



PLAYING. SHARING. INSPIRING.

Yuri Ivan, Music Director
Lawrence Weller, Guest Conductor
Steve Staruch, Host

*The Seventeenth Annual Masters
Concerto and Aria Concert*

Saturday, March 28, 2014

7:30 PM

*St. Albert the Great Catholic Church
Minneapolis, Minnesota*

~ Program ~

Violin Concerto in D, Opus 35

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
(1840 – 1893)

III. Allegro vivacissimo

Brian Koh, Violin

Five Bagatelles for Clarinet, Opus 23

Gerald Finzi
(1901 – 1956)

I. Prelude

II. Romance

V. Fughetta

Shelagh MacLeod, Clarinet

Piano Concerto No. 1 in C-major, Opus 15

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770 – 1827)

I. Allegro con brio

Samantha Cho, Piano

~ Intermission – 10 Minutes ~

Il Barbiere di Siviglia, Act I
“Una voce poco fa”

Gioacchino Rossini
(1792 – 1868)

Bergen Baker, Mezzo-Soprano
Lawrence Weller, Guest Conductor

La Boheme, Act 1 and Act III
“Si, mi chiamano Mimì”
“Donde Lieta”

Giacomo Puccini
(1858 – 1924)

Rachel Eve Holmes, Soprano
Lawrence Weller, Guest Conductor

Piano Concerto No. 1 in F-sharp minor, Opus 1

Sergei Rachmaninoff
(1873 – 1943)

I. Vivace-Moderato

Rie Tanaka, Piano

~ Please join us for a reception on the lower level following the concert. ~

~ Biographies ~

Brian Koh currently serves as a clinical fellow in hematology and medical oncology at Mayo Clinic. He was raised in Honolulu, where he made solo appearances with the Honolulu Symphony in concertos by Mozart, Bruch, and Paganini, as well as participated in master classes with the Nash Ensemble of London and Yehudi Menuhin. As an undergraduate at Harvard University, he served in leadership positions in a number of standing and ad hoc orchestras, and was awarded the Horblit prize for excellence in chamber music performance.

Shelagh MacLeod knew that the clarinet was the instrument for her after hearing British clarinetist Michael Collins play the Finzi Concerto. Her passion for clarinet would later evolve into a career in music education, as well as degrees from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London, Trinity College of Music, London, and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. She moved from her native Scotland to Minnesota in 2003 and soon after began studying clarinet with Burt Hara and flute with Immanuel Davis. She established her private teaching studio, Cross-Continental Music and coached chamber music at Southwest High School. Shelagh has played clarinet and bass clarinet with Kenwood Symphony Orchestra since 2004. She plays principal clarinet with Exultate choir and chamber orchestra and was the soloist for the Mozart Clarinet Concerto with Exultate in 2011. She is a frequent guest clarinetist and bass clarinetist with Northeast Orchestra and First Unitarian Society Orchestra. She regularly performs chamber music at St. John's Church in Linden Hills and collaborates with pianist Richard Long. She is currently studying clarinet with Alexander Fiterstein. Shelagh is married to Stephen, has two grown children and lives in Minneapolis with her three dalmatians.

Samantha Cho, born in California, enjoys a diverse career as soloist, collaborative pianist and pedagogue. Most recently, she won the 17th annual Masters Concerto and Aria Competition, and is scheduled to play Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 1 with the Kenwood Orchestra in March; and has also recently won the American Protégé International Concerto Competition and is scheduled to play in an honor recital at Carnegie Hall this December. In 2014, Samantha was invited to perform a solo concert at University of Minnesota Morris as part of their Guest Artist Series. Also active in collaborative piano, she has recently performed as orchestra pianist with the St. Paul Civic Orchestra in a concert featuring Latin American music. She has also worked as rehearsal pianist and keyboardist in the Broadway musical Dames at Sea at North Hennepin Community College, and served as staff accompanist for the summer string festival Bravo! In addition, Samantha has been teaching class piano at University of Minnesota since 2012 and has also taught private piano at Cleveland School of Arts. Samantha first learned piano from Robert Turner, protégé of the legendary pianists Josef and Rosina Lhevinne. She received her bachelor's from Northwestern University and masters of music degree at Cleveland Institute of Music. Samantha is currently a doctoral candidate at University of Minnesota, where she is the recipient of the Ude Fellow and Teaching Assistant award. Her principal influences include Alexander Braginsky, Paul Schenly, Kathryn Brown, Sylvia Wang, and Robert Turner.

