

The Embassy Series 2019- 2020

26th Season

Jerome Barry, Director/Founder
Updated Advance Notice Brochure



As of July 15, 2019
ADVANCE NOTICE

Uniting People Through Musical Diplomacy

FALL SEASON- PRICES
VALID UNTIL
SEPTEMBER 1, 2019

EMBASSY OF ROMANIA ☀️
1607- 23RD STREET, NW

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

Friday, September 13, 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, 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. **Program: Music of Romania, Ireland, Italy, Austria, Germany, Iran, India, China, Native Americans, US. Buffet/wine- \$100- Limited space. Valet Parking**

EMBASSY OF UZBEKISTAN ☀️
1746 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, NW

ROMAN RABINOVICH, PIANO

Tuesday, September 17, 2019, 7:30pm

Roman Rabinovich is an Israeli pianist, born in Uzbekistan. He was the winner of the 2008 Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Master Competition. He has performed in the United States, Europe, and Israel at places such as Gewandhaus, Wigmore Hall, Carnegie Hall, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. He is a



graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music, where he studied with Seymour Lipkin.

Buffet reception/wine/desserts/Valet Parking- \$125

EMBASSY OF SRI LANKA ☀️
3025 WHITEHAVEN, NW

SERENDIB DANCE|Asanga Domask
SRI LANKAN TRADITIONAL & FOLK
DANCE COMPANY

Saturday, October 5, 2019, 4pm



“Asanga Domask is one of this town’s most talented artists”-The Washington City Paper-
asangadomask.org

SerendibDance showcases an exquisite performance of ancient Sri Lankan folkloric traditions this June as part of the Embassy Series in Washington, DC . In celebrating the heritage of Sri Lanka, showcasing its intricate movements, the sounds of drum rhythms, the exquisite and elaborate costumes, SerendibDance takes the audience into an ancient world, a world filled with traditions and rich in culture and heritage. The choreography builds upon thousands of years of traditions with deep roots in everyday village life, Buddhist religious customs, and ceremonial celebrations for the island’s royalty. This concert features group and solo works aimed at preserving an ancient art form that is central to Sri Lankan culture and heritage. **Sri Lankan buffet/wine- \$95**

EMBASSY OF SOUTH AFRICA ☀️
3051 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, NW

25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF SOUTH AFRICA

Thursday, October 10, 2019- 7:30pm

We will celebrate this special occasion with music and artists from South Africa and the U.S., highlighting the amazing miracle of the founding of the new South Africa. Artists & Music to be announced. **Pre-concert reception/wine/Valet parking. \$125**

THE TWIN OAKS ESTATE☀️ 3225 WOODLEY ROAD, NW TAIPEI ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE IN THE UNITED STATES

FORMOSA QUARTET SPECIAL CONCERT

Friday, October 25, 2019, 7:30PM



Winners of both the First Prize and Amadeus Prize at the Wigmore Hall International String Quartet Competition, the **Formosa Quartet** is "one of the very best quartets of their generation" (*David Soyer, cellist, Guarneri Quartet*). Hailed as "spellbinding" (*The Strad*) and "remarkably fine" (*Gramophone*), the Formosa Quartet has given critically acclaimed performances at the Library of Congress, the Da Camera Society of Los Angeles, the Chicago Cultural Center, the Walter Reade Theater at Lincoln Center, the National Concert Hall in Taipei, Wigmore Hall in London, die Glocke Bremen, and the Kammermusiksaal at the Berliner Philharmonie. The ensemble is deeply committed to championing Taiwanese music and promoting the arts in Taiwan, as well as exploring diverse and adventurous mediums for string quartet.

The members of Formosa Quartet – **Jasmine Lin, Wayne Lee, Che-Yen Chen, and Deborah Pae** – have established themselves as leading solo, chamber, and orchestral musicians. With degrees from the Juilliard School, Curtis Institute of Music, and New England Conservatory, they have performed in major venues throughout the United States, Asia, and Europe, and have been top prizewinners in prestigious competitions such as the Paganini, Primrose, Fischhoff, Naumburg, and Tertis competitions. As chamber musicians, they have appeared regularly at the Marlboro, Kingston, Santa Fe, and Ravinia festivals, as well as at the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, La Jolla Summerfest, and the Seattle Chamber Music Society. **Buffet/wine.**

FOR OUR PATRONS ONLY For further information, call (202) 625- 2361. Buffet/wine-\$125- LIMITED TICKETS

ANDERSON HOUSE- SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI☀️ TAIPEI ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE IN THE UNITED STATES

