tahirah Whittington, cello; Hugh Hinton, piano; Michael Parola, artist faculty-percussion with Georgina Corbo, vocalist. Ellington, Monk, and Mingus meet Piazzolla, with Gershwin as an appetizer.

Thursday 23

7:30 P.M.

Music in Poetry (Multimedia Series)

Johanne Perron, cellist and poet, delivers a powerful and sublime expression of words and music. This performance features known works by classic poets, as well as originals by Perron and the members of the Smoking Loon Poetry Society.

Friday 24

7:30 P.M.

Alumni Concert (Celebration Series)

Some of the finest musicians that the conservatory has produced return to honor their alma mater with an exhibition of their mastery.

Saturday 25

7:30 P.M.

The Other Trumpet: Marc Reese in Recital

Marc Reese, trumpet; Lisa Leonard, piano
Empire Brass trumpeter Marc Reese performs a kaleido scope of music from the 18th through 20th centuries, rendering works that pacify the spirit within, along with those that bring utter excitement and life to the soul...all in the same night.

Thursday 30

7:30 P.M.

The Three Amigos

John Dee, oboe; Shigeru Ishikawa, double bass; Edward Turgeon, guest pianist. Close your eyes, take a deep breath, and indulge your musical imagination. Transcend the moment in which you live, explore the far reaches of the musical universe where dreams are tangible, and the power of sound brings you inner silence.

Located at the Amarnick-Goldstein Concert Hall