

The Embassy Series 2018- 2019 Spring Season

25th Season

**Jerome Barry,
Director/Founder**
Updated Advance Notice
Brochure



As of February 15, 2019

*Uniting People Through Musical
Diplomacy*

**EMBASSY OF AFGHANISTAN ☀ Valet
Parking**
2341 WYOMING STREET, NW

ELHAM FANOOS, PIANO

Friday, March 15, 2019, 7:30pm

Elham Fanoos is 21 years old, and a native of Kabul, Afghanistan. He has been playing music from the age of five, when he began to study the Tabla. In Grade 7, he enrolled in the Afghan National Institute of Music (ANIM), where he learned to play the piano. He has performed in Germany on four separate occasions for dignitaries including Cabinet Ministers and the President of the Goethe Institute, and where in 2012, he was awarded the third position at the Golden Key Piano Competition in Frankfurt. On his last visit, he recorded a CD. He also participated in a piano festival in Poland, and has performed in Holland and



Italy. As a member of the Afghan Youth Orchestra, he performed at the Kennedy Center in Washington DC and Carnegie Hall in New York City, where he played Chopin's Nocturne in C-Sharp Minor with the renowned Russian violinist Mikhail Simonyan. He has also performed for former President Hamid Karzai and international dignitaries in Kabul.

Program: Liszt, Chopin, Beethoven. Afghan buffet/valet parking- \$125

EMBASSY OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC ☀
3900 SPRING OF FREEDOM LANE, NW
LOBKOWICZ TRIO
LUKÁŠ KLÁNSKÝ, PIANO
JAN MRÁČEK, VIOLIN
IVAN VOKÁČ, CELLO

Tuesday, March 26, 2019, 7:30pm

All three members of **Lobkowicz Trio** are renowned soloists and chamber players. The ensemble embraced their experience from many stages home and abroad on the International Johannes Brahms Competition 2014 in Pörschach, Austria, where they won the First Prize and the Prize of the Audience.

Jan Mráček is one of greatest and most promising violin talents in the Czech Republic. Playing violin since 5 years of age, he already performed at important concert stages as a child. Among the most



valued competition prizes he won are the 1st prize from the K. Kocian International Violin Competition in Usti nad Orlici in 2005 and 2006, the title of absolute winner of the national round of Concertino Praga 2006, the highest award from Vaclav Hudecek's Summer Music Academy in Luhacovice (2005, 2006)

and the 1st prize at Beethoven's Hradec 2009. He also returned to Luhacovice Academy in August 2012 as a successful assistant of Mr. Vaclav Hudecek. Jan's greatest success is a 2nd prize in a strong competition of 50 participants at the international Prague Sprint Competition in May 2010. He became the youngest laureate of this significant competition ever. Jan Mráček is performing in the Czech Republic and abroad. His piano partner is Lukáš Klánský, with whom he introduced himself at the Prague Spring 2011 recital.

Ivan Vokáč is a graduate of Prague Conservatory of Music. For the time being Ivan is studying with Prof. Miroslav Petras at the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague. Ivan succeeded in many international competitions, for example: 2nd prize at the Heran Cello Competition in Ustinad Orlici (1997, 2003), 1st prize at the International Cello Competition in Liezen (2002), 1st prize at the Dotzauer Cello Competition in Dresden (2005), absolute winner of Concertino Praga (2006) – duo with violinist Jakub Junek, 1st prize at the Martinu Competition in Prague (2008). His last important achievement was winning Leos Janacek's International Competition in Brno, Czech Republic (2013).

Lukáš Klánský is a laureate of many national as well as international competitions (e.g., EPTA 2002, Agropolli 2003, Karl Drechsel fordepreise 2007, Beethoven's Hradec 2007, International Rotary Piano Competition 2012 and Darmstadt International Chopin Competition 2013). At the age of fifteen he made his debut in Dvorak's Hall in Prague with the Prague Chamber Orchestra playing Mozart's Concerto F Major.

Program: Otomar Kvěch (1950-2018): Trio for violin, cello and piano; Bohuslav Martinů (1890-1959) Piano trio no 2, d-minor; Antonin Dvořák (1841-1904) Piano trio no 3, f-minor.