RICHARD LIN, VIOLIN CHIH-YI CHEN, PIANO

Tuesday, November 12, 2019, 7:30pm



Taiwanese-American violinist Richard Lin is the newly crowned Gold Medalist of the 10th Quadrennial International Violin Competition of Indianapolis which took place in September of 2018. In addition to the Gold Medal, Richard captured three Special Prizes for his performances of Milstein's Paganiniana in the Preliminaries, Kreisler's Tambourin chinois in the

Classical Finals and Bruch's Scottish Fantasy in the Finals. Highlights of Mr. Lin's 2019-2020 season include concerto engagements with the Indianapolis, Montclair and Chippewa Valley symphonies as well as the New Mexico, Evansville and Marion philharmonics in the United States. Multiple recitals in Dallas, New York, Washington, D.C., Poland and China will culminate in a Carnegie Hall Stern Auditorium recital debut in June 2020. In Asia, Richard will tour Vietnam with the Evergreen Symphony Orchestra. He will also perform Beethoven Triple Concerto with the National Symphony Orchestra in Taipei and Tchaikovsky Concerto with the Sendai Philharmonic Orchestra.

Richard has collaborated with numerous orchestras and performed at celebrated concert venues throughout the world including his debut with the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra under conductor Norichika Iimori at Tokyo's Suntory Hall performing Bartók's Violin Concerto No. 2. Other orchestras with whom he has worked are the NDR Radiophilharmonie, Poznań Philharmonic, Łódź Philharmonic, Polish Baltic Philharmonic, Oldenburg State Orchestra, Shanghai Symphony, Singapore Symphony, Nagoya Philharmonic, Sendai Philharmonic, Kyushu Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra Ensemble Kanazawa, Yomiuri Nippon Symphony Orchestra, Auckland Philharmonic, Oklahoma City Philharmonic, Hong Kong Sinfonietta, Taiwan Philharmonic, National Taiwan Symphony Orchestra, Taipei Symphony Orchestra, Munich Chamber Orchestra, Amadeus Polish Chamber Orchestra, Royal Chamber Orchestra of Wallonia, Yokohama Sinfonietta, Macau String Association Orchestra, and Academy of Taiwan Strings. He has also concertized throughout the United States, Canada, Germany, Poland, Finland, Belgium, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, Macau and Taiwan.

In 2013, Richard released his first album on the Fontec label. The album includes works for violin and orchestra by Beethoven, Bartók and Brahms performed with the Sendai Philharmonic and conductor Pascal Verrot. The following year, he released his second album consisting of the complete

Brahms Sonatas for Piano and Violin with his brother, Robert Lin, an accomplished pianist and now doctor in Taiwan. The Lin brothers have been collaborating for more than a decade and have performed critically acclaimed recitals in major cities in Taiwan and Japan.

Pianist Chih-Yi Chen's versatile qualities as a collaborative pianist, chamber musician and soloist have distinguished her as a rarity amongst pianists. Her work with the talented young violinists of the Indiana University Violin Virtuosi directed by Mimi Zweig garnered her recognition as a specialist in violin repertoire and she has since become a sought-after collaborative pianist. Ms. Chen's concerts with the Violin Virtuosi took her to France, Spain, Sweden, Italy, Japan and throughout the United States. Since 2003, she has been performing with International Violin Competition of Indianapolis Laureates on the annual Laureate Series and on tour. She was also one of the official pianists for the 9th and 10th Quadrennial Competitions. At the 10th Quadrennial, she was awarded special recognition for "Best Performances" of the Beethoven and Mozart Sonatas.



Among the numerous musicians with whom she has collaborated are Noah Bendix-Balgley, Jaime Laredo, Andrés Cárdenes, David Chan, Barnabás Kelemen, Simone Lamsma, Liviu Prunaru, Mihaela Martin, Augustin Hadelich, Clara-Jumi Kang, Soovin Kim, Ji Young Lim, Susie Park, Svetlin Roussev, Celeste Golden Boyer, Atar Arad, Masumi Per Rostad, Sharon Robinson, Peter Stumpf, James Campbell, Howard Klug, William Ludwig and Thomas Robertello. She has also performed with the Michelangelo, Pacifica, Rubens and Verona string quartets. Chih-Yi was the official pianist for the California State University, Fresno concerto competition for several years.

Born in Taipei, Ms. Chen received her Bachelor, Master and Doctor of Music degrees from Indiana University where she studied with Lev Vlasenko,

former chairman of the piano department at Moscow Conservatory and Luba Edlina-Dubinsky, pianist of the Borodin Trio. Ms. Chen is on the faculty of the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music where she teaches collaborative piano. She is also a faculty member at the Indiana University Summer String Academy.

