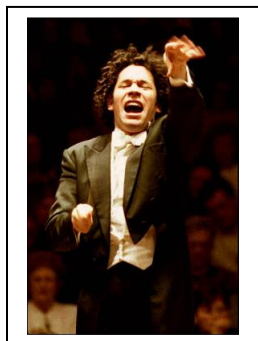


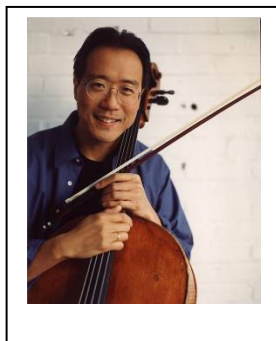
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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January-June 2009 calendar of Washington Performing Arts Society performances



Gustavo Dudamel



Yo-Yo Ma



Frederica von Stade

Washington Performing Arts Society's 2008/2009-season continues in the New Year to provide a broad range of internationally-celebrated artists, orchestras and ensembles and the finest emerging talent from around the world, while also providing area children, adults and seniors with enlightening educational programming.

Symphony Orchestras: Highlights include the return of the electrifying conductor **Gustavo Dudamel** and the first chance in Washington to hear him conduct the **Simón Bolívar Youth Orchestra of Venezuela** on April 6, 2009 at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall. Called "the most astonishingly gifted conductor I have ever come across," by Simon Rattle, the 27-year-old Dudamel has lived up to the buzz. Said *Washington Post* critic Anne Midgette, after his debut WPAS performance with the Israel Philharmonic last fall, "Dudamel is a wild child of music. The advance billing portrays him as a natural talent brimming over with musical understanding untrammelled by a big ego, and onstage, that's just about what you get."

Other great symphony orchestras presented by WPAS in the New Year include the **London Philharmonic Orchestra** conducted by **Vladimir Jurowski** performing works by Mahler, Ligeti and Richard Strauss. Pianist **Leon Fleisher** also joins the orchestra in their February 26, 2009 concert at The Music Center at Strathmore, to play Mozart's piano concerto

No. 23. The **London Symphony Orchestra** conducted by **Valery Gergiev** performs Prokofiev's Classical Symphony and his Symphony No. 6, and are also joined by pianist **Alexei Volodin** playing Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4 in G Major on March 28, 2009 at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall. The **Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra** conducted by **Manfred Honeck** performs Richard Strauss' Death and Transfiguration and Beethoven's Symphony No. 7 at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall on May 4, 2009 and are also joined by soloist **Alisa Weilerstein** in a performance of Haydn's Cello Concerto No. 1 in C Major. Winding up WPAS' 2008-2009 season of orchestral performances, the **Philadelphia Orchestra** under **Charles Dutoit** plays Liszt's *Totentanz*, Rachmaninoff's Symphonic Dances Op. 45, and Ravel's *La Valse*. The orchestra is joined by the celebrated French pianist **Jean-Yves Thibaudet** in a performance of Ravel's Piano Concerto for the Left Hand in D Major at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall on June 3, 2009.

Piano Recitals: WPAS piano recitals start the New Year with a performance on January 24, 2009 at the Kennedy Center Terrace Theater by **Yevgeny Sudbin** playing Haydn, Medtner, Chopin and Ravel. Sudbin has been compared favorably to Vladimir Horowitz. The acclaimed American pianist **Simone Dinnerstein** also performs at the Terrace Theater in a recital of works by Schubert, Bach, Lasser and Beethoven on February 7. This is followed on March 1 by a concert of works by Prokofiev and Chopin performed by the internationally-renowned, Grammy Award-winner Evgeny Kissin in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall. On March 22 pianist **Olga Kern**, who was the winner of the 2001 Van Cliburn Competition and made her WPAS debut on the Hayes Piano Series in 2002, returns to play Haydn, Brahms, Paganini, Chopin and Liszt at Strathmore. The world-class artistry of **Richard Goode** playing a program of Bach and Chopin at Strathmore on March 29 winds up WPAS' March piano recitals. Next is a performance by **Yaron Kohlberg**, one of Israel's leading young pianists performing a recital of works by Schumann, Janáček and Prokofiev at the Terrace Theater. Kohlberg's performance takes place at the Terrace Theatre on April 4. Polish pianist and first prize-winner at the 1975 Warsaw International Frederick Chopin Piano Competition, **Krystian Zimerman's** performance at Strathmore on April 8 is followed by French-Canadian pianist **Louis Lortie's** piano recital of Chopin's complete Études on May 2 at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall.