Buffet reception/wine- \$95

EMBASSY OF AUSTRIA ◇
3524 INTERNATIONAL COURT, NW

JULIAN SCHWARZ, CELLO
MARIKA BOURNAKI, PIANO

A NIGHT IN VIENNA

Friday, March 29, 2019, 7:30pm

Mr. Schwarz and Ms. Bournaki have appeared on WUOL (Louisville, KY) and in hour-long live radio broadcasts for "Northwest Focus Live" on Classical King FM 98.1 (Seattle, WA) and "Backstage Pass" for WXXI (Rochester, NY). The duo has worked closely with violinists Mark Fewer, Yevgeny Kutik, Eric Silberger, Frank Almond, Avi Nagin, and Mark



Peskanov, as well as given a performance of the Beethoven Triple Concerto with violinist Jo Nardolillo and the Lake Union Civic Orchestra in Seattle, Washington.

Marika Bournaki is a Canadian pianist from Montreal, QC. She has toured



internationally as soloist and recitalist, and was the subject of the award-winning documentary "I am Not a Rockstar", chronicling her development from age 12 to 20. She received both BM and MM degrees from The Juilliard School, and is a member of Piano

Six, the Next Generation. **Julian Schwarz** is an Austrian- American cellist from Seattle, WA. He was the 1st prizewinner in the 2013 Inaugural Schoenfeld International String Competition in Hong Kong. **Program:** Beethoven: Variations on Mozart's Magic Flute; Webern: 2 Early Pieces and 3 Little Pieces' Schubert: Arpeggione Sonata; Danzi Variations on Mozart's Don Giovanni; Schumann: "Rhapsody" from Faschingschwank aus Wien (Solo Piano); Korngold: "Much ado about Nothing" trans. J Schwarz; Fantasy on themes from Die Fledermaus. **Reception/wine- \$75**

RESIDENCE OF THE PORTUGUESE
AMBASSADOR
2125 KALORAMA ROAD, NW

BRUNO MONTEIRO, VIOLIN
NUNO MARQUES, PIANO

Monday, April 8, 2019, 7:30pm

Heralded by the daily *Público* as "one of Portugal's premier violinists" and by the weekly *Expresso* as "one

of today's most renowned Portuguese musicians", **Bruno Monteiro** is internationally recognized as a distinguished violinist of his generation. *Fanfare Magazine* describes him as having a "burnished golden tone" and *Strad* states that his "generous vibrato produces radiant colors". MusicWeb International refers to interpretations that have a "vitality and an imagination that are looking unequivocally to the future" and that reach an "almost ideal balance between the expressive and the intellectual". *Gramophone* praises his "unfailing assurance and eloquence" and *Strings Magazine* summarizes that he



is "deserving of a much larger slice of the limelight on the world stage." Award-winning Portuguese pianist **Nuno Marques** is developing his

performing career and directs Porto Pianofest, an international piano festival in Porto, Portugal, of which he is the founder and artistic director. He is one of the most sought-after Portuguese pianists of his generation. A versatile musician, he is equally comfortable playing solo, chamber music or collaborating artistically with other forms of expression.



Program: Brahms, Franck, Branco, Barbosa, Saint-Saëns. **Portuguese Buffet/wine - \$125.**

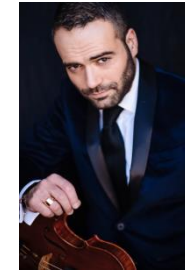
EMBASSY OF LITHUANIA
2622 16TH STREET, NW

JESÚS RODOLFO RODRIGUEZ, VIOLA
EDVINAS MINKSTIMAS, PIANO

Friday, April 12, 2019, 7:30pm

Jesús Rodolfo Rodríguez, viola, studied at Oviedo Conservatory in Spain, Yale University, Juilliard School, Mannes College of Music, Manhattan School of Music, and his Doctoral Music Arts Degree at Stony Brook University. His main teachers are: Wiesław Rekućki, Jesse Levine, Paul Neubauer, Nick

Cords and Lawrence Dutton. Jesús has given recitals all over the world, including Carnegie Hall and the Lincoln Center in New York. He is frequently guest artist at International Music Festivals such as Music@Menlo, Bowdoin, Malaga Clasica, the Bach Festival, Chelsea Music Festival and Lucerne Festival. Jesús's discography includes the complete sonatas for viola and piano by Paul Hindemith, and on September 2018 his second



album, *Transfixing Metamorphosis*, will be globally released. He appears frequently in *Scherzo Magazine*, *BBC Music Magazine*, *Vanity Fair*, *Dear Magazine*, etc. In May 2011, **Edvinas Minkstimas**, pianist, received his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from The Juilliard School, New York, where he was recipient of the C.V. Starr



Foundation Doctoral Fellowship and studied with Jerome Lowenthal. He previously received the Artist Diploma from the Paris Conservatory (CNSMDP) under the tutelage of Michel Beroff. Previously, Mr. Minkstimas studied in Lithuania with Veronika Vitaite at the Lithuanian Academy of Music. He has taken master classes with pianists Nikolay Petroff, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Idil Beret, Eugene Indjic, Jeffrey Swann, Joseph Kalichstein, Marie Françoise-Bucquet, and other prominent performers, including Itzhak Perlman. He also studied composition with Guy Reibel (Paris Conservatory) and Vytautas Barkauskas at the Lithuanian Academy of Music.