Bergen Baker Hailed by the Star Tribune as having a "fetching blend of grace, warmth and humor on stage," Bergen Baker has been a featured performer with companies such as Minnesota Opera, The Minnesota Orchestra, Skylark Opera and Florentine Opera. Ms. Baker's concert and oratorio experience includes performances of Handel's Messiah, Mozart's Mass in C minor, Vivaldi's Gloria, Mendelssohn's Elijah, and Igor Stravinsky's Les Noces, as well as many programs of art song. In addition to performance on the operatic and concert stage, Ms. Baker served as Teaching Artist for Minnesota Opera from 2012-2014. During her tenure, Ms. Baker organized community residencies and performances that served nearly 15,000 opera lovers across the state of Minnesota. Ms. Baker currently manages opera and music theater programs for students through the University of Minnesota and Musica nelle Marche in Urbino, Italy. She remains a highly sought after Teaching Artist, offering residencies, workshops and master classes to students and communities across the country. Ms. Baker holds Bachelor and Master degrees in vocal performance from DePaul University and the University of Minnesota, respectively. At the University of Minnesota, she appeared in the role of Sharon Falconer in the Midwest premier of the Grammy-award winning American opera Elmer Gantry, by Robert Aldridge. This season's credits include Wowkle in La Fanciulla del West and Mercédès in Carmen, both with Minnesota Opera, Ruggiero in Handel's Alcina with Metamorphosis Opera Theater, Kate in Cole Porter's Kiss me, Kate with the Mankato Symphony, and an artistic and education residency for the Zeiders American Dream Theater in Virginia Beach. More info at bergenbaker.com

Rachel Eve Holmes is an exciting young soprano, recently described as, "expressive and subtle, with a stunning instrument." (Cap Times) A Georgia native, Holmes' performing career has taken her to Bruges, Belgium; Shanghai, China; Novafeltria, Italy, as well as all over the United States. Rachel Eve has performed with Opera Theatre of Pittsburgh, Opera Fort Collins, Cedar Rapids Opera Theatre, Intermezzo Festival, Opera for the Young, La Musica Lirica, Loveland Opera Theatre, Fort Collins Symphony, Fresco Opera Theatre, The Ralph Opera Center, and The New England Conservatory Undergraduate Opera Studio. Favorite Roles include Rosina, Frasquita, Pamina, Susanna, Marzeline, Beth March, L'Enfant, Papagena, and Mimi. Career highlights include singing Beth March in Mark Adamo's Little Women in Belgium, a European Premiere in which Adamo assisted with the production; performing at Carnegie Hall as a result of winning the Associated Music Teachers of New York's Weill Hall Young Musicians Concert competition, as well as being named winner of Wisconsin Public Radio's Neale Silva Competition, a distinction which led to her performing in recital twice on WPR, as well as in recital at the Green Lake Music Festival. Rachel Eve is also a champion of the musical theatre genre, and loves "crossing over" whenever she possibly can! Recent roles include Cosette (Les Misérables) and Charlotte (A Little Night

Music) with Four Seasons Theatre, Tzeitel (*Fiddler on the Roof*) with Children's Theater Madison, Linda Porter (*Red, Hot, & Cole*) with Madison Theatre Guild (for which she received a nomination from the Bartell Theatre Awards for Best Actress in a Musical) and most recently Luisa (*The Fantasticks*) with Opera Theatre of Pittsburgh. Passionate about Choral Music, Holmes is also a member of the Madison Choral Project, Madison's only professional chamber choir. She will join the roster again next year, and looks forward to the season under the baton of Albert Pinsonneault and Dale Warland. Rachel Eve is the proud Soprano of the Scholarship Singers Quartet at Christ Presbyterian Church in Madison, WI. She has performed as the soprano soloist in many works at CPC, including Handel's *Messiah*, the Vivaldi *Gloria* and the Rutter *Gloria*. Rachel Eve Holmes is also a music educator. She has a flourishing studio at the Madison Music Foundry. Rachel teaches all voice types and genres, and finds great joy in helping people find their voice! Also a big believer in Opera Education, Rachel Eve sings with Opera for the Young, performing with and for thousands of elementary school children throughout the Midwest.

