

**THE MARLY MUSIC SERIES RETURNS TO THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, ST. PETERSBURG WITH EXCITING CONCERTS IN A GORGEOUS SETTING, BUY YOUR TICKETS EARLY**

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St. Petersburg, Fla.--Escape the heat with cool summer concerts in the intimate, elegant Marly Room. Tickets are first-come, first-served, cost \$20 for adults and \$10 for students 22 and younger with current ID, and can be purchased online by going to [www.mfastpete.org/rsvp/](http://www.mfastpete.org/rsvp/). Admission to the entire Museum is included in the ticket price. Come early and have brunch in the MFA Café.

Marly Music Society members pay only \$15 per concert. Please consider joining the group to support the series. You must be a Museum member to join.

The Music Committee, chaired by **Dr. Richard Eliason**, plans the series. **Vicki Sofranko** is the staff coordinator. Concerts are sponsored in part by the Friends of Joe Sprain in his memory; the Estate of Mrs. Elvira Wolfe de Weil; the *Tampa Bay Times*; WUSF; and the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture. For more information, please call 727.896.2667 or visit the website. The concerts continue at 2 p.m. on these Sundays:

**June 5**

**Ayako Yoshida, violin**

Ayako Yoshida picked up the violin at the age of two and has not stopped since. Critics call her “unforgettable,” “gripping,” “absolutely radiant,” and “a risk-taker.”

Ms. Yoshida made her U.S. concerto debut with the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl, going on to play with London’s Royal Philharmonic. Her New York concerto debut was at Alice Tully Hall and her New York recital debut at Carnegie’s Weill Recital Hall. She was introduced at the Caramoor International Music Festival by André Previn in 1992 and immediately became an audience favorite.

Among her many other festival appearances are Aspen, Santa Fe, Marlboro, and Salzburg. She has played with the likes of Yo-Yo Ma, Elmar Oliveira, Ani Kavafian, and members of the Guarneri and Emerson String Quartets. Her solo recital at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. was broadcast on NPR’s *Performance Today* and received a glowing review in the *Washington Post*. Other engagements have taken her to Europe, Japan, and Latin America.

Ms. Yoshida received the Nathan Wedeen Management Award from the Concert Artists Guild and has won the National Competition in Japan and the Gaetano Zinetti International Competition in Italy. She studied with Jaime Laredo and Yumi Scott at the Curtis Institute of Music.

**June 26**

**Clancy Newman, cello**

Clancy Newman took to the cello at six and won a gold medal in his first competition at 12. He has added first prizes in the Walter W. Naumburg International Competition, The Juilliard School Cello Competition, the National Federation of Music Clubs Competition, and the Astral Artists National Auditions. He has also received an Avery Fisher Career Grant.

Joshua Kossman wrote in the *San Francisco Chronicle* that “Newman’s technical mastery proved entirely dazzling,” and David Patrick Stearns raved in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* that “Newman...seems to be in a class of his own.”

Mr. Newman has performed as a soloist across our country and in Canada, Europe, Asia, and Australia. He has been featured on NPR’s *Performance Today* and on A&E’s *Breakfast with the Arts*. He is in high demand as a chamber musician and has toured with “Musicians from Marlboro.”

Composition is another passion. He wrote his first piece for solo cello at seven and has since expanded both the cello and chamber music repertoire. He premiered his Sonata for Cello and Piano in Carnegie’s Weill Recital Hall and frequently plays his own works in concert. His compositions have received star billing in the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center’s “Double Exposure” series and in the Chicago Chamber Musicians’ “Freshly Scored” series. He holds his MM from The Juilliard School and his BA in English from Columbia University.

Pianist **Noreen Cassidy-Polera**, his accompanist, is one of the most respected collaborative musicians of her generation. She has performed at Lincoln Center’s Alice Tully Hall, Weill Recital Hall, and the 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y in New York and the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. She has accompanied Yo-Yo Ma, Leonard Rose, and Scott Kluksdahl. She won the Eighth International Tchaikovsky Competition Accompanying Prize in Moscow and holds both her Bachelor and Master of Music from The Juilliard School.

**July 17**

**Merling Trio and Friends**

The Merling Trio—violinist Renata Artman Knific, cellist Bruce Uchimura, and pianist Susan Wiersma Uchimura—is one of our premier chamber music ensembles. The *Cleveland Plain Dealer* wrote that “the players shaped a grand interpretation, fluent in rhythm and rich in romantic feeling,” and London’s *Musical Opinion* declared that the artists “made a powerful impression, with unabashed romanticism and finesse.”

The Trio tours extensively, both in the United States and abroad, and made a New York debut in Carnegie’s Weill Recital Hall in 1993. These gifted musicians have been heard widely

on both television and radio and have released a number of critically acclaimed CDs. Their most recent, *postcards in e*, spotlights works by Shostakovich and Dvořák.

Several contemporary composers have written works for the Trio. In 1998, they returned to Carnegie Hall for a sold-out performance of a new piece by Terry Winter-Owens and played the complete piano trios of C. Curtis-Smith in a gala concert at the 2010 Gilmore International Keyboard Festival.

In residence at Western Michigan University, the Merling Trio takes its name from the Danish violin maker Paul Merling. Ms. Knific's violin, fashioned by Vincenzo Postiglione in Naples, Italy, dates from 1898, and Mr. Uchimura's cello was made by Enrico Marchetti in Turin, Italy, in 1899.