Buffet reception/wine/Valet parking- \$125

EMBASSY OF AFGHANISTAN ☀️ Valet Parking- BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND 2341 WYOMING STREET, NW

ELHAM FANOOS, PIANO

Friday, November 22, 2019, 7:30pm

ELHAM IS AN AMAZING PIANIST AND RECENTLY WAS FEATURED ON NBC,

Elham Fanoos is 22 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 SLOVAK REPUBLIC ☀️ 3523 INTERNATIONAL COURT., NW

GALA HOLIDAY CONCERT

WITH THE NEW YORK VIRTUOSI STRINGS

Wednesday, December 4, 2019, 7:30pm

We are happy to revive our annual Holiday Concert with all the "bells & whistles" that you have learned to expect. Great music, cuisine and celebration with many fine artists.

Tickets are limited, so order early. We guarantee a terrific evening!

Buffet/champagne/wine and all the accoutrements: \$225

EMBASSY OF BULGARIA ☀️ 1621 22nd STREET, NW Dimitar Peshev Plaza

ZLATOMIR FUNG, CELLO ARTIST TO BE ANNOUNCED, PIANO

FLASH: ZLATOMIR JUST WON THE GOLD MEDAL AT THE TCHAIKOVSKY INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION. DON'T MISS THIS GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR THIS GENIUS.

Friday, December 6, 2019, 7:30pm



Cellist **Zlatomir Fung** recently captured First Prize at the 2018 Schoenfeld International String Competition, as well as the competition's sole performance engagement prize for a concert with Poland's Poznan Philharmonic Orchestra. Other performances as soloist with orchestra this season include the Dvorak Concerto with the Juilliard Orchestra

conducted by Itzhak Perlman and the Bloch Schelomo with Orchestra Iowa.

Previously, Mr. Fung has appeared in the U.S. with the Baltimore Chamber Orchestra, Boston Pops, Santa Cruz, Ann Arbor and Grand Rapids Symphonies, and New England Philharmonic, and abroad with Romania's State Philharmonic of Sibiu, the George Enescu Philharmonic Orchestra in Bucharest, and the Lausanne Sinfonietta in Switzerland.

As a First Prize Winner of the 2017 Young Concert Artists International Auditions, Mr. Fung made his recital debuts in the 2018-19 Young Concert Artists Series at New York's Merkin Concert Hall, sponsored by the Rhoda Walker Teagle Concert Prize and in Washington, DC's Kennedy Center, sponsored by the Alexander Kasza-Kasser Concert Prize. He also won special performance prizes: the Buffalo Chamber Music Society Prize, Embassy Series Prize in Washington D.C., Friends of Music Concerts Prize, Paramount Theatre Prize, Lied Center of Kansas Prize, Sunday Musicale Prize, and Slomovic Prize for sponsorship of an Orchestra Partnership Project concerto engagement.

He is a regular member of the Jupiter Symphony Chamber Players in New York, and has been featured on NPR's radio show "From the Top" six times, as well as on "Performance Today." Mr. Fung is of Bulgarian-Chinese heritage. He spent his early years in Oregon, and then he and his family moved to the Boston area so that he could attend the New England Conservatory Preparatory School. He is currently a full Kovner Fellowship student of Richard Aaron and Timothy Eddy at The Juilliard School. Outside of music, he enjoys cinema, reading philosophy and chess. Mr. Fung holds The Anne & George Popkin Cello Chair of YCA. **Buffet/wine-\$125- Valet parking.**

EMBASSY OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC ☀️
3900 STREET OF FREEDOM, NW

BRAHMS & DVOŘÁK CHAMBER MUSIC

**MEMBERS OF THE "PRESIDENT'S OWN
MARINE BAND AND CHAMBER GROUP"**

**CHRISTOPHER SCHMITT, PIANO
KAREN JOHNSON, VIOLIN
SHENG WANG, VIOLIN
TAM TRAN, VIOLA
CHAR PRESCOTT, CELLO**

Thursday, March 26, 2020 7:30pm

Repertoire: Brahms: Piano Quartet No. 2 in A major, op. 26 & Dvořák Piano Quintet No. 2 in A major, op. 81

Our audiences will have the unique privilege of hearing some of the finest players in America, who will play 2 chamber works, reminiscent of our previous commemorative program at the German Embassy a number of years ago. **Buffet/wine/beer-\$100**



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