Rie Tanaka Japanese pianist Rie Tanaka started playing piano at age three. When she was ten, she placed first at the Muse Daito Piano Festival in Osaka. Since then, she has been a prize winner in various competitions throughout Japan and the United States. Her recent achievements include: winning the Wisconsin State MTNA Young Artist Competition in 2011, the Schubert Club Scholarship Competition in 2014, the Mechelke Piano Award in 2014, and the 17th Annual Masters Concerto and Aria Competition at the Kenwood Symphony Orchestra in 2014. She was runner-up at the Alice Peet Faust Concerto Competition at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point in 2012, and the University of Minnesota Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition in 2014. She participated in the 17th Chautauqua International Piano Competition in New York, where she was a finalist, and was awarded for "Best Performance of Commissioned Piece". Tanaka is an active collaborative pianist. She was a finalist at the Wisconsin Public Radio's Neale-Silva Young Artists' Competition in 2011 with her piano trio (also featuring Jonathan Eddy, Vn. and Jesse Nummelin, Vc.). She frequently performs alongside the South Beach Chamber Ensemble in their annual Wisconsin concerts. Her upcoming events for the 2014-2015 calendar year include two alumni solo and chamber recitals at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point, a solo recital at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities, a performance of the Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No.1 with the Kenwood Symphony Orchestra, and the annual chamber recital "South Beach Up North" with the South Beach Chamber Ensemble. Tanaka received her Bachelor's of Music from the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point where she was also the recipient of the Outstanding Music Major Award. She is now pursuing a Master's degree in Piano Performance at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities, with a Teaching Assistantship and Scholarships. She has studied piano performance with Alexander Braginsky, Raffi Besalyan, Shizuka Kida, Kumiko Hattori, and Makoto Hatta."

Lawrence Weller, a Chicago native, received his formal music training at the University of Illinois and Indiana University. He has performed as singer or conductor in concerts and operas throughout North America, Europe, and South America. Mr. Weller has premiered more than 75 new works, performed 28 principal roles in opera and musical theater, and has been featured in recordings on seven labels. He has performed regularly with numerous musical organizations in Minnesota, the upper Midwest, and nationally, and is consistently active as a singer, conductor, teacher, clinician, and adjudicator. Mr. Weller holds the title of Professor Emeritus from the University of Minnesota School of Music.

Yuri Ivan became the Music Director of the Kenwood Symphony Orchestra in 2007. He completed his formal music training in Ukraine where his main teachers were Jarema Skybinky and Mykola Kolessa. Mr. Ivan also studied with Yuri Simonov, Adalberto Tonnini, Vjacheslav Blinov, and Yuri Lutsiv. After graduating from The State Conservatory of Music in Lviv, he was engaged, from 1996 to 2000, as an Associate Conductor at The State Theatre of Opera and Ballet in Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine, where he conducted productions including *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Rigoletto*, *La Traviata*, *Carmen*, *Pagliacci*, *Eugene Oneguine*, *Die Fledermaus*, *La Fille Mal Gardée*, *Giselle*, *Don Quixote*, *Swan Lake*, and *Sleeping Beauty*. In 2001, Mr. Ivan was named Artistic Director of Trans-Carpathian Philharmonic, co-founded the Uzhgorod Youth Orchestra, and the Young Virtuosi music festival in Ukraine. He also appeared with LVMI Opera, the National Symphony-Pops Orchestra of Ukraine, the National Broadcasting Company Orchestra of Ukraine and the Northern Hungarian Symphony. Recently, Mr. Ivan completed his doctoral studies in conducting at the University of Minnesota where he studied with Akira Mori and Craig Kirchhoff. Currently, Mr. Ivan is the Music Director at St. Constantine Ukrainian Catholic Church and is active in the artistic life of the Twin Cities metro area, collaborating with a range of artistic and educational organizations. Mr. Ivan has served since 2006 as the Music Director of the Linden Hills Chamber Orchestra.

