

amici
CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

Joaquin Valdepeñas
David Hetherington
Serouj Kradjian



2014|15 Season

Outstanding Performances.
Extraordinary Experiences.

www.amiciensemble.com

MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTORS



Outstanding Performances. Extraordinary Experiences.

Outstanding musicianship, innovative programming, and performances with the world's finest chamber musicians are the hallmarks of Amici Chamber Ensemble. The 2014-15 season celebrates these qualities in five remarkable programs featuring spectacular, internationally renowned guests - our newest Amici.

This season we welcome virtuoso guitarist Grisha Goryachev. Grisha's highly anticipated return to Toronto will feature the music of Spain, from classical favourites to new interpretations of fiery flamenco! Jonathan Crow, our guest of honour at the annual Gala Concert, will leave it to fate and give the audience their chance to choose a dazzling solo performance - we can't wait for the surprise ending! In February, the critically acclaimed New Orford String Quartet will join us on stage - a match made in heaven! In Remembrance - a special performance in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide - features Grammy Award-winning violist Kim Kashkashian. Finally, in April we're proud to welcome soprano Mireille Asselin. Once a student at the Glenn Gould School of Music, Mireille has risen to international renown as an artist with stellar reviews to her name.

We're thrilled to celebrate this season with a cast of truly exceptional guest artists, many of which are first-time collaborations. Each concert promises evocative programming and the finest musicians you'll ever hear. We hope you'll enjoy these outstanding performances, and cherish your own extraordinary experience!

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CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

Joaquin Valdepeñas, clarinet
David Hetherington, cello
Serouj Kradjian, piano

**FIERY PASSION &
THE IRRESISTIBLE
RHYTHMS OF SPAIN!**

Rediscovering the flamenco music tradition that lies at the heart of the great Spanish masterpieces. In tribute to the Maestro : the great Paco de Lucia.

Special Guests

Grisha Goryachev, guitar

Jamie Drake, percussion

Jeffrey Beecher, double bass

Isaac Albéniz

El Albaicín
Asturias

Paco de Lucia

Almoraima
Monasterio de Sal
Zyryab
Entre dos aguas

Albert Guinovart

Fantasia sobre Goyescas

Ernesto Lecuona

Malagueña

Liszt/Almaran

Historia de Paganini

¡ESPAÑA!



October 5, 2014 | 3pm

TELUS Centre for Performance and Learning
Mazzoleni Concert Hall, 273 Bloor Street West, Toronto
Tickets: Adult \$45, Senior \$40, 30 and under \$15, Student \$10
www.amiciensemble.com | 416.408.0208 | www.tickets.rcmusic.ca

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**TSO CONCERTMASTER JONATHAN CROW LEADS
MUSIC WITH A TRADITION OF FIRE, FEROCITY,
SWEETNESS OF TUNE AND LIVELY RHYTHMS.**

A celebratory gala with the magic of gypsy style and composers who were undoubtedly *alla zingarese*! In support of Amici Chamber Ensemble's Young Composers Program.

Guest Host
Julie Nesrallah

Special Guests
Jonathan Crow, violin
Neil Deland, horn

Rabih Abou-Khalil
Arabian Waltz

Antonin Dvořák
Songs My Mother Taught Me,
Op. 55

Zdeněk Fibich
Piano Quintet in D major,
Op. 42

Nicholai Kapustin
Burlesque,
Op. 97

Bohuslav Martinů
Sonatina for Clarinet
and Piano

ALLA ZINGARESE

GALA CONCERT



November 23, 2014 | 4pm

TELUS Centre for Performance and Learning
Conservatory Theatre 273 Bloor Street West, Toronto

Tickets: \$80

www.amiciensemble.com | 416.408.0208 | www.tickets.rcmusic.ca

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Born of seared
memory & uncertain future,
nostalgia & vision.

Influenced by Bohemian tradition, these composers
voiced the tensions of their time. The New Orford String
Quartet and Amici join forces to explore some of this most
passionate, and tender music.

Special Guests

New Orford String Quartet

Teng Li, viola

Johannes Brahms

Clarinet Quintet in B minor,
Op. 115

Erwin Schulhoff

String Sextet

Works for piano by

Liszt & Janáček

BOHEMIAN CONTRASTS



February 1, 2015 | 3PM

TELUS Centre for Performance and Learning
Mazzoleni Concert Hall, 273 Bloor Street West, Toronto
Tickets: Adult \$45, Senior \$40, 30 and under \$15, Student \$10
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AN EVOCATIVE PROGRAM
WITH GRAMMY AWARD-WINNING
VIOLIST KIM KASHKASHIAN.

On the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide,
we explore music inspired by friendship, grief,
rebirth and remembrance.

