

**The Embassy Concert Series
2011- 2012 Season
Jerome Barry, Director/Founder**

All programs and artists subject to change.



**EMBASSY OF LITHUANIA ☀
2622 16TH STREET, NW
SONGS OF THE VILNA GHETTO
EXPERIENCE**

Thursday, September 15, 2011, 7:30 pm

Limited Seating

**JEROME BARRY, BARITONE
EDVINAS MINKSTIMAS, PIANO
PETER SIROTIN, VIOLIN**



Jerome Barry highlights songs composed in the Jewish Ghetto in Vilnius during World War II and cantorial music. A very insightful view into the hearts of the Jewish people during this very trying time. In commemoration of Vilna Ghetto Day and the Lithuanian Year of the Holocaust. **\$80/including Lithuanian buffet dinner/wine**

**EMBASSY OF AUSTRIA
3524 INTERNATIONAL CT., NW
HIGH STRINGS- DEEP VOICE-**

Friday, September 16, 2011, 7:30 pm



KATHARINA RADLBERGER-

**BERGMANN, VIOLIN; SUSANNE
FRIEDRICH, CELLO; RUPERT
BERGMANN, BASS-BARITONE;
BILL MERRILL, PIANO**

We are proud to present a wonderful, creative program of song and chamber music of Schubert, Bottenberg, Wagner, Wolf and Haydn's Scottish Songs. A very special presentation with a lovely dessert and champagne reception to follow. **\$50/incl. reception/champagne**



**EMBASSY OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC ☀
3900 SPRING OF FREEDOM ST., NW**

Friday, October 21, 2011, 7:30 pm

Limited Seating

**JOSEF ŠPAČEK,
VIOLIN; PIANIST
TBA**



Twenty-four-year-old Josef Špaček ranks among the foremost representatives of today's young violin generation. Since an early age, Mr. Špaček has performed at many major concerts and festivals throughout his native Czech Republic and abroad in Germany, France, Great Britain, Poland, Switzerland, Finland, Denmark, China, Japan, New Zealand, and the United States. The winner of numerous national and international competitions, Mr. Špaček won the Michael Hill International Violin Competition in June 2009 and third prize and the Young People's Jury Prize in the Carl Nielsen International Violin Competition in 2008. Most recently, Mr. Špaček was appointed concertmaster of the renowned Czech Philharmonic. **Program: Schubert, Janáček, Brahms, Smetana. \$80/including buffet reception/wine/beer**

**VENUE TO BE ANNOUNCED
RAN DANK, PIANO**

Tuesday, November 1, 2011, 7:30 pm

Pianist **Ran Dank** deploys his brilliant technique with astonishing skill, although it is his interpretive powers that captivate audiences and garner critical acclaim. During the 2010-11 season, Mr. Dank made his debut in the Washington Performing Arts Society's prestigious Hayes Piano Series at the Kennedy Center. He just won the second prize at the famous Naumberg Competition **Program: Beethoven: Sonata No. 29 in B-flat Major, Op. 106("Hammerklavier"); Chopin: Preludes, Op. 28. \$50/including reception/wine**



**EMBASSY OF HUNGARY ☀
2950 SPRING OF FREEDOM ST.,
NW**

Wednesday, November 9, 2011, 7:30 pm

Thursday, November 10, 2011, 7:30 pm

ÁDÁM GYÖRGY, PIANO

From prodigy to Liszt ambassador to philanthropist, Steinway artist **Ádám György** continues to enchant audiences worldwide with his awe-inspiring program, and we are proud to present this brilliant young artist for the second year in a row. In 2002 **Ádám György** won the Vienna Classics Prize (Wiener-Klassik-Preis) with his outstanding interpretation of Haydn's Sonata in G major (No. 54), and in 2003 the Special Prize at the San Remo International Piano Competition. In 2004 **Ádám** won all prizes (First Prize, Grand Prize and Special Prize)



at the First International Chopin Piano Competition in Budapest. That same year, CNN World Report identified him as a “rising star.” Since then he has performed throughout Europe, Asia and North America, including New York’s Carnegie Hall and Singapore’s The Esplanade. World Report identified him as a “rising star.” **\$80/including lavish buffet reception/wine**