String performances: Scottish violinist **Nicola Benedetti** and pianist **Katya Apekisheva's** February 3 recital at the Kennedy Center Terrace Theater of works by Brahms, Belgian violinist/conductor Eugène Ysaÿe, Prokofiev and Ravel is followed the next evening by a Strathmore recital of works by Janáček, Brahms, Ysaÿe and Franck performed by **Joshua Bell**, violin and **Jeremy Denk**, piano. The **Escher String Quartet** performs works by Prokofiev,

Janáček and Schubert on April 7, at the Terrace Theatre. This concert is followed on April 17 by a recital by the **Tokyo String Quartet** with cellist **Lynn Harrell** playing Haydn, Beethoven and Schubert at The Music Center at Strathmore.

World Music and Movement: The New Year begins with lively performances January 9 and 10 by hip-hop group **Rennie Harris Puremovement, Step Afrika!** and **Coyaba Dance Theater**. Entitled *Winter Heat*, these performances at the Lansburgh Theatre, Harman Center for the Arts are sure to warm up mid-winter audiences. The astonishingly athletic, gravity-defying **MOMIX** bring their unique blend of dance and illusion to the Warner Theatre on February 20 and 21 in a performance entitled *The Best of MOMIX*. Then on March 9, Paddy Maloney and The Chieftains, dubbed the “best-known Irish band on the planet,” will get the audience’s feet tapping during their performance at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall. **The Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma** return to Strathmore on March 11. This collective of musicians is dedicated to exploring the relationship between tradition and innovation in music from the East and West. WPAS helped launch the project in 2001 and presented a return visit in 2005. **Rennie Harris Puremovement**, featuring **Students of the Asphalt Jungle**, returns for two performances in March at the Atlas Performing Arts Center on March 13 and 14. This is followed by one performance featuring the phenomenal rhythm of the Japanese **Kodo Drummers**, who will shake the rafters of DAR Constitution Hall on March 27. **Ravi Shankar** and his daughter **Anoushka Shankar** calm things down with a program of lyrical sitar music in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall on April 25.

WPAS’s **Jazz** concerts start in the New Year at Warner Theatre on February 6, with a performance by singer **Dianne Reeves**. Reeves won Grammy Awards for her last three recordings, a first in any vocal category. The evening opens with new jazz phenom **Esperanza Spalding** on bass. The unmistakable sound of the **Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra** with **Wynton Marsalis**, trumpet will fill the Kennedy Center Concert Hall on March 16. Then on April 18, the inimitable **Dave Brubeck Quartet** performs at Warner Theatre.

Vocalists: **Sweet Honey in the Rock** return for their annual children’s concert on January 17, at People’s Congregational United Church of Christ. WPAS audiences can also enjoy a January 25 performance by WPAS’ own **Men and Women of the Gospel Choir** who will debut a variety of works by featured guest composer Evelyn Simpson Curenton. The choir performs at The Kennedy Center Concert Hall and will be joined by gospel recording artist **Kurt Carr**. Broadway legend **Barbara Cook** sings at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall on February 9, and mezzo-soprano **Frederica von Stade** and bass-baritone **Samuel Ramey** perform works

by Copland, Berlioz, Gershwin, Offenbach and Rodgers and Hammerstein in the concert hall on March 25, 2009.

