

BALDASSARE GALUPPI (1706-1785)

**CHARLES AVISON** (1709-1770)

FRANCESCO GEMINIANI (1687-1762)

**ANTONIO VIVALDI** (1678-1741)

ARCANGELO CORELLI (1653-1713)

VIVALDI

GIANPIERO ZANOCCO Concertmaster and leader

VENICE BAROQUE ORCHESTRA

NICOLA BENEDETTI VIOLIN

FEBRUARY 22, 2017

**Concerto à Quattro No. 2 in G major** Andante-Allegro, Andante, Allegro assai

**Concerto Grosso No. 8 in E minor, after D. Scarlatti** Adagio, Allegro, Amoroso, Vivace

**Concerto Grosso in D minor, "La Follia"** (after A. Corelli Op. 5, no. 12) Allegro, Adagio, Vivace, Allegro, Andante, Allegro, Adagio, Adagio, Allegro, Adagio, Allegro

**Concerto in D major for violin, strings, and basso continuo, RV211** Allegro non molto, Larghetto, Allegro

## INTERMISSION

**Concerto Grosso in D major, Op. 6, no. 4** Adagio-Allegro, Adagio, Vivace, Allegro

**Concerto in E-flat major for violin, strings, and basso continuo, RV257** Andante molto e quasi allegro, Adagio, Allegro

**Concerto in B minor for violin, strings, and basso continuo, RV386** Allegro ma poco, Larghetto, Allegro

**Concerto in D major for violin, strings, and basso continuo "Il Grosso Mogul," RV208** Allegro, Grave-Recitativo, Allegro



# VENICE BAROQUE ORCHESTRA

Founded in 1997 by Baroque scholar and harpsichordist Andrea Marcon, the Venice Baroque Orchestra is recognized as one of the very finest period instrument ensembles. The Orchestra has received wide critical acclaim for its concert and opera performances throughout North America, Europe, South America, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, and China, and has appeared in many more cities across the United States than any other Baroque orchestra in history.

Committed to the rediscovery of 17th- and 18thcentury masterpieces, under Mr. Marcon's leadership VBO has given the modern-day premieres of Francesco Cavalli's L'Orione, Vivaldi's Atenaide, Andromeda liberata, Benedetto Marcello's La morte d'Adone and Il trionfo della poesia e della musica, and Boccherini's La Clementina. With Teatro La Fenice in Venice, the Orchestra has staged Cimarosa's L'Olimpiade, Handel's Siroe, and Galuppi's L'Olimpiade, and reprised Siroe at the Brooklyn Academy of Music in New York in its first full staging in the United States. The Orchestra has been seen worldwide through several television specials, including films by the BBC, ARTE, NTR (Netherlands), and NHK. They are the subject of three recent video recordings, and their performances were also featured on Swiss TV in the documentary film by Richard Dindo, Vivaldi in Venice

Violins I GIANPIERO ZANOCCO concertmaster GIACOMO CATANA MAURO SPINAZZÈ FRANCESCO LOVATO Violins II GIORGIO BALDAN DAVID MAZZACAN GIUSEPPE CABRIO CLAUDIO RADO Viola

ALESSANDRA DI VINCENZO MERI SKEJIC

Cello MASSIMO RACCANELLI ZABORRA FEDERICO TOFFANO

FEDERICO IOFFANO

Double Bass
ALESSANDRO PIVELLI

Lute IVANO ZANENGHI

Harpsichord LORENZO FEDER 2016-17 season highlights include performances of Vivaldi's *Juditha triumphans* at Carnegie Hall, the Krannert Center of the University of Illinois, London's Barbican Centre, and Brussels' Palais des Beaux-Arts, marking the occasion of the 300th anniversary of the oratorio's premiere in Venice; performances with violinist Viktoria Mullova at Vienna's Musikverein and in Budapest; an 18-city tour of the US featuring violinist Nicola Benedetti; and a tour of Japan with mandolinist Avi Avital.

