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SCHOOL OF MUSIC
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

2014-2015

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BARRY LIEBERMAN & FRIENDS
presents a guest artist recital by
THE AMERICAN STRING PROJECT
CHAMBER PLAYERS
Barry Lieberman & Maria Larionoff, *artistic directors*

May 10, 2015, 2:00 PM

Brechemin Auditorium

CD1-#17,196

PROGRAM

1 Remarks

2 *STRING SONATA #6 IN D MAJOR* for two violins, violoncello and double bass
.....16:46..... GIOACCHINO ROSSINI (1792-1868)
Allegro spiritoso
Andante assai
"Tempesta": allegro

3 Remarks

4 *VIOLA QUINTET #2 IN B FLAT MAJOR*, Opus 87.....30:43..... FELIX MENDELSSOHN (1809-1847)
Allegro vivace
Andante scherzando
Adagio e lento
Allegro molto vivace

CD2-#17,197

INTERVAL

1 Remarks

2 *VIOLA QUINTET #2 IN G MAJOR*, Opus 111.....31:56..... JOHANNES BRAHMS (1833-1897)
Allegro non troppo, ma con brio
Adagio
Un poco Allegretto
Vivace ma non troppo presto

JOAN BLACKMAN, Associate Concertmaster of the Vancouver Symphony, enjoys a vibrant and varied musical life. She has performed and recorded as soloist with the Vancouver Symphony, Victoria Symphony, CBC Radio Orchestra, Turning Point Ensemble and the Banff Festival Orchestra, and has played chamber music with premier groups such as the Penderecki String Quartet and the Purcell String Quartet. She has appeared on the series Music in the Morning, Music Fest Vancouver, the Pender Harbour Music Society Concert Series, The Jeffrey Concerts in London, Ont., and the American String Project, which brings together concertmasters and soloists throughout North America. Joan has appeared at numerous summer festivals including the Hornby Island Festival, the Pender Harbour Chamber Music Festival, and the Victoria Summer Music Festival. She is frequently heard in on CBC radio. Ms. Blackman is also the Artistic Director of Vancouver's Vetta Chamber Music Society, a longstanding and well respected Vancouver series that celebrates its 30th anniversary next season.

"Shapelier phrases and sweeter tone would be hard to imagine", "a ravishing tone", "first rate soloist", "exchanged lines meltingly in a flawless performance" "playing with lyricism, precision, and evident joy"; are some of the accolades that have graced Joan's reviews. In 2010 Zach Carstensen of Seattle's Gathering Note wrote *"Your heart would need to be made of stone not to have loved Joan Blackman's splendid solo"*.

Joan is also an active teacher having been on faculty at the University of British Columbia, Kwantlen College, the Symphony Orchestra Academy of the Pacific, Vancouver Academy of Music, and the VSO School of Music. She also adjudicates at festivals throughout BC.

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 Seattle Symphony, and the Orquestra Sinfónica Carlos Chavez in Mexico City, the Oakland Symphony, the University of Washington Orchestra, the Yakima Symphony, the Port Angeles Symphony and the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra.

A Loomis Scholarship Award winner at the Juilliard School, Ms. Larionoff was a student of Dorothy DeLay, and, upon graduating, was invited by the esteemed Maestro Carlo Maria Giulini to join the violin section of the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Ms. Larionoff was then appointed Concertmaster of the Seattle Symphony, where she has been featured as a soloist and leader on numerous occasions, including her critically acclaimed solo performances in the 2011 release of "Scheherazade." Her 2012 performance of the Vasks Violin Concerto received praise from the New York Times: ...the elegant violinist Maria Larionoff was stunning, incisive and radiant.

Her unusual versatility as a violist as well as a violinist has led to invitations at many chamber music festivals, including the Seattle Chamber Music Society, Chamber Music Northwest, The International Music Festival, the Marrowstone Festival, the Mostly Mozart Festival and the Vetta Series in Vancouver, BC.

Ms. Larionoff has collaborated in chamber music concerts with many distinguished artists including Emanuel Ax, Itzhak Perlman, Lynn Harrell, Steven Stryk, Dmitri Sitkovetsky and Glenn Dicterow. She has worked with some of the world's leading conductors, among them Sir Simon Rattle, Zubin Mehta, Pierre Boulez, Andre Previn, Kurt Sanderling, Erich Leinsdorf and Kurt Masur.