The **Kenwood Symphony Orchestra** was founded as the Kenwood Chamber Orchestra in 1972 as an adult education class at the Kenwood Community Center. From those humble beginnings, the orchestra quickly grew in membership, ability, and reputation. Over the years, several gifted conductors have graced the podium, including Uri Barnea, Lee Humphries, Jim Riccardo, Jeannine Wager, William Intriligator, Myles Hernandez, Kenneth Freed, and Jeffrey Stirling. Since September 2007, KSO has been under the direction of Yuri Ivan. Based at Washburn High School, KSO is comprised of more than 50 highly accomplished volunteer musicians passionate about playing and sharing great music. KSO is a nonprofit organization financed primarily by members' dues, financial gifts from friends and supporters, and our annual Masters Concerto and Aria event. Learn more at www.kenwoodsymphonycorchester.org.

~ Acknowledgements ~

Annunciation Church
for their enthusiastic support in hosting this concert.

Music rental made possible in part by a grant from the
Cy and Paula DeCosse Fund
of The Minneapolis Foundation.

Schmitt Music in Roseville
for providing space for the competition auditions.
Please visit schmittmusic.com

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~ About the Competition ~

The **Masters Concerto and Aria Competition** (MCAC) was originally created by KSO to serve as a unique opportunity for adult amateur musicians over the age of 25 to compete with their peers for the chance to perform with an orchestra. Over the years, we found the competition attracting musicians in the midst of masters or doctoral studies and starting with the 2009 annual competition, we created a second category for the '*Emerging Professional*'. Tonight we are pleased to present the top two competitors from the *Amateur* category and the top four competitors from the *Emerging Professional* category. You can learn more about the competition rules and find an application form on our website at kenwoodsmyphonyorchestra.org.

~ The Competition Judges ~

Howard Brahmstedt relocated to Minneapolis twelve years ago where he continues to be very active as a professional trumpet performer. He plays in the Rochester Symphony Orchestra, Exultate Chamber Orchestra/Choir, and is the Director of Brass at Lord of Life Lutheran Church where he conducts a large professional brass choir and plays in a brass quintet. In addition to playing Principal First Trumpet and serving as the Brass Personnel Manager in the Kenwood Symphony Orchestra, he has played in the Metropolitan, Civic, and Wayzata Orchestras. Before moving to Minneapolis, he was a music professor for 30 years at Tennessee Tech University which has one of the leading music departments in the Southeast. In the 1990's he was invited to teach trumpet and perform recitals at all but one music conservatory in China. He received two consecutive Fulbright Awards, being the first Fulbright Music Professor in China. He also was invited, as the only American, to be involved as a performer with the European based IDRIART [Institute for the Development of International Relations Through the Arts] and Musicians Without Borders. He did four extended trips to Tibet, one to the Xinjiang Autonomous Region of Central Asian cultures, one to Nepal, and was hosted by the notable Russian trumpeter, Timofei Dokshitzer, in Moscow. He was a guest soloist with orchestras in Beijing, Lhasa [Tibet], Nashville, and St. Simons Island, Georgia. He received his B.M. degree from the U.W.-Madison and his M.M. and D.M. degrees from Indiana University-Bloomington. He is an active charter member of the International Trumpet Guild.