Performance highlights include extensive tours of Europe, the United States, and Asia with countertenor Philippe Jaroussky; concerts with contralto Marie-Nicole Lemieux in France and Belgium; concerts with mandolinist Avi Avital in Italy, Croatia, Germany, Spain, France, Mexico, and a twelve-concert tour of the United States and Canada; performance in the Frauenkirche with soprano Karina Gauvin for the Dresden Music Festival; and a tour with mezzo-soprano Magdalena Kožená including the Istanbul Festival and the Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg. Highly unusual for a Baroque ensemble, the VBO premiered contemporary composer Philip Glass's violin concerto *The American Four Seasons*. With violinist Robert McDuffie, the Orchestra appeared in 28 cities across the continent in 2010.

The Orchestra's latest recording, featuring Avi Avital in Vivaldi concertos, was released by Deutsche Grammophon. Their previous recording, featuring Philippe Jaroussky in Porpora arias on the Erato label, received a GRAMMY© nomination. The 2012 release on Naïve, a pastiche of Metastasio's L'Olimpiade featuring the recording premieres of many 18th-century opera arias, was awarded Choc du Monde de la Musique. The VBO has an extensive discography with Sony and Deutsche Grammophon. Their world-premiere recording of Andromeda liberata for DG was followed by violin concertos with Giuliano Carmignola; Vivaldi sinfonias and concertos for strings; Vivaldi motets and arias with soprano Simone Kermes; two discs with Ms. Kožená—Handel arias and Vivaldi arias; Vivaldi violin concertos with Viktoria Mullova and Mr. Carmignola; and Italian arias with Ms. Petibon. The Orchestra's earlier discography on Sony with Mr. Carmignola includes *The Four Seasons*, previously unrecorded Vivaldi concertos, and a collection of Bach arias featuring Angelika Kirchschlager. The Orchestra has also been honored with the Diapason d'Or, Echo Award, and the Edison Award.

The Venice Baroque Orchestra is supported by Fondazione Cassamarca in Treviso, Italy, and is presented by arrangement with Alliance Artist Management, New York.



NICOLA BENEDETTI violin

# NICOLA BENEDETTI

Nicola Benedetti is one of the most sought after violinists of her generation. Her ability to captivate audiences with her innate musicianship and dynamic presence, coupled with her wide appeal as a high profile advocate for classical music, has made her one of the most influential classical artists of today.

With concerto performances at the heart of her career, Ms. Benedetti is in much demand with major orchestras and conductors across the globe. Highlights of the 2016/17 season include performances with the London Philharmonic, Israel Philharmonic, Frankfurt Radio Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, and Toronto Symphony among many others. This season will see the continuation of the premiere performance circuit with the Wynton Marsalis Violin Concerto written for Ms. Benedetti with the Leipzig Gewandhausorchester, Netherlands Radio Philharmonic, and National Symphony Orchestra of Washington, D.C.

Most recently Ms. Benedetti has enjoyed collaborations with the London Symphony Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Orchestra of the Mariinsky Theatre, Verdi Orchestra Milano, Camerata Salzburg, Berlin Konzerthausorchester, Danish National Symphony Orchestra, Czech Philharmonic, La Cetra Barockorchester, Orchestre Capitole du Toulouse, Iceland Symphony, New Zealand Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, Toronto Symphony, National Arts Centre Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl, and the Chicago Symphony at the Ravinia Festival. In addition, Ms. Benedetti developed her own education and outreach initiative entitled *The Benedetti Sessions* that gives hundreds of aspiring young string players the opportunity to rehearse, undertake, and observe masterclasses culminating in a performance alongside Ms. Benedetti.

Winner of *Best Female Artist* at both 2012 and 2013 Classical BRIT Awards, Ms. Benedetti records exclusively for Decca (Universal Music). Her most recent recording of Shostakovich and Glazunov Violin Concertos has been met with critical acclaim. Her recording *Homecoming; A Scottish Fantasy* made Ms. Benedetti the first solo British violinist since the 1990's to enter the Top 20 of the Official U.K. Albums Chart.

Ms. Benedetti was appointed as a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the 2013 New Year Honors, in recognition of her international music career and work with musical charities throughout the United Kingdom.

Ms. Benedetti plays the Gariel Stradivarius (1717), courtesy of Jonathan Moulds.