EMBASSY OF UKRAINE ☀

3350 M STREET, NW

Wednesday, November 16, 2011, 7:30 pm

Limited Seating

**ANDREI PIDKIVKA, FLUTE
SOLOMIA GOROKHIVSKA, VIOLIN
KARLIN KIRILOV, SINGER**

GERDAN- KALEIDOSCOPE OF WORLD MUSIC

The musicians of Gerdan share the direct life of their Eastern European multicultural music experience from generation to generation. Andrei Pidkivka earned the Doctorate of Musical Arts (DMA) in flute performance at Michigan State University. Most recent performances as a soloist and a guest musician include the Columbus Symphony, Phoenix

Symphony, Seattle Symphony, Oregon Symphony and Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestras. As a concert classical flutist, teacher and performer, and maker of variety of folk flutes of his native Ukraine, Andrei Pidkivka has been critically acclaimed in the United States and Europe as the preeminent performer on his instruments. **\$80/including Ukrainian buffet dinner/wine**



EMBASSY OF LUXEMBOURG ☀

2200 MASS. AVENUE, NW

Thursday, December 1, 2011, 7:30 pm

Friday, December 2, 2011, 7:30 pm

Saturday, December 3, 2011, 7:30 pm

Limited Seating

A LUXEMBOURG CHRISTMAS

These exciting Christmas events will feature many types of wonderful classical, popular and Christmas music with chamber music groups, pianists, singers, carolers and lots of great surprises. Champagne, hors-d’œuvres, hot & cold buffet and much great music. Limited seating! **\$125/including champagne, hors-d’œuvres, buffet dinner and wine**



ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR’S RESIDENCE ☀

2500 30TH STREET, NW

Friday, December 9, 2011, 7:30 pm

Limited Seating

MATEI VARGA, PIANO

The young Romanian-born pianist Matei Varga is an artist whose elegant pianism often leaves the listener unprepared for the smoldering intensity and intellectual probity of his interpretations. With these qualities not often encountered among today’s virtuosos, Mr. Varga has already performed as recitalist, chamber musician, and concerto soloist at major venues in New York, including Carnegie Hall’s Zankel Hall and Weill Hall, the Morgan Museum and Library, and Steinway Hall in New York; the White House



Lawn in Washington, D.C., the Auditorium du Louvre, Salle Gaveau, and Salle Cortot, Paris; the Royal Dramatic Theatre in Stockholm; Casals Hall, Tokyo; the Fondazione Cini in Venice, as well as in Baden-Baden, Grenoble, Kyoto, Tel Aviv, and Jerusalem. At a recent performance at the Berlin Konzerthaus, his Schumann Fantasy Op. 17 was hailed by Wolfgang Schrieber of *Süddeutsche Zeitung* as “magical.” (August 2009). **\$100/including Romanian buffet dinner/wine**

TURKISH AMBASSADOR’S RESIDENCE ☀

1606 23RD STREET, NW

Friday, December 16, 2011, 7:30 pm

Limited Seating

EFE BALTACIGIL, CELLO AMY YANG, PIANO

Turkish cellist **Efe Baltacıgil** was acclaimed by audiences and critics alike in February 2005 when he and pianist Emanuel Ax performed Beethoven’s Cello Sonata No. I at a Philadelphia Orchestra concert with only 10 minutes of rehearsal. Mr. Baltacıgil, the Orchestra’s Associate Principal Cellist, and Mr. Ax, the evening’s soloist, were called upon when a winter snowstorm prevented most of the Orchestra from reaching the concert hall. After that performance, The Philadelphia Inquirer wrote: “*Baltacıgil is a highly individualized solo artist. His gorgeous sound, strong personality, and expressive depth suggest an artist about to have a major career.*” Mr. Baltacıgil won the **2005 Young Concert Artists International Auditions**. He was also awarded **The Peter Jay Sharp Prize**, which



presented his New York debut in December 2005, and the **Washington Performing Arts Society Prize**, which presented his Washington, DC, debut in April 2006. He made a debut with the Philadelphia Orchestra in 2010 with playing Tchaikovsky's Roco variations for 7,500 people. Also in 2012 he will appear as a soloist with the Berlin Philharmonic conducted by Sir Simon Rattle during their European tour. **\$150/including Turkish reception/ dinner/wine/black tie optional/free valet parking**