Herbert Johnson has served as Professor of Piano and Director of Keyboard Activities at Bethel University since 2008. Previously, he taught applied piano and theory at North Central University for fourteen years. Before his arrival in the Twin Cities, he taught at King's College in Briarcliff Manor, New York and Evangel College in Springfield, Missouri. Mr. Johnson received his doctorate in piano performance from the Manhattan School of Music in New York City. He participates in numerous musical activities in the metropolitan area including chamber music recitals, worship services and sacred concerts. In the summers of 1997-98, he traveled to Ukraine with the *Kairos* Chamber Ensemble performing in churches and musical institutions in Kiev and Cherkassy. He has also performed with the Kruspe Horn Trio throughout Minnesota and is a member of the Minnesota Music Teachers Association and Music Teachers National Association. Mr. Johnson is in demand as an adjudicator for state competitions and festivals, has taught masterclasses, and conducts workshops for music teachers.

James Olcott, a native of Berkeley, California, was a member of the music faculty at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio where he taught trumpet, conducted the internationally recognized trumpet ensemble, and headed the jazz program from 1978 until his retirement in 2013. He previously taught at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and Fort Hays State University (Kansas). Mr. Olcott held the position of principal trumpet with the Cincinnati Ballet Orchestra for 25 years. He also held this position with the Middletown (Ohio) Symphony Orchestra, the Tidewater Music Festival (Maryland), the Peter Britt Music Festival (Oregon), and the International Festival at Round-Top, Texas, among others. His orchestral background includes performances with the San Francisco Opera and Ballet Companies, and the Metropolitan Opera Company. Mr. Olcott is an active free-lancer well versed in piccolo trumpet, the other small trumpets, and B-flat and flugelhorn concepts and styles. He performed professionally in jazz and classical idioms throughout the Cincinnati-Dayton, Ohio area and was the founder and music director of the Cincinnati Herald Trumpet Ensemble. Retirement brought him to Minneapolis where he performs with numerous classical and jazz groups, including KSO, the Canon Brass, the Wild Prairie Brass Ensemble, and large jazz ensembles led by Bill Simenson, Kevin Mills, and Jerry O'Hagen.

Paul Shaw is hailed by The New York Times as "both a virtuoso with herculean technical command and a sensitive introspective artist." Originally from Jamaica, he has appeared on three continents, inspiring appreciative audiences and music critics alike in Asia, Europe, and the Americas. A top prize-winner in the William Kapell International Piano Competition and the Young Concert Artists International Auditions, Mr. Shaw has performed to high critical acclaim at prestigious venues including Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center in New York; the Kennedy Center and the Hall of the Americas in Washington, D.C.; and Beethovenhalle in Bonn. He has appeared as soloist with the Brooklyn Philharmonic, Rochester Philharmonic, Dayton Philharmonic, Richmond Symphony, Shreveport Symphony, Cape Cod Symphony and Minnesota Orchestra and collaborated with conductors Stanislaw Skrowaczewski, William Eddins, George Manahan, Jorge Mester, Lukas Foss, and others. He has completed two successful recital tours of Taiwan and made his second visit to Central America in August 2003, appearing in a series of recitals at the Thirteenth Costa Rica Festival Internacional de Música. In December 2004 and 2007, he was featured in Teatru Unplugged, an annual event held at the historic Manoel Theatre in Valletta, Malta showcasing international artists performing in a variety of musical genres. Mr. Shaw's performances led the Times of Malta to describe him as "a concert pianist of towering talent." In September 2010, he became the first artist from the Caribbean to appear in recital at the National Centre for the Performing Arts in Beijing, China. Mr. Shaw was educated at The Juilliard School where, as recipient of the William Petschek, Maro Ajemian, and Isabel Mason Scholarships, he earned the B.M., M.M. and D.M.A degrees, respectively.

Jim Bartsch is a music educator and performer in the Twin Cities. Formerly Education Director with the Minnesota Orchestra, he is currently Orchestra and Guitar teacher at Highview Middle School in the Mounds View School District. He is also a conductor with the Minnesota Youth Symphonies and a member of the Minnesota Opera Orchestra. Active as a guest conductor and adjudicator, Mr. Bartsch recently conducted the Suburban East Conference High School Festival Orchestra, the Tri Metro High School Festival Orchestra, and the UW-Madison Music Clinic Orchestra.

