

The Embassy Series 2019- 2020

26th Season

Jerome Barry, Director/Founder
Updated Advance Notice Brochure



As of February 15, 2020

ADVANCE NOTICE

Uniting People Through Musical Diplomacy

RESIDENCE OF THE PORTUGUESE

AMBASSADOR ☀️
2125 KALORAMA ROAD, NW, NW
BARRANTES & PINTO-RIBEIRO PIANO
DUO

Wednesday, March 4, 2020 7:30pm



The **Barrantes & Pinto-Ribeiro Piano Duo** was formed in Moscow in 1998, when Portuguese pianist Filipe Pinto-Ribeiro and Peruvian

pianist Rosa Maria Barrantes were studying at the famous Tchaikovsky Conservatory, in the Piano Classes of Professors Liudmila Roschina and Natalia Trull, respectively, having completed the Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) Degree in Piano Performance, with the highest classifications.

It was in the framework of DMA studies at the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory that the Barrantes & Pinto-

Ribeiro Piano Duo studied for two years with the greatest Russian master of Piano Duo, Professor Alexander Bakhchiev, who had maintained for 40 years the main Piano Duo of Russia, along with his wife, Professor Elena Sorokina.

Bakhchiev and Sorokina recorded dozens of CD's, with most of the repertoire for Piano Duo, for four hands and for two pianos, and were recognized, nationally and internationally, as a reference of excellence in the art of Piano Duo.

Over the past few years, the Barrantes & Pinto-Ribeiro Piano Duo has performed in concerts across Europe and America and recorded a CD, in Berlin, featuring works by Claude Debussy, Gabriel Fauré, Eric Satie, Francis Poulenc and Maurice Ravel.

Rosa Maria Barrantes and Filipe Pinto-Ribeiro are also a "duo" in personal life and they live in Lisbon with their two children, Alfonso and Alice.

Program: "Four Hands Kaleidoscope"- Fauré , Barber, Lopes-Graça, Poulenc, Tchaikovsky- Buffet/wine/port- \$160

RESIDENCE OF THE BELGIAN

AMBASSADOR ☀️
2300 FOXHALL ROAD, NW

ANNELEEN LENAERTS, HARP- LIMITED SEATING

Monday, March 23, 2020 7:30pm

Belgian harpist **Anneleen Lenaerts** is one of the leading soloists of her instrument. **In December 2010 she was appointed Principal Harpist of the Vienna Philharmonic.**

from an early age Anneleen started winning an impressive amount of prizes at international harp competitions: 23 prizes between 1997 and 2009.

The "Grand Prix International Lily Laskine, where she won the first prize in 2005 and the ARD International Music Competition in Munich, where she was both a prizewinner and winner of the Audience Prize, are particularly outstanding.

As a soloist Anneleen has performed with the Symphony Orchestra of Bavarian Radio, the Mozarteum Orchestra, Vienna Philharmonic, Bruckner Orchestra, the Philadelphia Chamber Orchestra, the Polish National Radio Orchestra,



the Brussels Philharmonic, and the National Orchestra of Belgium amongst others.

Anneleen Lenaerts has made her solo debut at venues such as the Wigmore Hall in

London, Carnegie Hall New York, Berliner Philharmonie, Salle Gaveau in Paris, Grosses Festspielhaus in Salzburg, Bozar in Brussels and in festivals such as Rheingau Festival, Dresden Musikfestspiele, Lockenhaus festival, Moritzburg festival and Aspen Music Festival. Solo appearances have been recorded by various stations including BBC 3, Radio France Musique and Deutschlandfunk.

After the success of recording 3 Harp Concertos (by Glière, Rodrigo and Jongen) with the Brussels Philharmonic for Warner Classics and a CD with works by Schumann & Schubert with clarinetist Dionysis Grammenos, Anneleen signed an exclusive recording artist contract with Warner Classics in 2016. 2019 saw the release of a new recording with works by Nino Rota with the Brussels Philharmonic, Adrien Perruchon and Emmanuel Pahud and won an Opus Klassik, after being nominated in 4 different categories. **Buffet Reception/wine/parking in Embassy Compound. \$225 (limited space)**

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- \$125**

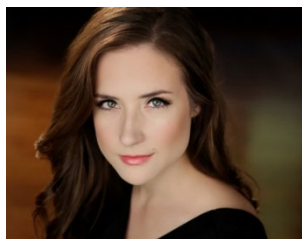


**RESIDENCE OF THE POLISH
AMBASSADOR ☀**
3041 WHITEHAVEN STREET, NW
ALEXANDRA NOWAKOWSKI,
COLORATURA SOPRANO
WILLIAM WOODARD, PIANO

Tuesday, April 7, 2020 7:30pm

Alexandra Nowakowski is a 27 year old coloratura soprano of Polish heritage. Since 2018, Ms. Nowakowski has been with the Domingo-Cafritz Young Artists program of the Washington National Opera. Her varied assignments with the company included the Queen of the Night in Mozart's The Magic Flute, and Zerbinetta in Strauss' Ariadne auf Naxos. Ms. Nowakowski sang Nannetta in Falstaff with the WNO Orchestra, Gilda in Rigoletto with the Verbier Festival, and Mozart's Requiem with the Columbus Symphony.

