



2013 ANNO DELLA CULTURA ITALIANA  
YEAR OF ITALIAN CULTURE



WYO's tournée in the U.S. has been made possible thanks to the following institutions and organizations:



*Consulate General of Italy in Philadelphia  
Embassy of Italy  
Italian Cultural Institute - Washington D.C.*



*Boyer College of Music and Dance  
The Italian Program - FGIS Department  
Temple University*



*The Coccia Foundation  
Temple Amici Club*



World Youth Orchestra Foundation  
Via Tirana, 13 Roma  
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00167 Roma  
[www.worldyouthorchestra.com](http://www.worldyouthorchestra.com)



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On the occasion of  
**2013 Year of Italian Culture in the U.S.**



2013 ANNO DELLA CULTURA ITALIANA  
YEAR OF ITALIAN CULTURE



The Consulate General of Italy in Philadelphia,  
the Boyer College of Music and Dance, and  
the Italian program - FGIS Department at Temple University  
present

## **World Youth Chamber Orchestra in**

### ***Italian and American sounds***

A Concert with Music by G. Verdi and S. Barber



**November 16, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Rock Hall Auditorium**

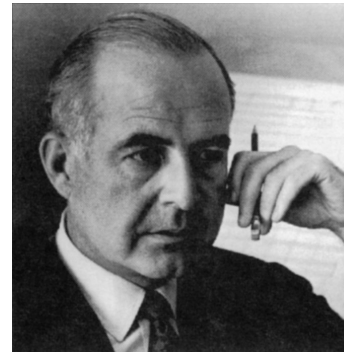
1715 North Broad Street - Philadelphia, PA 19106

## The Project



The World Youth Chamber Orchestra is dedicated to the younger generations of Italian and American musicians, and to the great musical tradition of the two countries. The Foundation, which has been for years an incubator for young talented people from Italy and all around the world, aims to build partnerships and networks capable of generating and sustaining durable exchanges and cooperations. This project, supported by the Italian Embassy and the Italian Cultural Institute in Washington, DC is part of the “Year of Italian Culture in the USA”.

## The American Composer: Samuel Barber



Native of West Chester, PA, at age 14 **Samuel Barber** entered the **Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia**. He began composing seriously in his late teenage years. Around the same time, he met fellow Curtis schoolmate Gian Carlo Menotti, who became his partner in life as well as in their shared profession. At the Curtis Institute, Barber was a triple prodigy in composition, voice, and piano. He died of cancer in 1981 in New York City at the

age of 70. He is buried in Oaklands Cemetery in West Chester, PA.

He began his **String Quartet in B minor, Op. 11** while living in Austria with his partner after winning the Prix de Rome. He intended that the quartet be premiered by the **Curtis String Quartet**, but did not finish the piece in time for their concert tour. On Sep. 19, 1936 Barber wrote their cellist Orlando Cole: “I have just finished the slow movement of my quartet today - it is a knockout! Now for a Finale.” Having completed a finale, the string quartet was premiered in its provisional form by the Pro Arte Quartet on December 14, 1936 at the Villa Aurelia in Rome. Afterward Barber withdrew the finale so as to rewrite it, which he did by April, 1937. He rewrote it again before it was published.

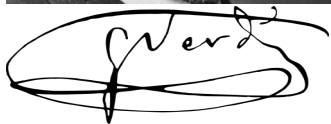
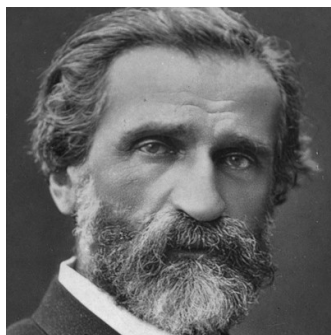
The opening movement is in sonata form, the second movement the famous adagio, and the final version of the finale, added to the second movement *attacca*, is shortened, lasting two-minutes, and revisits themes from the opening movement, thereby creating a cyclic form for the quartet.

When Barber was 28, his *Adagio for Strings* (arranged from the slow movement of String Quartet Op. 11) was performed by the NBC Symphony Orchestra conducted by A. Toscanini, along with his first *Essay for Orchestra*. Toscanini had only rarely performed music by American composers before, but was impressed by this work “semplice e bello” (simple and beautiful), as he said after the first rehearsal.

**This concert is a tribute to American composer Samuel Barber, a Pennsylvanian whose talent was discovered and developed in this very city of Philadelphia.**

## The Italian Composer: Giuseppe Verdi

Giuseppe Verdi's production of *Aida* in early March, 1873 was delayed due to the sudden illness of soprano Teresa Stolz. Verdi focused his time in Naples on the writing of his first chamber work, **String Quartet in E minor**. The work was premiered two days after the opening of *Aida* during an informal recital at his hotel on April 1, 1873. Verdi commented on the work, saying: "I've written a Quartet in my leisure moments in Naples. I had it performed one evening in my house, without attaching the least importance to it and without inviting anyone in particular.