NOTES Program Notes © Elizabeth Bergman

# The Composers

In the late 17th and early 18th centuries, Italy was the musical hotbed of Europe, producing a host of brilliant composers, virtuosic instrumentalists, and acclaimed singers celebrated at home and abroad. Italian operas dominated the stages of Central Europe, England, and Russia, while Italian composers and musicians cultivated exciting new instrumental genres and styles. Most notable was the Baroque concerto. Its pioneer during the Early Baroque era was **Arcangelo Corelli** (1653-1713), a violinist and composer based in Rome. He composed in only three genres (the solo sonata, trio sonata, and concerto) and produced a relatively modest amount of music, yet he proved to be one of the most influential composers of the age, establishing the style, form, and technique of instrumental music throughout Italy and, indeed, all of Europe.

The English adored Corelli's music, and welcomed his former student, **Francesco Geminiani** (1687-1762), into the private salons and recital halls of London. Geminiani quickly found himself under the care of well-connected patrons and even performed for the King—with Handel as his accompanist. His reputation rested equally on his talents as a violinist, composer, and teacher. "He was credited with having set English musical taste on the right path," one scholar has written, "by encouraging the study and performance of Corelli's music, and with having made an important contribution to the forming of an English school of violinists and composers."

One member of the English school was composer and critic **Charles Avison** (1709-1770), the most important English concerto composer of the 18th century. He studied with Geminiani in London before accepting a position as an organist in Newcastle, about 270 miles north of the capital. He frequently transcribed the music of his Italian contemporaries, turning keyboard sonatas into concertos, for example, and his writings on 18th century music remain invaluable for their insights into compositional practice and musical aesthetics at the time.

A near contemporary of Avison, **Baldassare Galuppi** (1706-1785) worked in Venice, perhaps the most musical city in the most musical country of the age. Born on an island in the Venetian lagoon, Galuppi trained with the organist at the cathedral of San Marco and worked as a keyboardist playing in the theaters of Venice. He composed both sacred and secular music, especially oratorios and operas, along with elegant, engaging instrumental works. Like Vivaldi, he taught music at girls' orphanages, but he also traveled to London (where he worked at the King's Theater) and was in residence at the court of Catherine the Great in St. Petersburg, Russia. Described as a generous

family man, Galuppi was reportedly as appealing a person as he was successful a composer. "His character and conversation are natural, intelligent, and agreeable," wrote one observer. "He is in figure little and thin but has very much the look of a gentleman, and is esteemed at Venice as much for his private character as for his public talents."

At the time, Venice was dominated by another, more flamboyant figure: the virtuosic violinist and boldly original composer Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741). He grew up in Venice, eldest son of a barber-turned-professional-violinist, and trained for the priesthood. In 1703, he was appointed master violin teacher at the Pio Ospedale della Pietà, an orphanage for girls that offered excellent musical instruction and compelling concerts. Vivaldi directed the music program there until 1740, composing some 500 concertos (or at least 500 concertos are attributed to him) and some 90 sonatas. His girls were truly talented, as evidenced by the technically brilliant, flashy, and often incredibly innovative concerti Vivaldi wrote for them. He transformed the concerto into a virtuosic showpiece, composing concerto grossi and solo concerti that influenced his contemporary, J. S. Bach. As the musicologist Johann Nikolaus Forkel (1749-1818) wrote, Vivaldi "taught him [Bach] how to think musically." Bach transcribed nine of Vivaldi's concerti ("Il Grosso Mogul" among them) as a way to analyze and absorb his musical style.

# The Baroque Concerto

The Baroque concerto is different from the Classical or Romantic concertos in later centuries. Those concertos, for example, by Mozart or Beethoven, feature a solo performer accompanied by an orchestra. The Baroque concerto of the early 18th century pits two groups of performers against each other in a spirited discussion. Thus the concerto grows out of the older, Baroque trio sonata, with a pair of melody instruments (usually violins) backed by one or more continuo instruments (cellos, the harpsichord) that provide the harmonic foundation. In the concerto, these groups can be of flexible size: the concerto grosso or ripieno is the larger; the concertino the smaller.

## Program Notes *Continued*

# BALDASSARE GALUPPI: CONCERTO À QUATTRO NO. 2 IN G MAJOR

Tonight marks the first performance of this work on our series. Galuppi's Concerto a Quattro was actually once thought to be by Corelli himself, so close to the master's style is his own work. It follows the sonata da chiesa (church sonata) format, with four movements, slow-fast-slow-fast. The fast movements feature some imitative counterpoint and overlapping musical lines in true Baroque style, whereas the slow movements often hint at the emerging Classical style, which privileges balanced melodies and clear textures.