~ *Translations* ~

“Una voce poco fa”

A voice has just
echoed here into my heart
my heart is already wounded
and it was Lindoro who shot.
Yes, Lindoro will be mine
I've sworn it, I'll win.

The tutor will refuse,
I'll sharpen my mind
finally he'll accept,
and happy I'll rest.

Yes, Lindoro will be mine
I've sworn it, I'll win.
I'm gentle, respectful
I'm obedient, sweet, loving
I let be ruled, I let be guided
But if they touch where my weak spot is
I'll be a viper and a hundred traps
before giving up I'll make them fall

“Si, mi chiamano Mimi”

Yes, they call me Mimi
But my name is Lucia
My history is brief
To linen or to silk
I embroider at home or outside ...
I am contented and happy
And it is my pastime
To make lilies and roses
I like these things
That have such sweet enchantment,
That speak of love, of springtime,
That speak of dreams and of visions
Those things that are called poetic. Do
you understand me?

They call me Mimi
And why I don't know.
Alone, I make
Lunch for myself.
I do not always go to mass,
But I pray a lot to the Lord.
I live alone, quite alone.
There is a little white room
I look upon the roofs and the sky.
But when the thaw comes
The first sunshine is mine
The first kiss of April is mine!
The first sunshine is mine!
A rose opens in a vase
Petal by petal I watch it!
That gentle perfume of a flower!
But the flowers that I make, alas!
the flowers that I make, alas!
they have no odor!
About me I know nothing else to tell
I am your neighbor who comes
to bother you at the wrong moment.

“Donde Lieta”

Once happily leaving
to your cry of love,
Mimi returns only
to the solitary nest.
I return again
to make flowers and bouquets.
Goodbye, no hard feelings.
Listen, listen.
The few things I've accumulated
I've left behind.
In my drawer
is a small band of gold
and the prayer book.
Wrap them in an apron
and I will send the concierge...
Look, under the pillow
there is a pink bonnet.
If you want to keep it in memory of our
love, you may.
Goodbye, no hard feelings.

~ KSO Personnel ~

Violin I

Claire Ganzel
Brenda Haines
Aja Majkrzak
Teresa Mcdevitt
Julie Pronovici
Steve Rolin
◆ Ian Snyder
 Leonard Pratt Chair
David Wiebelhaus

Violin II

Alvina Brueggemann
◆ Elizabeth Fairchild
Madeline Krych
David Otero
Megan Peterson
Derrick Rehurek
Laura Simonson
Clair Tyra

Viola

◆ Ann Bur
Katy Schalla Lesiak
Patrick McCarthy
Erika Neely
Sandy Sample

Cello

Katherine Canon
Todd Grill
Sarah Hernandez
Liesl Koehnen
Katherine Nyseth
John Renwick
Diana Ringuette
◆ Anne Swarts

Bass

◆ Stacy Aldrich
Neill Merck
Tyler Ryan

Flute

◆ Anne Cheney
Leslie Pietila

Piccolo

Leslie Pietila

Oboe

◆ Julie Brusen
❖ Alexandra Carlson

English Horn

Tammy Riste Wahlin

Clarinet

❖ Dave Clark
◆ Brian Zumwalde

Bass Clarinet

Shelagh MacLeod

Bassoon

❖ Alex Legeros
◆ Ellen Maas Pratt

Horn

❖ John Bradford
Nicole Danielson
◆ Angela House Gritton
Robert Meier

Trumpet

◆ Howard Brahmstedt
Jim Olcott
Bob Zobal

Trombone

❖ Jim Baumgartner
❖◆ Nate Eng
Steve Hartley

Tuba

Sam Sharp

Percussion

◆ Corey Sevet

Timpani

◆ John Litch

Harp

❖ Jim Buxton

Librarians

Anne Cheney
Dave Clark

◆ - Section Leader
❖ - Guest Musician

The KSO mission is to play, share, and inspire great music by:

- Offering performance opportunities
- Programming appealing repertoire
- Performing free concerts
- Including under-served communities
- Bringing learning to life through music



This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through grants from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