EMBASSY OF AUSTRIA

Friday, January 13, 2012, 7:30 pm

SCHUBERT: TROUT QUINTET VAUGHAN-WILLIAMS: QUINTET



These 2 quintets are some of the most amazing chamber music ever created and we have asked illustrious artists Ann Schein and Earl Carlyss to put together a program of great quality and enjoyment. **\$50/including dessert reception**



EMBASSY OF AUSTRALIA 1600 MASSACHUSETTS AVE., NW

Friday, March 16, 2012, 7:30 pm

RAY CHEN, VIOLIN JULIO ELIZALDE, PIANO

Winner of the Queen Elisabeth Competition (2009) and the Yehudi Menuhin Competition (2008), Ray Chen is among



the most compelling young violinists today. His recent performances, including debut recitals at the Kennedy Center in Washington D. C. and the Merkin Hall in New York, have enraptured both the audiences and the critics. "Ray Chen can do pretty much anything he wants on the violin" (Anne Midgette, The Washington Post). "His whole performance was out of this world" (Elise Simoens, De Standaard). **Mozart, Brahms, Ysaÿe, Saint-Saëns.** Ray records for Sony. **\$100/including Australian buffet /dinner/ wine**

EMBASSY OF BULGARIA ☀

1621 22ND STREET, NW

Friday, March 23, 2012, 7:30 pm

Limited Seating



BELLA HRISTOVA, VIOLIN PIANIST TBA

First Prize Winner in the 2008-09 Young Concert Artists International Auditions, Ms. Hristova and made her debut in the Young Concert Artists Series during the 2009-10 season at Merkin Concert Hall in New York, sponsored by the Rhoda Walker Teagle Prize, and at the Kennedy Center in Washington DC. At the Auditions, she was also awarded the Helen Armstrong Violin Fellowship, the Miriam Brody Aronson Award, the Ruth Laredo Memorial Award, the Candlelight Concert Society Concert Prize, and the Lied Center of Kansas Concert Prize. **Program: Schumann, Tower, Janáček, Richard Strauss.** Very limited seating. **\$100/ including Bulgarian buffet dinner/wine**



EMBASSY OF AUSTRIA

Friday, April 20, 2011, 7:30 pm

MENDELSSOHN PIANO TRIO GUEST: MICHAEL STEPNIAK, VIOLA

Our fabulous trio in residence, Mendelssohn Piano Trio joined by violist Michael Stepniak will present a program of Austrian chamber music, which will include a **Piano Trio by Joseph Haydn, a rarely performed youthful Piano Quartet by Gustav Mahler and the celebrated Piano Trio in E flat Major by Franz Schubert.** This is a real treat. **\$50/ including dessert reception.**



EMBASSY OF LITHUANIA ☀ 2622 16TH STREET, NW

Friday, April 27, 2012, 7:30 pm

Limited Seating

WINNER OF "MUSIC WITHOUT LIMITS COMPETITION" IN LITHUANIA

PAULIUS ANDERSSON, PIANO

The International competition festival "Music without Limits" is a unique event, uniting competitions, a music festival and an intense educational program. Since 2001 it has been held every year in August in Druskininkai, Lithuania.

