

Compact disc



SCHOOL OF MUSIC  
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2016

3-18

**BARRY LIEBERMAN & FRIENDS**

presents

**The American String Project  
Chamber Players**

with

**Jorja Fleezanis, violin**

**Maria Larionoff, violin**

**Steven Wyczynski, viola**

**Stephen Balderston, violoncello**

Friday, March 18, 2016

7:30 pm - Brechemin Auditorium

**PROGRAM** CD1 - #17,441

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1 Talk by Jorja - 21:57

2 String Quartet #1: "Metamorphoses Nocturnes" ..... 23:31 ..... Gyorgy Ligeti (1923-2006)

*Performed 'attacca'-without pause*

Allegro grazioso

Vivace, capriccioso

Adagio, mesto

Presto

Prestissimo

Andante tranquillo

Tempo di valse, moderato, con eleganza, un poco capriccioso

Subito prestissimo

Allegretto, un poco gioviale

Prestissimo

Ad libitum, senza misura

Lento

Jorja Fleezanis, violin I

Maria Larionoff, violin II

Steven Wycynski, viola

Stephen Balderston, violoncello

**INTERMISSION** CD2 #17,442

1 Talk by Maria

String Quartet #12 in E<sup>b</sup> Major, Op. 127 ..... 37:54 ..... Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

2 Maestoso: Allegro

3 Adagio ma non troppo e molto cantabile

4 Scherzo, Vivace

5 Finale: Allegro

Maria Larionoff, violin I

Jorja Fleezanis, violin II

Steven Wycynski, viola

Stephen Balderston, violoncello

Cellist STEPHEN BALDERSTON is known internationally as a soloist, orchestral and chamber musician and coach of the highest caliber. Professor of cello at DePaul University School of Music, Balderston continues a demanding performance schedule in a variety of venues, and presents master classes around the United States. In past years, he has performed solo works and chamber music with Daniel Barenboim, Pierre Boulez, Christoph Eschenbach, Lynn Harrell, Yo-Yo Ma, Menahem Pressler, Gil Shaham, Joseph Silverstein and Pinchas Zukerman. He has appeared as featured artist at the Ravinia Festival, the International Festival-Institute at Round Top, the American String Project, Bargemusic, the Park City Music Festival, OK Mozart International Festival, Santa Barbara Chamber Music Festival as well as the Affinis Music Festival in Japan and the International Music Festival in Shanghai, China.

Balderston was the cello coach for Daniel Barenboim's "West-Eastern Divan" workshops in 1999 and 2000 in Weimar, Germany, the 2001 Workshop held in Chicago, and the 2004 Workshop in Seville, Spain. In 2002 he accompanied a group of colleagues to Shanghai, China for that city's international music festival. In August of 2004 Balderston was featured as lecturer, soloist and coach at the International String Music Festival in Taipei, Taiwan. Since 2002, he has been a participant, coach and soloist at a number of prestigious summer venues, including the Grand Teton Music Festival, Marrowstone Music Festival, the International Festival – Institute at Round Top, the Park City International Chamber Music Festival, the ARIA International Festival and the Northwestern University High School Institute. He has served as a chamber music coach for the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras. Balderston is a member of the American Chamber Players and the Evanston Chamber Ensemble.

Balderston was Assistant Principal Cello with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra for 10 years, and a member of the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra for 10 years. He performed as soloist with both orchestras. Balderston began his studies on the cello with Gabor Rejto in his native southern California, and earned both Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from The Juilliard School, where he studied with Lynn Harrell.

JORJA FLEEZANIS joined the faculty at the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University in 2009 as Professor of Violin and holding the Henry Upper Chair in Orchestral Studies. She was the concertmaster of the Minnesota Orchestra from 1989 to 2009, assuming that position after being the Associate Concertmaster of the San Francisco Symphony and a member of the Chicago Symphony.

Ms. Fleezanis has been guest concertmaster for the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Detroit Symphony, Hong Kong Philharmonic and the San Francisco Symphony. She has been a frequent guest artist teacher at: the Prussia Cove Chamber Music sessions, New World Symphony, San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Music@Menlo Festival, Interlochen Center for the Arts, Madeline Island Music Camp and the Round Top International Festival Institute. She is concertmaster of the Chicago Bach Project, performs annually in France with her French pianist, Cyril Huvé, and gives frequent recitals with her long-term partner, Karl Paulnack.

The Minnesota Orchestra commissioned two major solo works for her, the John Adams Violin Concerto and the *Ikon of Eros* by John Tavener, the latter recorded on Reference Records. The complete

violin sonatas of Beethoven with the French fortepianist Cyril Huvé were released in 2003 on the Cyprés label. Other recordings include Aaron Jay Kernis's *Brilliant Sky, Infinite Sky* on CRI, commissioned for her by the Schubert Club of St. Paul, Minnesota, and Stefan Wolpe's Violin Sonata with Garrick Ohlsson as her partner for Koch International. The world premier of Nicholas Maw's Sonata for Solo Violin, commissioned for her by Minnesota Public Radio, was broadcast on Public Radio International's Saint Paul Sunday Morning in 1998 and in 1999 she gave the British premiere at the Chester Summer Festival. In 1998, she was the violin soloist in the American premiere of Britten's recently discovered Double Concerto for Violin and Viola.