What Makes It Great?© Series with Rob Kapilow WPAS and The Smithsonian Associates continue their partnership during the 2008-2009 season by presenting the What Makes It Great?© Series with Rob Kapilow. The engaging composer, conductor, and NPR commentator Rob Kapilow dissects and reconstructs musical masterpieces to help audiences understand what makes them great. He and guest pianists **Yuliya Gorenman** and **Adam Neiman** guide the audience through selected pieces, playing or singing to elucidate his ideas. The evening ends in a performance of the featured work when the audience can hear the piece in a new way with a deeper connection to the music. This season Kapilow focuses on the Great Romantics, exploring the intense, passionate, and technically brilliant music of Schumann on February 18, and Liszt on April 15.

On Tuesday, February 10, 2009 at 7 p.m. WPAS presents an interview with **Barbara Cook**. The first of two interviews in this season's WPAS' **Conversations with Legends** series, Cook will talk with **Dwight Blocker Bowers**, Curator of American Entertainment History at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, at the Sixth and I Historic Synagogue, 600 I Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20001. Then on March 26, opera star Frederica von Stade will join a moderator at La Maison Française, Embassy of France, 4101 Reservoir Rd, Washington, DC. for a conversation about her life and music. The exact time and the name of the moderator are to be announced.

A chronological calendar of all performances follows.

JANUARY

Winter Heat

Rennie Harris Puremovement

Step Afrika!

Coyaba Dance Theater

Friday, January 9, 2009 at 8pm

Saturday, January 10, 2009 at 3p.m. and 8p.m.

Lansburgh Theater

Warm up this winter with three of the hottest dance troupes as they present a collage of high-energy percussive stepping, modern, and contemporary West African dance. Drawing on African-American traditions, these companies combine their cultural roots with groundbreaking choreography. A co-presentation with Dance Place.

-more-

Sweet Honey In The Rock Annual Children's Concert (WPAS Vocal Roots Series)

People's Congregational United Church of Christ

Saturday, January 17, 2009 at 2p.m.and 5.m.

Children of all ages can't resist Sweet Honey's infectious blend of spirituals, raps, blues, and ballads with messages of strength and hope. "Original lyrics aim at teaching kids some of life's lessons. Adding music turns them into magic." (*Jazz and Blues Report*) Sing along, clap your hands, and dance to songs from Sweet Honey's 2007 Grammy-nominated children's CD, *Experience ... 101*.

Yevgeny Sudbin, piano (WPAS Hayes Piano Series)

Saturday, January 24, 2009 at 2p.m .

Kennedy Center Terrace Theater

Dubbed "the most exciting pianist of his generation" by *The Daily Telegraph* (London), Yevgeny Sudbin has been compared to Vladimir Horowitz. Anyone lucky enough to attend his recitals catches "a glimpse into a beautiful musical mind" (*Montreal Gazette*).

Haydn Sonata in B minor, Hob XVI/32
Haydn Sonata in C Major, Hob.XVI/50
Medtner Two Fairy Tales: Op. 20, No. 1 and Op. 51, No. 3
Chopin Mazurka No. 2 in D Major, Op. 33
Mazurka No. 4 in B minor, Op. 33
Ravel Gaspard de la Nuit

This performance is generously underwritten by Terry and Mark McLeod.

WPAS Men and Women of the Gospel Choir (WPAS Vocal Roots Series)

Stanley J. Thurston, artistic director

Valeria Foster, Guest director

Evelyn Simpson Curenton, featured composer

Kurt Carr, guest artist

Sunday, January 25, 2009 at 4p.m.

Kennedy Center Concert Hall

Let your spirits soar as more than 100 voices combine to debut a variety of work by featured guest composer **Evelyn Simpson Curenton**. A leader in the gospel music genre, WPAS' own choir comprises the D.C. area's most talented singers. They will share the stage with guest artist **Kurt Carr**.

FEBRUARY

Nicola Benedetti, violin (WPAS Kreeger String Series)

Katya Apekisheva, piano

Tuesday, February 3, 2009 at 7:30p.m.