Program: Liszt, Ciurlionis, Rachmanov. **Buffet/wine- \$95- all-inclusive.**

EMBASSY OF HUNGARY
2950 SPRING OF FREEDOM, NW

ANN SCHEIN, PIANO
DARRET ADKINS, CELLO
DEBUT OF THE BOGÁNY PIANO

Friday, May 3, 2019, 7:30pm

Brilliant pianist, **Ann Schein** and virtuoso cellist **Darrett Adkins** return to the Embassy Series in a superb program of Beethoven, Kodály and Chopin. Ann has performed with conductors including George Szell, James Levine, Seiji Ozawa,



James DePreist, David Zinman, Stanislaw Skrowacewski, and Sir Colin Davis, and with major orchestras including the New York Philharmonic, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Baltimore Symphony, the Washington National Symphony, the London Philharmonic, the London Symphony, and the BBC Symphony Orchestra. Over her many years performing in London she appeared repeatedly in the Promenade Concerts in Albert Hall, including several Last Nights, when favorite soloists are invited to perform. In 1963, she was invited to perform at the White House during the Kennedy administration. Famed critic, Paul Hume, wrote in the Washington Post, "She drew the loveliest sound from the White House piano I have heard."

Darrett Adkins was born in Huron, S.D., and has made solo orchestral appearances with the Orchestra of St. Luke's, Tokyo Philharmonic, New Hampshire Symphony, North Carolina Symphony, Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra, and Monadnock Festival Orchestra. He has also appeared in recital in Tokyo, Yokohama, Oslo, and throughout the U.S. Adkins has been a member of Flux string quartet, which specializes in cutting-edge music, and the Zephyr Trio and was a winner of the Bunkamura Orchard Hall Award and Presser Music Award. His recordings include chamber music on the Koch, CRI, Mode, Tzadic, RCA, and MMC labels. *World renowned, Hungarian pianist, Gergely*



World renowned, Hungarian pianist, Gergely



World renowned, Hungarian pianist, Gergely

Bogányi, had a burning desire to add a new beauty to the way the piano looks and sounds. So he introduced modern innovation to the last 200 years of almost unchanged piano tradition. The result is a new dimension of sound and design in the Bogányi B-262 and B-292 models. The designer who has brought the astounding shape and concept of the Bogányi piano into real life form and details is Hungarian industrial designer, Péter Úveges. He has designed and executed a broad range of musical instruments in his portfolio, mainly stringed in nature.

Program: Chopin, Beethoven, Kodály
Buffet/wine- \$110- Limited space.

Jesús Rodolfo Rodriguez, viola, studied at Oviedo Conservatory in Spain, Yale University, Juilliard School, Mannes College of Music, Manhattan School of Music, and his Doctoral

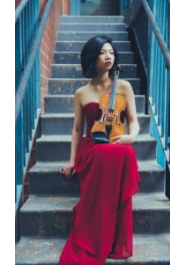
VENUE TO BE ANNOUNCED

IN COOPERATION WITH THE TAIWAN ACADEMY, TECRO

I-JUNG HUANG, VIOLIN
CHUANG-CHUANG PETER FANG, PIANO

Friday, May 24, 2019, 7:30pm

Taiwanese violinist **I-Jung Huang** is the top prizewinner of 2017 Ima Hogg Concerto Competition and 2016 Hudson Valley String Competition; the Laureate of the 2015 Michael Hill International Violin Competition; the top prizewinner of TSO "The Young talent" competition; the Academy of Taiwan Strings Competition in Taiwan, and was the youngest musician selected at the Young Artist Taiwan Bank in 2011. She appeared as a soloist with Houston Symphony Orchestra, Hudson Valley Philharmonic; Taiwan Philharmonic, and Taipei Symphony Orchestra. During the school year of 2013-2014, she joined the CPP (Community Partnership Program) at the New England Conservatory with the Gioviola Quartet. She is actively organizing theme-based music projects in the United States, which bring out her creativity and passion about sharing music. Her project "[TwoBows](#)" has received partial funding through Juilliard Project Grant, which is a house concert tour programmed



with unique chamber music repertoire, focusing on music that is unknown or underplayed.