# CHARLES AVISON: CONCERTO GROSSO NO. 8 IN E MINOR

Tonight marks the first performance of this work on our series. Avison's Concerto Grosso No. 8 in E minor is based on the music of the Italian keyboard master Domenico Scarlatti (1685-1757). It is not a transcription, but a kind of compilation of four different keyboard sonatas by Scarlatti. Movements from the sonatas are skillfully arranged for a string ensemble and adapted to the genre of the sonata da chiesa. The overall character of the movements hews closely to Corelli's example: a somber opening Adagio is followed by an upbeat Allegro; the third movement Amoroso is operatic in its poignant lyricism, and the finale is a sprightly dance.

# FRANCESCO GEMINIANI: CONCERTO GROSSO IN D MINOR, "LA FOLLIA"

Last performed on our series April 22, 2010 (Venice Baroque Orchestra). Geminiani's Concerto Grosso, "La Follia" is a transcription of a violin sonata by Corelli. The original sonata, Geminiani's source, is not a typical Baroque sonata, but rather a set of twenty-four variations on a beloved progression of modal harmonies known as "La follia." In recasting Corelli's sonata as a concerto grosso, Geminiani divides up the musical material to create the alternation of small and large ensembles wholly typical of the concerto grosso. Antonio Vivaldi's music has come to define the High Baroque concerto itself—and vice versa, in the sense that clearly Vivaldi shaped his talent to suit the form. Most of his concerti are in three movements, fast-slow-fast. The fast movements rely on ritornello form, meaning that an orchestral refrain alternates with passages for the soloist or soloists; typically, five ritornelli alternate with four solo episodes. Vivaldi was also the first concerto composer to make the slow movement of a concerto just as weighty and significant as the outer fast movements. The title of Vivaldi's Concerto in D major, "ll Grosso Mogul," refers to the Mogul emperors of India. However, there is nothing Indian about the Concerto; the work acquired the title only because it was performed alongside a play set in India.

ANTONIO VIVALDI: CONCERTO IN D MAJOR FOR VIOLIN, STRINGS, AND BASSO CONTINUO, RV211

ANTONIO VIVALDI: CONCERTO IN E-FLAT MAJOR FOR VIOLIN, STRINGS, AND BASSO CONTINUO, RV257

ANTONIO VIVALDI: CONCERTO IN B MINOR FOR VIOLIN, STRINGS, AND BASSO CONTINUO, RV386

ANTONIO VIVALDI: CONCERTO IN D MAJOR FOR VIOLIN, STRINGS, AND BASSO CONTINUO, "IL GROSSO MOGUL," RV208

Tonight marks the first performance of these works on our series.

**Corelli's Concerto Op. 6,** one of twelve in a set published in 1714, is a concerto grosso with a concertino group of 2 violins and a cello. Op. 6 establishes the form and style of the Early Baroque Concerto, and this particular concerto follows the sonata da chiesa format. There are four movements, alternating slow-fast, and much highstyle, sacred-sounding counterpoint. The third movement Adagio is set in a minor key and takes on a remarkably serious, grave, and somber tone. The finale, the longest movement, frequently builds tension through sequences rising repetitions that generate momentum. ARCANGELO CORELLI: CONCERTO GROSSO IN D MAJOR, OP. 6, NO. 4

Last performed on our series April 21, 1975 (I Musici)



# LUNCHTIME LISTENING: FREE CHAMBER MUSIC AT 1801

We are pleased to continue our partnership with Arts Brookfield for a third year, offering a series of free lunchtime concerts in downtown Denver each Tuesday in April. Bring your lunch and join us in the spectacular lobby at 1801 California Street, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

The series will open on Tuesday, April 4 with the Lamont violin duo, Quanshuai Li and Yuanmiao Li, continuing on Tuesday, April 11 with the Altius Quartet. Watch our website for upcoming programs on April 18 and 25.

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# 2016-2017 PIANO SERIES



# JOYCE YANG wed, mar 15, 2017 | 7:30 pm

Gramophone praised her "imaginative programming" and "beautifully atmospheric playing."