Only the seven or eight persons who usually come to visit me were present. I don't know whether the Quartet is beautiful or ugly, but I do know that it's a Quartet!" Despite Verdi's humble words, his String Quartet in E minor is valued among the great classical chamber works of the 19th century. Tonight WYCO will perform the version for string orchestra.

**Ave Maria** for soprano and orchestra is one of Verdi's most obscure mature works, from 1880. Verdi thought that this vernacular rendering of the prayer was by Dante; in fact, it is now believed to be by Antonio de' Beccari, a Ferrarese from the early fourteenth century. In any event, one of Verdi's motivations in creating this "Ave Maria" was, in a broad sense, political. He wished to highlight *Italian* traditions (of poetry, of vocal music) in contrast to the foreign works then in fashion in Italy. (*Does Italy ever change? Sigh...*) Verdi wrote to colleagues in 1879: "It is right to educate the public to, as the cognoscenti say, high art, but it seems to me that the art of Palestrina and Marcello may also be high art... and it is *ours*."

This concert is a tribute to Italian composer Giuseppe Verdi in the 200th Anniversary of his Birth (1813-1901),

## World Youth Chamber Orchestra

**Violin I** Alex Russell§, Greta Medini, Annelie Gregory,  
Fabrizio Falasca, Gennaro Cardaropoli

**Violin II** Cecilia Ziano\*, Brendon Elliott, Gabriele Ceci,  
Jacob Joyce

**Viola** Marco Nirta\*, Ben Bartelt, Lucia Zazzaro

**Cello** Ismar Gomes\*, Desiree Miller

§Concertmaster

\*Principal

Damiano Giuranna conductor, Marco Nirta viola

## Music Program

**G. Verdi Ave Maria**  
(edition for string orchestra)

**G. Verdi Quartet in e minor**  
(edition for string orchestra)

*Allegro*

*Andantino*

*Prestissimo*

*Fuga – Allegro assai mosso*

**S. Barber Canzonetta for viola and strings**

**S. Barber Quartet op. 11** (edition for string orchestra)  
*Molto allegro e appassionato*  
*Molto adagio*  
*Molto allegro (come prima)*



## World Youth Chamber Orchestra: *Italian and American Sounds*



Since September 15, 2001, when he founded the World Youth Orchestra and then the World Youth Chamber Orchestra, **Damiano Giuranna** has been engaged in a new idea of performing music, combining art and social commitment. Damiano Giuranna has taken the WYO and the WYCO on tours in Italy, Germany, Malta, Estonia, Ireland and the United States, Accademia Nazionale di S. Cecilia, Auditorium Parco della Musica, Berlin Konzerthaus, Manoel Theatre, Estonian National Opera, Limerik University Hall, and in many other places, where the WYCO was always appreciated by the audience and critics alike. In June 2005, Damiano Giuranna directed the WYO, in a special concert held at the United Nations in New York in the General Assembly Hall. The concert was performed at the invitation of UNICEF's International Board and by the Italian Mission to the United Nations. Over the course of eight years, the two companies have involved more than 1,200 young talents from the five continents. Prestigious tutors from important musical institutions such as the Orchestra of the Scala in Milan, the Berlin Philharmonic, the Orchestra of Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, the Juilliard School of Music, the Mozartueum of Salzburg, the Royal Academy of Music of London, and the Orchestra of the Academy of S. Cecilia; Supporting this concert were representatives from the most prestigious international institutions such as the United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan, the President of the European Commission, the Council of Europe Secretary General and many others. Thanks to its social commitment, the WYO was nominated UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador in 2002.

## World Youth Chamber Orchestra: *Italian and American Sounds*

### **Alex Russell**

He has given hundreds of recitals across four continents, appearing as soloist with Orchestras around the US and abroad, and selling over four thousand copies of his six full-length albums. Alex earned an M.M. in Violin from the Cleveland Institute of Music and currently lives in Southern California where he is Assistant Professor of violin at Azusa Pacific University and is completing a Doctorate of Musical Arts at the University of Southern California.



### **Lucia Zazzaro**

She obtained her violin degree with the highest honors at the Conservatory of Udine and currently attends the first year of perfection at the W. Stauffer Academy of Cremona with Bruno Giuranna.



### **Cecilia Ziano**

At only 6 years of age she starts playing in the Suzuki Orchestra, with whom she takes part in many concerts all round the world. In 2009 she was awarded the "Orpheus d'Oro" as best young promising musician. Currently she studies with M<sup>o</sup> Salvatore Accardo at the "Walter Stauffer" Academy in Cremona and at the "Accademia Chigiana" in Siena, where she received the Certificate of Honor for artistic merit.

## World Youth Chamber Orchestra: *Italian and American Sounds*



### **Greta Medini**

She received her diploma at the F. Torrefranca Conservatory of Vibo Valentia with the highest evaluation and honorable mention. At only 10 years of age she began concert activity in a duo with piano, followed by various prestigious international

orchestras. She has been awarded at various shows and competitions among which the *Bruno Zanella* Contest.