Ms. Nowakowski captured 1st Prize in numerous competitions: Kościuszko Foundation Sembrich Competition, Partners for the Arts Competition, Gerda Foundation Competition, Violetta DuPont Competition, the American Council for Polish Culture's Sembrich Competition, and the Astral National Auditions. As the 2018 Winner of the Vocal Arts DC Art Song Discovery Competition, Ms. Nowakowski sang a recital at The Phillips Collection in Washington DC. She has won 2nd Prize or was a Finalist in many competitions, including the Moniuszko



Vocal Competition in Warsaw, Poland, and the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. Ms. Nowakowski holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois, and completed operatic studies at the Academy of Vocal Arts, Philadelphia PA.

William Woodard is a pianist/vocal coach and he joined the Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program at Washington National Opera for the 2019-2020 season. William recently graduated from the Manhattan School of Music where he studied under the tutelage of Warren Jones with the Jensen Scholarship for Opera Accompanying.

Program: Chopin, Moniuszko, Donizetti, Viardot, Delibes, Mozart. Buffet/Wine/- \$160, Valet Parking, all-inclusive.

EMBASSY OF SLOVAKIA ☀
3523 INTERNATIONAL COURT, NW

BRATISLAVA BOY'S CHOIR

Wednesday, April 22, 2020 7:30pm



The Bratislava Boys' Choir has been part of the Slovak artistic scene since 1982. Its founder is **Magdaléna Rovňáková**, Doctor of musical Art. The group is part of a private music school with about 90 students aged 7 to 28. The concert ensemble has 45 members. Years of collaboration with symphonic orchestras (The Slovak Philharmony, The Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra, The Vienna Symphony Orchestra, Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra) have enriched the choir's repertoire with dozens of oratorios, cantatas, and symphonies (J. S. Bach, L. Bernstein, B. Britten, A. Honegger, G. Mahler, C. Orff, C. Penderecki, M. Ravel, I. Stravinsky, E. Suchoň...) under world-renowned conductors (O. Lenárd, E. Villaume, J. Conlon, B. de Billy, A. Parrot, F. Luisi, R. Muti, G. Tate...). The boys are cast in operas and stage plays. Singing throughout Slovakia and beyond, they captivate audiences in

European cities (Berlin, Budapest, London, Moscow, Paris, Stockholm, Vienna...), the United States (Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco...), Canada (Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto), Japan (Osaka, Tokyo...), Taiwan (Taipei ...), Cyprus Nicosia, Paphos).

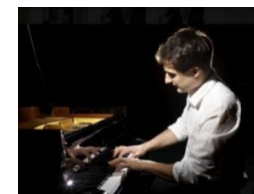
The Bratislava Boys' Choir won the first place at the International Choral Festival in the United States (Des Moines, Iowa). It also placed first at an international music competition in Moscow, receiving the Grand Prix and Cum Laude in Lecco (Italy). The Bratislava Boys' Choir has appeared in television films, cooperated with motion picture companies (Hallmark, Miramax...), and has recorded seven CDs. Many soloists and excellent choir singers grew up in this group. Excellent Slovak instructors are affiliated with the Choir: conductor Gabriel Rovňák jr., soloist and resident vocal coach Miriam Garajová and pianist Dana Hajóssy. Magdaléna Rovňáková (Doctor Artis) is the founder, conductor, and manager of the Bratislava Boys' Choir, and has led the group ever since its foundation in 1982. After completing studies at the Conservatory in Bratislava, she pursued choir conducting at the Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts and received a doctorate degree.

Under the direction of M. Rovňáková, the choir has recorded for various Slovak as well as international labels, and performed in television and motion pictures. **Buffet Dinner/Wine/Ample parking on the compound- \$80 (all-inclusive).**

EMBASSY OF HUNGARY ☀
2900 SPRING OF FREEDOM, NW

Friday, May 22, 2020 7:30pm

BALÁZS FÜLEI, PIANO



Bartók performer practice, which bespeaks of great courage and advanced sovereignty. (Élet és Irodalom, January 2015)

Mr. Fülei is a Bartók performer of calibre, he approaches characters markedly, makes authentic paces, dares to depart from the enshrined interpretations of the Hungarian

Balázs Fülei's connections to Bartók are truly colourful: as one the most sought-after performers of the Bartók Memorial Year in 2016 he has given numerous concerts in Hungary and abroad – in Vietnam, for instance, he was the first Hungarian musician to play Bartók's works. In 2017 he participated in two extraordinary performances: in a joint letter concert titled 'Viva Bartók!' with András Bálint at the Radnóti Theatre and in another program titled 'Allegro Barbaro' in which Bartók's piano pieces and the folk melodies inspiring them have been revived with Muzsikás Folk Ensemble. Important stages of his professional life include the Grand Hall of the Liszt Academy and Műpa (Palace of Arts) in Budapest, the Konzerthaus in Vienna, The Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Kioi Hall in Tokyo, the Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow, NCPA, the most prestigious concert hall in Mumbai and the Carnegie Hall in New York where he made his debut recital in 2008. He has worked together with the most significant Hungarian and foreign symphonic orchestras, he has given concerts in almost every country of Europe and also in Israel, in the USA, in Australia, Japan, China, and Vietnam. **Program: Claude Debussy: Estampes; César Franck: Prélude, Choral et Fuge; Ludwig van Beethoven: Sonata in f minor, Op. 57 ("Appassionata"); Franz Liszt: Venezia e Napoli. Buffet/wine- Ample parking on street- \$125 all-inclusive.**

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 **Buffet reception**