Kennedy Center Terrace Theater

At only 20 years old, violinist Nicola Benedetti displays effortless technique and innate musicality. Her playing is "beautifully precise, her keen intonation has that glass-shattering perfection, and she has a deliciously unaffected charm that simply allows the music to kindle its own irresistible momentum" (*Sunday Times*, Scotland).

Brahms Sonata No. 2 in A Major, Op. 100
Ysaÿe Sonata No. 5 in G Major, Op. 27, No. 5
Prokofiev Sonata No. 1 in F Minor, Op. 80
Ravel Tzigane

This performance is generously underwritten by KPMG LLP.

Joshua Bell, violin and Jeremy Denk, piano (WPAS Celebrity Series)

Wednesday, February 4, 2009 at 8p.m.

Music Center at Strathmore

Grammy winner Joshua Bell captivates audiences with his incredible virtuosity and elegance. A violinist for ‘everyman,’ he reveals nuance of the repertoire and reigns as the indisputable master of his instrument. “Bell is dazzling.” (*Gramophone*) “He is a complete violinist. All the bells and whistles of Romantic phrasing are under his control.” (*The New York Times*)

Janáček Sonata for Violin and Piano, JW VII/7
Brahms Violin Sonata No. 3 in D minor, Op. 108
Ysaÿe Violin Sonata No. 2 in A minor, Op. 27, No. 2
Franck Violin Sonata in A major

This performance has been generously underwritten by Christina G. Co-Weeks and Dr. Gary Mather.

Dianne Reeves (WPAS Jazz series)

Esperanza Spalding, bass

Friday, February 6, 2009 at 8p.m.

Warner Theatre

One of the preeminent jazz vocalists in the world today, Dianne Reeves is “the legitimate extension of all the good things that have gone on before, from Ethel Waters to Ella Fitzgerald” (*Down Beat*). She received the Grammy Award for Best Jazz Vocal Performance for each of her last three recordings, a first in any vocal category. Opening the performance is bassist Esperanza Spalding, whose playing “is light, melodic, joyful, always sort of minimalist and airborne” (*The New York Times*). “Those following jazz ought to keep an ear on her.”

Simone Dinnerstein, piano (WPAS Hayes Piano Series)

Saturday, February 7, 2009 at 2p.m.

Kennedy Center Terrace Theater

A charismatic and commanding performer, Simone Dinnerstein is acclaimed for her warm and varied tone and her unusual interpretations. She has been called “one of the brightest pianistic talents” by Joel Smirnoff, first violinist of the Juilliard String Quartet, “a true artist” by Peter Serkin, and “remarkably musical” by Emanuel Ax.

Schubert Impromptus D.899, Op. 90
Bach French Suite No. 5 in G Major, BWV 816
Lasser 12 Variations on a Chorale by Bach
Beethoven Sonata in C minor, Op.111

Barbara Cook

Tuesday, February 9, 2009 at 8p.m.

Kennedy Center Concert Hall

When Broadway legend Barbara Cook performs, audiences “are cradled in delight, empathy, laughter or tears, and something as close to bliss as we’ll ever know in the theater. It is ... by the ear and heart, a continuous moment of undiluted ecstasy.” (*New York Magazine*)

This performance is generously underwritten by Ms. Jacqueline Badger Mars.

Barbara Cook: Conversations with Legends:

Tuesday, February 10, 2009 at 7 p.m.

Sixth and I Historic Synagogue, 600 I Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 2001

Tickets, priced \$18, are available at www.wpas.org or by calling 202-785-9727 or 202-418-3100

WHAT MAKES IT GREAT® SERIES WITH ROB KAPILOW

Wednesday, February 18, 2009 at 7 p.m.

Eugene & Agnes E. Meyer Auditorium, Freer Gallery of Art

Robert Schumann (1810-1856) was a Romantic composer who, like all 19th century composers, wrote in the shadow of Beethoven. In the magnificent Fantasy in C, Schumann wrestles with Beethoven's legacy, quotes his music, and discovers a new path for the future. Rob Kapilow guides the audience through Schumann's journey of discovery in one of the greatest piano works of the era.