Special Guests

Kim Kashkashian, viola

Timothy Ying, violin

Beverly Johnston, percussion

Bella Bartók

Rhapsody No. 1

(for viola and piano)

Oswaldo Golijov

Mariel

(for cello and marimba)

Serouj Kradjian

Elegy for Restive Souls

Komitas

Folk Songs

Tigran Mansurian

Three Taghs

W. A. Mozart

Kegelstatt Trio

(for clarinet, viola and piano)

IN REMEMBRANCE



MARCH 1, 2015 | 3PM

TELUS Centre for Performance and Learning
Mazzoleni Concert Hall, 273 Bloor Street West, Toronto
Tickets: Adult \$45, Senior \$40, 30 and under \$15, Student \$10
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THE SHEPHERD

"A fine storyteller with a crystalline voice"

Mireille Asselin gives voice to stories of love, loss, and longing. A moving program of works for soprano and chamber ensemble.

Special Guest
Mireille Asselin, soprano

Mikhail Glinka
Trio pathétique
(for clarinet, cello & piano)

Paul Juon
Trio-Miniaturen
(for clarinet, cello & piano)
Op. 18a

Otto Nicolai
Variazioni Concertanti
(for soprano, clarinet & piano)

André Previn
Vocalise
(for soprano, cello & piano)

Franz Schubert
The Shepherd on the Rock
(for soprano, clarinet & piano)

John Tavener
Akhmatova Songs
(for soprano & cello)



April 12, 2015 | 3PM

TELUS Centre for Performance and Learning
Mazzoleni Concert Hall, 273 Bloor Street West, Toronto
Tickets: Adult \$45, Senior \$40, 30 and under \$15, Student \$10
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SEROUJ KRADJIAN



Canadian pianist and composer Serouj Kradjian has established himself as a versatile artist whose readiness to break new boundaries and explore different styles has made him an exciting voice on the international music scene. The New York Times has described Juno-award-winning and Grammy-nominated Kradjian's playing as a "persuasive balance between elegance and spirit," while the Frankfurter Allgemeine noted that he has "a fiery temperament and elegant sound" with "technique to burn." Mr. Kradjian has appeared with the Vancouver, Edmonton, Madrid and Göttingen Symphonies, the Russian National Orchestra, the Armenian Philharmonic and the Thailand Philharmonic.

Solo, chamber music recitals and premieres of his compositions have taken Mr. Kradjian from all major Canadian cities, via the U.S - New York (Carnegie Hall), Boston (Jordan Hall), San Francisco, Miami, Chicago and Los Angeles - to European concert halls in Paris, Munich, Salzburg, Trondheim, Lausanne, Geneva, Madrid, Barcelona and Bilbao and to the Far East in China and Japan.. He is regularly invited to the Ottawa, Bergen, Savannah, Colmar and Cortona music festivals.

As a collaborative artist, Kradjian has appeared in concert with sopranos Dawn Upshaw, Isabel Bayrakdarian, baritone Russell Braun, tenor Michael Shade, violinists Lara St. John, Jonathan Crow and Ara Malikian, and the Pacifica, Cecilia and Arthur LeBlanc String Quartets.

Serouj Kradjian's discography includes the acclaimed Transcendental Etudes and Piano Concerti by Franz Liszt, and Robert Schumann's three sonatas for violin and piano (with Ara Malikian). With Isabel Bayrakdarian he recorded songs by Pauline Viardot-Garcia, which brought the two artists international accolades and a 2006 Juno award for Classical Album of the Year. With the Amici Chamber Ensemble, of which he is co-artistic director, he has recorded Armenian Chamber Music, and Levant which won the Juno award for Best Classical Recording in 2013.

His explorations of tango and flamenco music have led to the critically acclaimed recording project "Tango Notturmo" and the North American concert tour of "Reimagining Flamenco" with virtuoso flamenco guitarist Grisha Goryachev.

Works composed or arranged by Serouj Kradjian have been performed by I Musici de Montréal, the Vancouver Symphony and the Elmer Iseler Singers. His 2008 orchestral arrangements of folk songs by Gomidas, Armenia's national composer, featured in the Nonesuch release Gomidas Songs earned him a Grammy award nomination. Trobairitz Ysabella, a song cycle for soprano and orchestra, inspired by medieval women troubadours, was a commission by the CBC and premiered by the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra in 2011 and included in the Juno-nominated recording "Troubadour and the Nightingale" also featuring his orchestrations of songs by Maurice Ravel and Sayat Nova sung by Ms. Bayrakdarian and Anne Manson conducting the MCO.

In April 2015 Mr. Kradjian's new composition "Cantata for Living Martyrs", dedicated to the centenary of the Armenian Genocide, will be premiered by the Fresno Philharmonic and Chorus, which becomes the only professional music organization in the US to premiere a work specifically dedicated to the Genocide Centenary.

DAVID HETHERINGTON



A native of St. Catharines Ontario, David Hetherington is currently the Toronto Symphony Orchestra's Assistant Principal Cellist.

He received his musical training at the Royal Conservatory of Music and the University of Toronto, and furthered his cello studies in New York, Italy and Germany with Claus Adam, André Navarra and Paul Tortelier.