## PROGRAM:

Schumann: Three Romances, Op. 28 Vine: *The Anne Landa Preludes* Granados: *Goyescas*, Nos. 1 and 4 Schumann: Symphonic Etudes, Op. 13



# MURRAY PERAHIA wed, may 3, 2017 I 7:30 pm

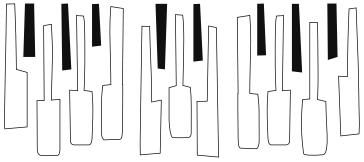
"Perahia's extraordinary pianism is a sacrament of purification and a kind of return to an age of pianistic innocence." - LOS ANGELES TIMES

## PROGRAM:

Bach: French Suite No. 6 in E major, BWV 817 Schubert: Four Impromptus, Op. 142, D. 935 Beethoven: Sonata in B-flat major, Op. 106 "Hammerklavier"

# TO ORDER PIANO SERIES TICKETS:

Single tickets \$35 each (\$60 for Murray Perahia) \$10 Students (25 years or younger) Visit www.friendsofchambermusic.com or Newman Center Box Office | 303-872-7720 | www.newmantix.com





Patrick Sutton (guitar) and Kimberly Patterson (cello)

# "MUSIC IN THE GALLERIES"

# PATTERSON/SUTTON DUO

Sunday, April 9, 2017, 2:00 pm Clyfford Still Museum 1250 Bannock Street Half-price admission (\$5) for FCM patrons

Join us for our final "Music in the Galleries" for the season, with a performance by the Patterson/Sutton Duo. Kimberly Patterson (cello) and Patrick Sutton (guitar) formed their duo in 2011 as doctoral students at the University of Colorado, and have collaborated in recitals, residencies, and lectures throughout the country and abroad. Their program will include the world premiere of Colorado composer Nathan Hall's "Time and the Villa," Steven Goss's "The Autumn Song," and Ricardo Iznaola's "Musique de Salon."

"Music in the Galleries" is offered in partnership with the Clyfford Still Museum and Swallow Hill Music. If you share Still's appreciation for music, join us for this live performance in the galleries to experience his work through both sight and sound.

Music is free with admission to the galleries. As a part of this partnership, the museum has offered FCM patrons half price tickets (if purchased in advance) to enter the museum on performance days. Visit www. friendsofchambermusic.com to purchase tickets in advance.

# CLYFFORD STILL | MUSEUM

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# FCM EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH PROGRAMS EDUCATE – ENGAGE - ENTHRALL

Friends of Chamber Music is committed to educational outreach, engaging both local and visiting artists to provide concerts, residencies and master classes at Denver area elementary, junior high and senior high schools. Performances are presented primarily in Denver Public Schools. We offer these performances free of charge, thanks to funding from the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District.

# SCHOOL ASSEMBLY PERFORMANCES

FCM schedules fun, interactive performances by local musicians, including members of the Colorado Symphony Orchestra. These concerts are our most popular form of outreach, bringing the magic of chamber music to nearly 3,000 students annually.

# MASTER CLASSES

FCM occasionally arranges master classes with the professional musicians who travel to Denver for our Chamber or Piano Series concerts. This year students have had the opportunity to work with the Ariel Quartet, pianist Jonathan Biss, and the Harlem Quartet.

# SCHOOL-BASED RESIDENCIES

FCM offers music residency programs designed to offer targeted, interactive instruction based on the specific needs of a classroom teacher. Current residency programs are serving students at Maxwell Elementary, Swansea Elementary, and North High School. If you know a school that would be interested in our educational programming, contact us at friendsofchambermusic@ comcast.net or 303–388–9839.



Yo-Yo Ma coaches a quartet from the Lamont School of Music.



An El Sistema student "Soundpaints" with her peers.



The Harlem Quartet performs for students at Garden Place Elementary.

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**Steven Isserlis, cello Connie Shih, piano** Tuesday, April 25, 7:30 PM

## **PIANO SERIES**

Joyce Yang Wednesday, March 15, 7:30 PM

**Murray Perahia** Wednesday, May 3, 7:30 PM

### ADVANCE SINGLE TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FOR ALL CONCERTS

Visit our website: www.friendsofchambermusic.com or contact the Newman Center Box Office, 303-871-7720 www.newmantix.com

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**Lamont Violin Duo** Tuesday, April 4, 12:00 PM 1801 California Street

**Patterson/Sutton Duo** Sunday, April 9, 2:00 PM Clyfford Still Museum

Altius Quartet Tuesday, April 11, 12:00 PM 1801 California Street

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