Schumann Fantasie in C Major, Op. 17

Presented in partnership with The Smithsonian Associates

WPAS What Makes It Great program is generously supported by The Bruce Rosenblum and Lori Laitman Music Education Fund

MOMIX (WPAS World Music and Movement Series)

The Best of MOMIX

Friday, February 20, 2009 at 8p.m.

Saturday, February 21, 2009 at 8p.m.

Warner Theatre

Known internationally for presenting work of exceptional inventiveness and physical beauty, MOMIX is a company of dancer-illusionists under the direction of famed choreographer Moses Pendleton, who also co-founded Pilobolus. "Underneath the pop veneer there is nonetheless an ambiguity that only genuine art can convey. An engaging American eccentricity and a hilariously unpredictable exploration of movement." (*The New York Times*)

London Philharmonic Orchestra (WPAS Celebrity Series)

Vladimir Jurowski, conductor

Leon Fleisher, piano

Thursday, February 26, 2009 at 8p.m.

The Music Center at Strathmore

Celebrated for its versatility and artistic excellence, The London Philharmonic has earned its place among the world's most respected orchestras. Conductor Vladimir Jurowski, who recently made highly acclaimed debuts with the Metropolitan Opera and Los Angeles Philharmonic, "ranks as a star. . . . He conveys his intentions with balletic fluency, applying accents that are minimal and precise" (*The New York Times*).

Mahler Adagio from Symphony No. 10

Mozart Piano Concerto No. 23, K. 488

Ligeti Atmosphères

R. Strauss Also Sprach Zarathustra

MARCH

Evgeny Kissin, piano (WPAS Stars Series)

Sunday, March 1, 2009 at 4p.m.

Kennedy Center Concert Hall

Kissin's musicality, poetic interpretations, and extraordinary virtuosity have placed him at the forefront of the world's new generation of pianists. "So compelling is Kissin's pianism, so fresh his response to even the most familiar phrases, that one hangs on every note." (*The New York Times*)

Prokofiev 3 Pieces from Romeo and Juliet: Juliet, Mercutio, Montagues and Capulets

Prokofiev Sonata No. 8 in B-flat Major, Op. 84
Chopin Polonaise-Fantasie in A-flat major, op.61
Chopin Mazurkas Op. 30 No. 4, Op. 41 No. 4 and Op. 59 No. 1
Chopin Études Op. 10 Nos.1, 2, 3, 4, 12
Chopin Études Op. 25 Nos. 5, 6, 11

This performance has been generously underwritten by Dr. Paul G. Stern.

The Chieftains with Paddy Maloney and special guests (WPAS World Music and Movement Series)

Monday, March 9, 2009 at 8p.m.

Kennedy Center Concert Hall

Recognized for bringing their art form to the world's attention, these six-time Grammy Award winners are "ambassadors of traditional Irish music. The Chieftains are without peer" (*Pioneer Press*). Unafraid to push boundaries, the Chieftains perform with a unique, definitive style that has made them the best-known Irish band on the planet.

The Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma (WPAS Celebrity Series)

Wednesday, March 11, 2009 at 8p.m.

The Music Center at Strathmore

Incomparable cellist and cultural ambassador Yo-Yo Ma returns with his Silk Road Ensemble to illuminate the musical riches of the ancient trade route. "This music leapt across national boundaries in a strange and wonderful way. We were reminded that multiculturalism has been a reality for many contemporary musicians for a very long time." (*Chicago Tribune*)

This performance is generously underwritten by TOYOTA.

Rennie Harris Puremovement

Friday, March 13 and Saturday, March 14, 2009 at 8pm

Atlas Performing Arts Center

Students of the Asphalt Jungle and other works

Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis, trumpet (WPAS Jazz Series)

Monday, March 16, 2009 at 8p.m.