Ms. Larionoff has served on the faculty of the University of Washington and was the head violin coach for the Seattle Youth Symphony for many years. She maintains a busy private teaching studio in addition to her performing schedule. Her CD of the Barber concerto won praise from renowned critic Byron Belt of the Newhouse News:

"Miss Larionoff's solo performance matches the recently deservedly acclaimed Sony Classical recording by Hilary Hahn, with Hugh Wolff and the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra."

In 2001 Ms. Larionoff and her husband Barry Lieberman founded the American String Project, a conductorless string orchestra made up of Concertmasters and soloists from around the world. The group performs annually in May at Benaroya Hall, and is currently forming an education and mentoring program for advanced students in conservatories and music schools.

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. Wyczynski earned a diploma there in 1991.

Wyczynski 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.

Hailed by the *Los Angeles Times* as "representing the young, up-and-coming generation," and a "superb cellist with a large, expressive, singing tone, passionate musicianship, and magnificent playing" by *Journal Tribune*, Grand Prize Winner of the International Chamber Music Competition of New England, Armenian-American cellist ANI KALAYJIAN enjoys an exciting career that has taken her to Japan, Australia, Canada, Europe, and the United States, both as a soloist and chamber musician. Recognized for her innovative programs and passionate about expressing music to a wide audience, Ani has performed music from hospitals to concert halls, nursing homes, fundraisers and schools among other communities. Most recently, she performed Haydn, Beethoven, & Schubert for the Princes of Qatar & Princess Eugenie of England at the Frick Museum. This season will include tours around the United States as a chamber music artist on the Cranbrook Music Series in Michigan, Brooklyn Historical Society in NY, Fortuna Concert Series in CA, Concerts International Memphis, among others and a commissioned world premiere by Polina Nazakinskaya as well as her debut at the Chateau de la Moutte festival in St. Tropez.

Recent chamber music performances have included appearances at IMS Prussia Cove in England, Lark Chamber Music Society and La Jolla Chamber Music Festival in California, Great Lakes Chamber Music Festivals as a Shouse Artist in Michigan, BargeMusic in NY, American String Project in Seattle, Camerata Nordica in a U.S. and Swedish tour, Lichfield Festival in England, and a Weill Recital Debut at Carnegie Hall. She has performed at numerous universities around the US, including Harvard, Colombia, Dartmouth, Colby, Bates, Eastern Nazarene, Trinity, among others. Her competition successes includes winning the Anglo-Czechoslovak Trust competition in England as a soloist where she was also granted the Bohuslav Martinu Foundation Prize, as well as a top prize at the J. C. Arriaga chamber music competition with Sima Trio. She has also enjoyed collaborations with such musicians as Ani Kavafian, Jorja Fleezanis, Andres Cardenes, Kim Kashkashian, among others, and has served as co-artistic director of AGBU's Performing Artists at Weill Recital Hall.

She has performed at major venues in the USA, such as Rutgers Zimmerli Arts Museum in New Brunswick, Dweck Center in Brooklyn, Saugerties ProMusica Series in New York, Avalon Theater in Easton, MD, Parish Hall in Wye Mills, MD, Ridotto series in Huntington, NY, Little Rock Chamber Music Society in Arkansas, Fortuna Music Club and Fort Bragg Arts Center in California, Izumi Hall in Osaka, the National Gallery of Victoria in Melbourne, among others.

Ani was one of two cellists accepted into the inaugural season of David Finckel and Wu Han's Music@Menlo festival. She has also taken part in Michael Tilson Thomas' Carnegie Hall workshop in NY, Pablo Casals Prades festival in France, Mendelsohn on Mull in Scotland, Banff in Canada, Sarasota/FL, Apeldoorn/Holland, London Masterclasses, New York String Seminar, Holland Music Sessions and the RNCM International Cello Festival in England. At Prussia Cove, she was featured in a BBC documentary playing in a masterclass with Steven Isserlis. Ani completed her Masters degree with Distinction at the Royal Northern College of Music as a student of Ralph Kirshbaum. Undergraduate studies were at Mannes College of Music as a student of Timothy Eddy. Passionate about teaching, Ani currently serves on faculty at the Elisabeth Morrow and Horace Mann schools in NJ & NY.