A member of the TSO since 1970, Mr. Hetherington also teaches at the Glenn Gould School at the Royal Conservatory. He coaches the cello sections of the Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra and the National Youth Orchestra of Canada, and is Music Director of the Inter-Provincial Music Camp near Parry Sound, Ontario.

As soloist, Mr. Hetherington has performed with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra, the Niagara Symphony, the Symphony Orchestra of Canada, New Music Concerts and Soundstreams Canada as well as recitals at the University of Toronto and the Royal Conservatory of Music.

As chamber musician, he has toured Canada, the United States, Mexico and Europe, appeared at the Ottawa, Elora, Sweetwater and Kincardine Music Festivals and performed with many internationally renowned artists such as Shmuel Ashkenasi, Emmanuel Ax, Isabel Bayrakdarian, Measha Brueggergosman, James Ehnes, Heinz Holliger and Arnold Steinhardt. In addition to Amici Chamber Ensemble, Mr. Hetherington is also a founding member of the string quartet Accordes, which performs regularly for New Music Concerts and other contemporary music organizations. In 2001, the Canadian Music Centre, through Centrediscs, released Accordes' recording of Harry Somers' String Quartets, for which it received a Juno Award nomination. Accordes has also recorded works by several other Canadian composers such as Norma Beecroft, David Eagle, Harry Freedman, Hope Lee, Alexina Louie and Jean Papineau-Couture.

Mr. Hetherington has appeared on several recordings for the CBC and for Centrediscs with whom he made the Canadian première recording of Talivaldis Kenins' prize-winning cello sonata. He has been active in performing and recording much contemporary music and has recorded solo cello pieces by Alice Ho, Chan Ka Nin (CBC Records) and Elliot Carter (Naxos). In addition, he has collaborated personally with many other composers such as Brian Cherney, Henri Dutilleux, Heinz Holliger, Helmut Lachenmann, Magnus Lindberg and Alexina Louie for performances of their works for solo cello. All of these performances were recorded for broadcast by the CBC.

Mr. Hetherington plays a cello made in 1695 by Giovanni Battista Grancino.

JOAQUIN VALDEPEÑAS



Joaquin Valdepeñas makes international appearances as a soloist, chamber musician, and conductor and is considered one of the most distinguished clarinetists of his generation. He has received two Grammy nominations as a member of the ARC ensemble and has won a Juno award for his recording of the Jacques Hétu clarinet concerto. Mr. Valdepeñas has made over three dozen recordings, most recently a June 2013 release on the Chandos label featuring the Clarinet Quintet of Paul Ben-Haim. In addition, he has recorded the Mozart clarinet concerto with the English Chamber Orchestra.

He has performed with many distinguished artists such as Leif Ove Andsnes, Kathleen Battle, Isabel Bayrakdarian, Barbara Bonney, Joshua Bell, Vladimir Feltsman, Steven Isserlis, Cho Liang Lin, Yo Yo Ma, Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, John O'Connor and Pinchas Zuckerman as well as collaborating with some of the world's finest string quartets such as the American, Calder, Emerson, Muir, Orion, Takacs, St. Lawrence, Ying and Zemlinsky, as well he has collaborated with the Kalichstein, Laredo Robinson Trio at the Y in New York City, The international Sejong Soloists in Korea and The Chamber Society of Lincoln Center.

Commissioning many works by Canadian composers, Mr. Valdepeñas gave the American première of Arias for Clarinet and Orchestra by Michael Colgrass with the Buffalo Philharmonic. His European début, a performance with the BBC Welsh Symphony, was broadcast on BBC Television conducted by Sir Andrew Davis.

In addition to his duties as principal clarinet of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and a former conductor of the Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra, he has conducted the TSO on many occasions. He has participated in international music festivals including Banff, Canada; the Casals, Puerto Rico; Evian, France; New York's Mostly Mozart, United States; Nagano, Japan; Curitiba, Brazil, and most recently the Great Mountain Music Festival in Korea.

Mr. Valdepeñas has been a member of the faculty of the Aspen Music Festival and School for over twenty-five years and is currently on the faculty of the Glenn Gould School at the Royal Conservatory of Music. Today many of his former students hold positions in orchestras around the world including the New York Philharmonic, the Cleveland Orchestra, the Minnesota Orchestra and the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra.

As an exclusive Yamaha artist he was instrumental in the design of the new CSG Yamaha clarinet combining the French and German traditions into a unique voice.

"Joaquin is one of the very finest clarinetists in the world today and a musician of profound sensitivity and charisma." - Peter Oundjian

CREATIVE HEIGHTS

Through the support of our generous donors, Amici Chamber Ensemble is able to reach new creative heights in its innovative programming, engaging collaborations, and educational outreach programs.

We thank you for your continued support!

FRIENDS \$25 - \$99

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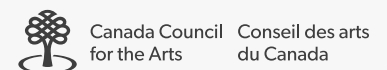
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HEIGHTS \$1000+

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