Kennedy Center Concert Hall

No jazz ensemble performing today can match the greatness of Wynton Marsalis and his orchestra. "The audience was weak from applauding and shouting and jumping up and down with the joy of the great music it had heard. We had been run over by a 16-ton musical steamroller, wrung out with utter exhilaration and neatly hung up to dry by all that genuine jazz." (*El Universal/The Herald*)

Olga Kern, piano (WPAS Celebrity Series)

Sunday, March 22, 2009 at 4p.m.

The Music Center at Strathmore

Winner of the 2001 Van Cliburn Competition, Olga Kern displays vivid stage presence, passionately confident musicianship, and extraordinary technique. "Her playing is brilliant, glassy, supremely aggressive and dazzlingly virtuosic in the Horowitz manner." (*The Washington Post*) This is Kern's first solo recital with WPAS since her debut on the Hayes Piano Series in 2002.

Haydn Sonata in C Major Hob.XVI/50

Brahms Variations on a Theme by Paganini, Op. 35

Chopin Sonata No. 3 in B minor, Op. 58

Liszt Spanish Rhapsody, S.254

This performance has been generously underwritten by Morton and Norma Lee FUNGER.

Frederica von Stade, mezzo-soprano (WPAS Stars Series)

Samuel Ramey, bass-baritone

Martin Katz, piano

Wednesday, March 25, 2009 at 8p.m.

Kennedy Center Concert Hall

An evening with two of America's most celebrated voices. Samuel Ramey continues to reign as the foremost interpreter of bass and bass-baritone repertoire. "Ramey's singing is the stuff of which operatic legends are made." (*New York Post*) Performances by Frederica von Stade "combine superior artistry with emotional directness, clarity of tone with crystalline diction, natural elegance with unpretentious passion" (*Opera News*).

Program includes works by Copland, Berlioz, Gershwin, Offenbach, Berlin, Rodgers and Hammerstein, and more.

This performance is generously underwritten by Ms. Jacqueline Badger Mars.

Conversations with Legends: Frederica von Stade

Thursday, March 26, 2009 at 7 p.m.

La Maison Française, Embassy of France, 4101 Reservoir Rd, Washington, DC

Price and moderator to be announced

Kodo Drummers (WPAS World Music and Movement Series)

Friday, March 27, 2009 at 8p.m.

DAR Constitution Hall

Performing on the larger-than-life taiko drum, the Kodo Drummers reinterpret traditional Japanese arts with astounding energy and athleticism. Infusing rhythms and movements from across the globe, Kodo creates an exhilarating performance for audiences of all ages.

"Superlatives don't really exist to convey the primal power and bravura beauty of Kodo." (*Chicago Tribune*)

This performance is generously underwritten by Altria.

London Symphony Orchestra (WPAS Great Orchestras Series)

Valery Gergiev, conductor

Alexei Volodin, piano

Saturday, March 28, 2009 at 4p.m.

Kennedy Center Concert Hall

Valery Gergiev's appointment with the London Symphony was one of the most talked about recent events in classical music. With his electrifying and charismatic style, Gergiev continues a tradition of innovation at London's most prolific orchestra. The London Symphony "makes magic so effortlessly" (*The Times*, London).

Prokofiev Symphony No. 1 in D Major, "Classical"

Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 4 in G Major

Prokofiev Symphony No. 6 in E-flat minor

Richard Goode, piano (WPAS Piano Masters Series)

Sunday, March 29, 2009 at 4p.m.

The Music Center at Strathmore

Richard Goode consistently receives extraordinarily high praise from audiences and critics worldwide. "There is no flamboyance or opulence about his playing, just a remarkable attention to detail, to the energy of every rhythm, the expressive potential of every texture and harmonic

shift, and above all to the way in which the music creates a unique world of sensibility.” (*The Arts Guardian*, London).