"A consummate chamber player" --Seattle Weekly

"Sophisticated and elegant" --Los Angeles Times

"A sensitive, persuasive, and technically assured artist"--Double Bassist Magazine

BARRY LIEBERMAN is now in his twentieth year as double bass faculty at the University of Washington, Seattle, Washington. He began his career at age twenty-one as principal bass of the Winnipeg Symphony. In 1976 Zubin Mehta appointed him Associate Principal bass of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, a post he held for seventeen years.

Mr. Lieberman has been a regular performer with Chamber Music Northwest, Music from Angel Fire, the International Festival in Seattle, Bravo Colorado, Bargemusic, the Seattle Chamber Music Festival, Mostly Mozart, and served as Principal bass of the Colorado Music Festival in Boulder, Colorado. Most recently Mr. Lieberman performed with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, both in New York City and on tour in Europe. He has also performed with, and toured the Far East, Europe and the U.S. with the Mostly Mozart chamber orchestra.

Additionally, Mr. Lieberman has performed with many of the worlds greatest conductors, including Pierre Boulez and Sir Simon Rattle (both in orchestral and chamber music settings), Erich Leinsdorf, Leonard Bernstein, Daniel Barenboim, Georg Solti, Eugene Ormandy, Claudio Abbado, Pierre Boulez, and Kurt Sanderling, amongst many others. He has performed chamber music with artists including Emmanuel Ax, James Galway, Lynn Harrell, Pinchas Zuckerman, Glenn Dicterow, Yefim Bronfman, Mstislav Rostropovich, and Jaime Laredo.

A former member of the New European Strings for several years, Mr. Lieberman has toured both the US and Europe with its leader, Dimitri Sitkovetsky. Mr. Lieberman has also served as Principal Bass of the Seattle Symphony on many occasions.

In 1994, Mr. Lieberman created the series, "Barry Lieberman and Friends", at the University of Washington. A series that combines the talents of members of the Seattle Symphony (most notably his wife, Maria Larionoff, former Concertmaster of the SSO), the University, guest artists, and most importantly, students from both the University as well as preparatory level. The series has met with great success and critical acclaim. Featured artists on this series have included Gary Karr, Thomas Martin (Principal bass, London Symphony,) Hal Robinson (Principal bass, Philadelphia Orchestra,) Joel Quarrington (Principal bass, Toronto Symphony), and many other prominent double bassists from around the world.

The 2000-2001 concert season marked Mr. Lieberman's debut with the Lincoln Center Chamber Music Society in New York City. His recording of the complete Vivaldi sonatas arranged for the double bass and piano was released in 2001, and is the first and only recording of all ten of these sonatas. They were performed on Mr. Lieberman's 1597 Maggini double bass, one of the oldest in the world. This instrument was owned by Stuart Knussen, principal bass of the London Symphony from 1955 to 1976.

In 2002 the debut of The American String Project (www.theamericanstringproject.org) took place. The Project is a unique, conductorless string orchestra made up of some of the country's best concertmasters, soloists, chamber musicians, and teachers. The organization was created by Mr. Lieberman and performs primarily chamber music works arranged by him for a larger string ensemble. To date, Mr. Lieberman has arranged more than 100 string quartets and quintets for the Project. The Project has released many recordings and has garnered some impressive reviews.

Mr. Lieberman has conducted several master classes at the Guildhall School of Music in London, England, the equivalent of the Juilliard School in America and he was featured in the world's most important magazine for double bass, The Double Bassist (Winter, 2005.)

In the summer of 2004, Mr. Lieberman was invited to join the faculty at the Roundtop Music Festival in Roundtop, Texas, one of the country's most respected summer music programs. In 2009 Mr. Lieberman was invited to join the Philharmonia Orchestra and Esa Pekka Salonen as Principal Bass for a European tour of Great Britain, Scandinavia and Europe.

Mr. Lieberman is a graduate of the Interlochen Arts Academy and the Cleveland Institute of Music. He and his wife Maria Larionoff, the former Concertmaster of the Seattle Symphony, live with their Golden Retriever Mia and their Ibizan Hound "Crabcake" in a house remodeled and decorated by Mr. Lieberman in perfect mid-century modern style.

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