Bassist Tom Knific will join the Trio for a performance of Schubert's Piano Quintet in A Major (the "Trout Quintet"). He has performed as principal bassist with orchestras and chamber ensembles in the United States and Europe and is Director of Jazz Studies at Western Michigan University.

### **July 31**

#### **Christopher Johnson, piano**

Dr. Christopher Johnson returns "home" for this special Marly Music concert. Though born in New Jersey, he completed early studies in Pinellas County with Angela Baptiste, who coached him on his first competitions. He has more than fulfilled his early promise. He was the first pianist to win the Yamaha Young Performing Artist Award, one of many prizes.

He had his critically acclaimed recital debut at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall in 1997, followed by eight concerts with the One World Symphony. Since then, he has soloed with a host of ensembles, including the Rochester Philharmonic and the Philharmonic Orchestra of New Jersey. Standing ovations have become standard in his career.

Dr. Johnson played the Horowitz/Sousa *Stars and Stripes Forever* at the 2001 Presidential All-Star Gala at the Lincoln Memorial for President George W. Bush, which was broadcast internationally. Alfred Music Publishing released his book *Popular Performer: Broadway*, featuring piano arrangements of beloved show tunes, in 2008.

He holds his bachelor's from The Juilliard School, where he studied with Abbey Simon, and his master's and doctorate from the Manhattan School of Music, where his teachers were Byron Janis and Marc Silverman. Dr. Johnson teaches piano privately and at the United Nations International School in New York.

### **August 21**

#### **Rachel Kudo, piano**

#### **Brandon Ridenour, trumpet**

Rachel Kudo has been hailed for her “stunning virtuosity” and “miracle of flawless technique and expressive versatility.” She made her orchestral debut with the Chicago and Fort Worth Symphonies at 16 and has since concertized around the globe. Highlights include recitals at the Salle Cortot in Paris, Chopin’s birth house in Żelazowa Wola in Poland and the Royal Castle in Warsaw, the Musikverein in Vienna, and the Tel Aviv Museum of Art in Israel.

Ms. Kudo was the only American finalist in the 15<sup>th</sup> International Frédéric Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw. She also won prizes in the U.S. National and Dublin International Chopin Piano Competitions and received the 2007 Chopin Prize from The Juilliard School and the 2009 Arthur Rubinstein Prize.

In addition, Ms. Kudo was the consecutive winner of two Gina Bachauer International Piano Competitions, was named a Gilmore Young Artist, and was invited twice to participate in Carnegie Hall’s Professional Training Workshops, culminating in performances at that prestigious venue. She was drawn to the keyboard at four and has since studied at Juilliard with Joseph Kalichstein, at the Mannes College of Music with Richard Goode, and at Stony Brook University with Gilbert Kalish.

A virtuoso trumpeter, pianist, and composer/arranger, Brandon Ridenour joined the Canadian Brass at 16 and for seven years played around the world and recorded 10 albums with this important ensemble. He has been a soloist with the National Symphony, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and the Indianapolis and Edmonton Symphonies and has played with the New York Philharmonic and the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, among many others. He recently appeared with Sting and James Taylor in a performance of *Penny Lane* at Carnegie Hall.

Mr. Ridenour is the winner of the 2006 International Trumpet Guild solo competition and a recipient of the Morton Gould ASCAP Young Composer Award. He has recorded three solo CDs. His latest, *Fantasies and Fairy Tales*, features his own arrangements for trumpet and piano. He holds his degree from Juilliard.

## **August 28**

### **The Florida Orchestra Brass Quintet**

This quintet has won over audiences for more than 35 years. These talented musicians—trumpets Robert Smith and Kenneth Brown, horn Andrew Karr, trombone Dwight Decker, and tuba William Mickelsen—are veteran members of The Florida Orchestra and have enriched our cultural life in countless ways.

Robert Smith joined The Florida Orchestra in 1984 and has been Principal Trumpet since 1994. He has been a featured soloist numerous times and has been guest principal with the Dallas, Houston, New Zealand, and Singapore Symphonies and guest associate principal with the San Francisco Symphony. He holds his Bachelor of Music from Northwestern University,

where he studied with the great brass players of the Chicago Symphony, and has been a fellow at Tanglewood.

Kenneth Brown, Assistant Principal Trumpet, became a member of The Florida Orchestra in 1996. He has also performed with the Grand Rapids, the South Bend, the West Coast, and the American Wind symphonies. He freelances throughout the Tampa Bay area and holds his Bachelor of Music from the University of South Florida.

Andrew Karr, Assistant Principal Horn, has played with The Florida Orchestra since 2008. He has also been Principal Horn of the Shanghai Philharmonic and the Shanghai Broadcasting Symphony. He has served as acting principal horn of the Sarasota Orchestra and a member of the New World Symphony in Miami. He has performed as a soloist or principal horn in more than 20 countries on four continents and has even worked with music students in Iraq and Afghanistan. He holds his music degree from the Curtis Institute of Music.

Dwight Decker, Principal Trombone, is a founding member of The Florida Orchestra Brass Quintet and has played with the Orchestra since 1973. He has also been principal trombone with the Civic Orchestra of Chicago and at the Shenandoah Music Festival. He received his Bachelor of Music from Wheaton College in Illinois, where he, too, studied with brass players from the Chicago Symphony. He has been an adjunct instructor at the University of South Florida, the University of Tampa, and St. Leo University.

William Michelsen, Principal Tuba, has been with The Florida Orchestra since 1979 and was one of the early members of the Brass Quintet. He earned his Bachelor of Music from the University of North Colorado and his Master of Music from Yale University. He has performed with many ensembles during his career and has taught throughout the area.