In the past 10 years more than 1000 participants from Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, USA, Poland, France, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Russia, Belorussia, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Japan, Vietnam, South and North Korea have participated. **Paulius** has performed in Germany, Poland, Ukraine, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Russia, Estonia,



Latvia and at various concert halls in Lithuania, such as The Vilnius Congress Hall, The Artist's Palace, The Grand Hall of the Lithuanian National Philharmonic (The Great Parade of Musicians 2001, 2007), and in many other Lithuanian cities and towns. **\$55/ including reception.**

IRAQI CULTURAL CENTER ☀ **1630 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NW**

Friday, May 11, 2012, 7:30 pm
Saturday, May 12, 2012, 7:30 pm

Limited Seating

MUSIC OF IRAQ- TWO RIVERS MIDDLE EASTERN ENSEMBLE

Two Rivers six-piece group of Middle Eastern and Western instruments that combines jazz with maqam. Of all the benefits America could have obtained from fighting a war in Iraq -- oil, democracy, regional stability -- the last thing expected was a new style of jazz. Yet that's what Iraqi-American trumpeter Amir El-Saffar devised with his stunning 2008 debut "Two Rivers." Mr. El-Saffar meant the album title to stand for the Tigris and the Euphrates, and the twin rivers of human blood and library book ink spilled when Baghdad (a pillar of 13th-century civilization) was sacked by the Mongols. But it also represented two streams of thought merging within his music: Western jazz improvisation and the tradition of Iraqi classical music. **\$80/ including Middle Eastern buffet /wine**



EMBASSY OF ARMENIA
3350 M STREET, NW
Friday, June 1, 2012, 7:30 pm

NAREK ARUTYUNIAN, CLARINET ☀ **STEVEN BECK, PIANO**

Limited Seating

18-year-old clarinetist **Narek Arutyunian** won First Prize in the 2010 Young Concert Artists International Auditions, and was also awarded the Meridian Symphony Prize to perform as soloist with the orchestra, and was invited to perform in the Embassy Series in Washington, DC, the Brownville Concert Series (NE) and at the Usedom Music Festival in Germany. Next season, Mr. Arutyunian will be presented in his recital debut in the Young Concert Artists Series in New York, sponsored by YCA's Rhoda Walker Teagle Concert Prize, and at the Kennedy Center, as well as in Boston at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. Mr. Arutyunian has performed widely in Europe, with concerts at the Louvre Auditorium in Paris and the Palazzo del Principe in Genoa, and as soloist with the Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra in the Czech Republic, the Kaliningrad Philharmonic in Russia, and with the Moscow Philharmonic, Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra and State Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Arutyunian's clarinet is a personal gift of the conductor and violinist Vladimir Spivakov. **Works of Poulenc, Francaix, von Weber, Denisov, Gershwin, Horowitz, Schoenfeld.** This is a great rising star in the musical world- **\$80/ including Armenian buffet /wine**



EMBASSY OF POLAND ☀
2640 16th STREET, NW
Friday, June 8, 2012, 7:30 pm

YEVGENY KUTIK, VIOLIN
TIMOTHY BOZARTH,
PIANO



Possessing a "dark, brooding intensity", Russian-American violinist **Yevgeny Kutik** has, at age twenty-four, become a sought-after artist on the concert stage worldwide. In his recent German debut with the WDR Radio Symphony Orchestra, Yevgeny "enraptured the crowd" (DerWesten) with his performance. Of his New York City orchestral debut with the Riverside Symphony, The New York Times said his violin projected "an old-fashioned rhapsodic style, which was magnified by (his) rich, sweet tone." Yevgeny's other recent performances have included highly successful appearances with the Tokyo Vivaldi Ensemble in Japan, the world- premiere performance of the concerto *Versus* by Ron Ford with the Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra, which received praise from both The New York Times and The Boston Globe, and a return appearance with the Boston Pops Orchestra and Keith Lockhart. As a recitalist, he most recently appeared at the Verbier (Switzerland) and Oberstdorfer (Germany) festivals and made his debut on the prominent Dame Myra Hess Series in Chicago. He has also appeared in recital in San Francisco, Washington D.C., Miami, Tokyo, Munich and Montreal. **Program: Szymanowski, Penderecki, Chopin, Bloch. \$80/ including Polish buffet /dinner/wine**

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