Program Notes

C.P.E. Bach was born in 1714 and died in 1788 and was the third son of J.S. Bach. His greatest service to the art was to bring order to the Sonata form, which up until this time was at a highly confused state. The Hamburger Sonata was written in 1786 after Bach left the courts of Frederick the Great, and moved to Hamburg, Germany. Here, he was given the freedom of more expression and liberties in his composing. This sonata was written for a blind virtuoso flutist, who apparently was the only flutist in the area who could play a high G, (the highest note on the flute at the time!).

Louis Spohr was a German violinist, composer and conductor. His music is basically referred to as Romantic, with its excessive chromatic passages and modulations. The melodiousness and ingenuity of his compositions made them very popular in their day.

The Sonatine for flute and bassoon by Pierre Gabaye is a good representation of the lyricism and humor that was so popular with many French composers. An energetic first movement, typifying a circus, equipped with clowns, brass bands and all! A nostalgic and dreamlike second movement that leads into a brilliant and playful final movement. What better way to end the first half than with a little bit of humor?!

Pierre du Breville was a French composer who studied with Dubois and later Cesar Franck. Une flute dans les vergers (a flute in the orchard) is an extremely poetic and emotional piece. It begins with a flute solo (somewhat like an improvisation) which provokes the
feeling of serenity and simplicity. As the piano enters these peaceful feelings are much more obvious, rising to an emotional climax and then working its way back to a point as serene as the beginning.

Sergei Prokofiev's work came at a twilight moment in Russian history, between the mysticism of Scriabin and the introverted Romanticism of Rachmaninoff. Into this atmosphere his youthful works came like bursts of fresh air, with their elements of humor as well as lyrical qualities. His unfailing ability to provoke moods, comical, grotesque, mock-sentimental, or movingly lyrical as the case may be, resulted in a compositional style that was uniquely his own. This sonata has been well described as the "sunniest and most serene" of his war-time compositions. Written in 1944, it produces a cool simplicity and melodic spontaneity that coincide to produce a sonata as remarkable for its texture as for its brilliance.

A reception party immediately follows this program at 200 N.E. 50th. Refer to the map enclosed ..... you are all welcome!