She has participated in several summer festivals and has received full scholarships, including the Perlman Music Program, the Ravinia Festival, the Four Seasons Winter Workshop, Kneisel Hall, and Taos School of Music, where she worked intensively with the members from the Guarneri Quartet, Borromeo Quartet, Shanghai Quartet, and Brentano Quartet. She has been invited to play with the New Asia Chamber Music Society, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Jupiter Symphony Chamber Players, and St. Paul Chamber Orchestra. She is a grant recipient of The Juilliard Career Grant and the 2018 Chimei Arts Award, and has been selected as a Young Artist in "2017 Music Star" in Taiwan. A recent graduate of The Juilliard School and the New England Conservatory, she has studied with Donald Weilerstein and Daniel Phillips, Miriam Fried and Nanette Chen. www.ijunghuang.com.

Program: Vitali: Chacone; Schubert: Duo Sonata for Piano and Violin in A Major; Lutostawski Subito for Violin and Piano; Franck: Sonata for Piano and Violin in A major. Reception/wine: \$90.

EMBASSY OF ROMANIA 🌞 - NEWLY ADDED
1607- 23RD STREET, NW

IRINA MURESANU, VIOLIN
FOUR STRINGS FROM AROUND THE WORLD (A RARE TREAT!)

Friday, May 31, 2019, 7:30pm

Romanian violinist Irina Muresanu has won the hearts of audiences and critics alike with her "**irresistible**," (Boston Globe) exciting, elegant and heartfelt performances of the classic, romantic and modern repertoire. The Los Angeles Times has written that her "musical luster, melting lyricism and colorful conception made Irina Muresanu's performance especially admirable". Her performances have been frequently cited as among the Best of

Classical Music Performances by the Boston Globe, most recently for a 2016 recital titled "Rorem, Ravel, and Rags." Muresanu has performed in renowned concert halls throughout North America, Europe and Asia. Her solo engagements include concerts with the Boston Pops, the Miami Symphony Orchestra, the Williamsburg Symphonia, the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande (Geneva), the Transvaal Philharmonic (Pretoria, S. Africa), the Romanian National Orchestra, the Orchestre de la Radio Flamande (Brussels), the Boston Philharmonic, amongst others.

An active chamber musician and recitalist, Ms. Muresanu is a member of the Boston Trio. She has appeared in such festivals and venues as Bargemusic in New York, the Rockport Festival in Massachusetts, Bay Chambers concert series and Bowdoin Festival in Maine, Maui Chamber Music Festival in Hawaii, Reizend Music Festival in Netherlands, Festival van de Leie in Belgium, and the



Rencontres des Musiciennes Festival in France and Guadeloupe islands. In 2013, Muresanu introduced her "Four Strings Around the World" project, a solo violin recital featuring works of composers inspired by various musical cultures around the world. This project was awarded a prestigious NewMusicUSA grant and a Creative and Performing Arts Award from the University of Maryland. The recording of "Four Strings Around the World" was released in April 2018 by Sono Luminus to great acclaim in the professional world. "Four Strings Around the World" sparked an orchestral project called "Strings Across Europe," a program in which Muresanu performs multiple roles as soloist and conductor. She premiered this program with longtime collaborators at Symphony New Hampshire in November 2017. Irina Muresanu is an avid performer of new music, especially by American composers. Her recent recording releases include the Thomas Oboe Lee's Violin Concerto (dedicated to Ms. Muresanu) on the BMOP label, and works of Elena Ruehr on Avie

Records. Ruehr's aforementioned album "Lift" was included on Keith Powers' 13 Best Classical Music Recordings of 2016. She has also recorded the complete William Bolcom sonatas on the Centaur label with pianist Michael Lewin, funded by the Copland Recording Grant. In Europe, her recording of the Guillaume Lekeu and Alberic Magnard late Romantic Violin and Piano Sonatas with pianist Dana Ciocarlie for the AR RE-SE French label has sparked enthusiasm. Irina Muresanu is an Associate Professor at the University of Maryland, where she holds the Tretter Distinguished Faculty Fellowship in Violin. She has taught at the Boston Conservatory and in the Harvard and MIT Music Departments. Ms. Muresanu received the prestigious Artist Diploma degree and a Doctor in Musical Arts degree from the New England Conservatory.

Program: Music of Romania, Ireland, Italy, Austria, Germany, Iran, India, China, Native Americans, US. Buffet/wine- \$90- Limited space.

RESERVE THE DATE:

JUNE 8: EMBASSY OF SRI LANKA

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