Jorja Fleezanis has been an adjunct faculty member at the San Francisco Conservatory and the University of Minnesota. Ms. Fleezanis plays on a violin made in 1700 by the Venetian maker, Matteo Goffriller.

"An outstanding talent, intoxicating in its brilliance" raved the San Francisco Chronicle at MARIA LARIONOFF's solo debut. Since then, she has appeared with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the symphonies of Seattle, Yakima, Port Angeles and Oakland, with the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra, the University of Washington Orchestra and the Orquestra Sinfonica in Mexico City. Ms. Larionoff has toured Germany and Austria with the New European Strings and has performed on tour in Japan with the Mostly Mozart Orchestra.

A Loomis Scholarship Award winner at the Juilliard School, Ms. Larionoff was a student of Dorothy DeLay. Additional teachers included Sally Thomas, Paul Doktor, Joel Krosnik and Felix Galimir. Upon graduating, Ms. Larionoff was invited by the esteemed Maestro Carlo Maria Giulini to join the violin section of the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Ms. Larionoff moved to Seattle in 1990 and served as Associate Concertmaster of the Symphony and was then appointed Concertmaster, where she was featured as soloist and leader on numerous occasions, including her critically acclaimed solo performances in the 2011 Naxos release of "Scheherazade." In 2012 her performance of the Vasks violin concerto "Distant Light" received praise from the New York Times: "the elegant violinist Maria Larionoff was stunning, incisive and radiant."

Ms. Larionoff's versatility as a violist as well a violinist has led to invitations at many chamber music festivals, including the Seattle Chamber Music Society, the Seattle International Music Festival, Chamber Music Northwest, the Marrowstone Music Festival, Chautauqua and the Vetta series in Vancouver, B.C.. She has collaborated in chamber music concerts with many distinguished artists including Emanuel Ax, Lynn Harrell, Steven Staryk, Jamie Laredo, Bill Preucil and Glenn Dicterow.

Ms. Larionoff has served on the faculty of the University of Washington School of Music and was the head violin coach for the Seattle Youth Symphony for many years. She has taught at Round Top festival in Texas and the Interlochen Arts Academy, and maintains a busy private teaching studio.

In 2001, Ms. Larionoff and her husband, doublebassist Barry Lieberman, founded The American String Project, a conductorless string orchestra made up of Concertmasters and soloists from around the

world. The group received great critical acclaim both for their annual performances at Benaroya Hall, as well as for their numerous recordings.

Ms. Larionoff and her duo partner, pianist Robin McCabe, recently completed their cycle of all 10 Beethoven sonatas, and are currently featured in concert on UW TV in "Beethoven Back to Back". The popular duo performs frequently throughout the Pacific Northwest, and has been called "...a glorious musical team..." by the Seattle Times.

Violist STEPHEN WYRCZYNSKI is a professor of music at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music where he also serves as Chair of the String Department. He was a member of the Philadelphia Orchestra for 18 years, joining them in 1992.

He began violin studies at age 8 and eventually switched to the viola at age 16. In 1983, he began viola studies with Kim Kashkashian and later with Karen Tuttle at the Peabody Conservatory, where he became Tuttle's teaching assistant. He went on to receive his bachelor's degree in 1988 from Juilliard, where he continued to be her assistant. He was then accepted at the Curtis Institute of Music, where he studied with Joseph de Pasquale, then principal violist of the Philadelphia Orchestra. Wyrzynski earned a diploma there in 1991.

Wyrzynski keeps an active teaching schedule. He is also on the faculty of the Aspen Music Festival and School. In addition to teaching private lessons, he conducts a seminar in orchestral audition repertoire and techniques. He has taught at the New World Symphony in Miami, Florida, and Mannes College of Music in New York, where he does quarterly coachings in orchestral repertoire. He has previously taught orchestral studies at the Curtis Institute of Music, the National Orchestral Institute, and the New York State Summer School for Orchestral Studies.

As a chamber musician, he has played in many of North America's celebrated venues. He has had performances at the Aspen Music Festival, Le Domaine Forget, Newport Music Festival, Grand Teton Music Festival, Tanglewood, Kingston Music Festival, Casal's Music Festival, El Paso Pro Musica, and the Apollo Chamber Players. He also has collaborated in chamber music with artists such as Joshua Bell, Sarah Chang, Pamela Frank, Edgar Meyer, and Dawn Upshaw.

Upcoming events:

BARRY LIEBERMAN & FRIENDS presents guest artist Ted Botsford, double bass:

May 21, Master class: 2:00 pm, Brechemin Auditorium.

May 22, Recital: 2:00 pm, Brechemin Auditorium.

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