### **Desiree Miller**

She has performed in music halls all over the world as a chamber musician, concert soloist, and recitalist. She has performed in various music festivals and outreach programs throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe, as well as in Haiti and South Korea. She is currently in the Civic Orchestra of Chicago.



### **Marco Nirta**

He gets his viola degree with highest honors at the Conservatory “Giuseppe Verdi” in Torino, continuing his studies between Scuola di Musica di Fiesole, Paris Conservatorie and Université de la Sorbonne. He collaborated with the

renown conductor Claudio Abbado and Riccardo Muti. Currently he collaborates with Orchestre de Paris and he is first viola in the *Hulencourt Soloists Chamber Orchestra* in Brussels. He is supported by “de Sono, Associazione per la musica” of Torino.



## World Youth Chamber Orchestra: *Italian and American Sounds*

**Damiano Giuranna**, born to a family of artists, completed his musical studies at the S. Cecilia Conservatory (Rome) with the highest grades. He studied with great directors such as Carlo Maria Giulini and Bruno Giuranna. After being music director in several international projects such as the International Festival for Young Musicians, *Giovani all’Opera* and many others, in July 2003, he received the Silver Shield and Medal awarded by the President of the Italian Republic for his artistic and social commitment. Maestro Giuranna is also a composer. His last works are: two pieces for orchestra *Mediterranean Sounds* and *Cantica di Nascite e di madri*, and the pieces for orchestra and actors *Le due lune* and *Il ritmo del remo*. He is President of MusicaEuropa and a member of the Board of Directors of the National Music Conservatory of Santa Cecilia.



### **Benjamin Bartelt**

Obtained his Bachelor of Arts in Music, concentration in Viola Performance, at the University of California with *summa cum laude*. He is finishing his Master of Music in Viola Performance at the Yale University School of Music. He performed and



collaborated with young orchestras such as the UCLA Philharmonia and the Orford Academy Orchestra, and he is currently in the Yale Philharmonia.

### **Gennaro Cardaropoli**

Young violinist from Salerno. Recently graduated *cum laude* and special mention; he was winner of National and International prestigious competitions; first absolute (100/100) in the soloist category Violin and Orchestra in the 2nd International Competition *EurOrchestra Nuovi Talenti* in Bari.



## World Youth Chamber Orchestra: *Italian and American Sounds*



### **Gabriele Ceci**

He received his diploma with an evaluation of 10 *cum laude* and honorable mention at the N. Piccinni Conservatory of Bari and is the winner of prestigious competitions like *Vittorio Veneto* in 2004. He is considered a talented violinist by renowned

musicians, such as Maestro Salvatore Accardo, with whom he is taking the course of high perfection and currently collaborates with the Italian Chamber Orchestra conducted by Accardo himself.

### **Brendon Elliott**

He made his debut as a soloist when he was 10 years old, performing with several professional and community orchestras. He was a finalist in the 2010, 2011, and 2012 National Sphinx Competition and Finalist in other important competitions. Brendon's orchestral experience includes serving as concertmaster of the Peninsula Youth Orchestra for six consecutive years. He is currently studying at The Curtis Institute of Music.



### **Fabrizio Falasca**

Graduated with honor and special mention at the music Conservatory G. Martucci of Salerno, he brilliantly participated in several National and International competitions. Evaluated by Salvatore Accardo one of the most excellent Italian young violinists of his generation.



## World Youth Chamber Orchestra: *Italian and American Sounds*

### **Annelle Gregory**

She studies under Glenn Dicterow as a Trustee Scholar at USC's Thornton School of Music. She is a Laureate of the 2013 Stradivarius International Violin Competition, Gold Medalist of the 2012 National NAACP ACT-SO competition, and a Laureate of the 2013 national Sphinx competition. Annelle also performed at Carnegie Hall as a member of Sphinx Virtuosi. In 2012, she was concertmaster and featured soloist for the CIM International Festival Orchestra at Weikersheim Castle in Germany. Annelle has won 1st place in many important competitions.



### **Ismar Sergio Gomes**

Originally from Cleveland, he is an accomplished orchestral and chamber musician; he has participated in major festivals and performed with many important orchestras, throughout the U.S. and Europe, including two tours of the Netherlands, in addition to concerts in

France and Canada. He serves as Assistant Principal of the Mid-Atlantic Symphony and Principal of Bel Cantanti Opera.

### **Jacob Joyce**

Currently Pursuing a M.M. in Violin Performance and B.A. in Music and Economics at Yale School of Music. He is currently Concertmaster and also Assistant Conductor in the Yale Symphony Orchestra. He was winner and finalist in many competitions as American String Teachers Association (ASTA) National Solo Competition, Atlanta, in 2009, or Downbeat Magazine Student Award, Best High School Classical Ensemble in the Nation, in 2009.