Bach French Suite No.5 in G Major, BWV 816
Chopin Six Mazurkas
Chopin Nocturne in F-sharp Major, Op.15, No.2
Chopin Scherzo No.3 in C-sharp minor, Op.39
Bach Three Preludes and Fugues from The Well-Tempered Clavier, BWV 846-893
Chopin Nocturne in D-flat Major, Op.27, No.2
Chopin Waltz in C-sharp minor, Op.64, No.2
Chopin Waltz in A-flat Major, Op.64, No.3
Chopin Valse brillante in F Major, Op.34, No.3
Chopin - Polonaise-fantasia in A-flat Major, Op.61

The WPAS Piano Masters Series is made possible by generous support from Betsy and Robert Feinberg.

APRIL

Yaron Kohlberg, piano (WPAS Hayes Piano Series)

Saturday, April 4, 2009 at 2p.m.

Kennedy Center Terrace Theater

One of Israel’s leading young pianists, Yaron Kohlberg is “an eager and ardent musician who makes contact with everything he touches. He is a poised, expressive interpreter” (*The Plain Dealer*). He performs with “bountiful temperament, drive and controlled drama ... with bold, thrusting pianism.”

Schumann Davidsbundlertanze Op. 6
Janáček Piano Sonata 1.X.1905
Prokofiev Piano Sonata No. 8 in B-flat Major, Op. 84

Simón Bolívar Youth Orchestra of Venezuela

Gustavo Dudamel, conductor

Monday, April 6, 2009 at 8p.m.

Kennedy Center Concert Hall

“Former Berlin Philharmonic director Claudio Abbado only needed to see one performance by the orchestra to invite the Venezuelans to play in Germany. The talented musicians of the National System of Venezuelan Youth and Children’s Orchestras are a source of national pride, like football stars in other Latin American countries. They have also inspired 23 countries across the hemisphere to launch similar music education programmes. Called *El Sistema* by its members, the programme is celebrating 30 years of making classical musicians out of half-a-million young Venezuelans, and it has transformed the lives of many underprivileged and at-risk youths in the process. (*Jens Erik Gould, BBC News*)

Various Latin American works
Ravel Daphnis and Chloe, Suite No. 2
Stravinsky The Rite of Spring

WPAS would like to thank CITGO Petroleum Corporation for its generous sponsorship and the Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for its support of the US tour. WPAS would also like to thank Dr. Paul G. Stern for his generous funding of the Washington, DC debut performance. Additional support for the educational activities has been provided by Hilda Ochoa-Brillembourg and Arturo Brillembourg.

Escher String Quartet (WPAS Kreeger String Series)

Tuesday, April 7, 2009 at 7:30p.m.

Kennedy Center Terrace Theater

Within months of its inception, the Escher String Quartet was invited by Pinchas Zukerman and Itzhak Perlman to be the quartet-in-residence at each artist's summer festival. The quartet's "sound is golden-ripe, and its performance was technically almost infallible" (*San Jose Mercury News*).

Prokofiev Quartet No. 1 in B minor, Op. 50

Janáček Quartet No. 1, "Kreutzer Sonata"

Schubert Quartet in G Major, D. 887

Krystian Zimerman, piano (WPAS Piano Masters Series)

Wednesday, April 8, 2009 at 8p.m.

The Music Center at Strathmore

Krystian Zimerman stands as one of the most sensitive concert pianists to emerge in the latter half of the 20th century. With a reputation for maintaining dauntingly high personal artistic standards, Zimerman performs only a small number of concert engagements each year and has been praised for "his elegantly songful lines, his love of delicacy, his carefully controlled pacing" (*The New York Times*)

The WPAS Piano Masters Series is made possible by generous support from Betsy and Robert Feinberg.

WHAT MAKES IT GREAT© SERIES WITH ROB KAPILOW

Wednesday, April 15, 2008 at 7p.m.

Eugene & Agnes E. Meyer Auditorium, Freer Gallery of Art

Franz Liszt (1811-1886) is considered by many as the greatest showman in the history of classical music. Rob Kapilow explores Liszt's difficult Transcendental Etudes, some of the most challenging piano music ever written.

Liszt Transcendental Etudes After Paganini for Piano

Presented in partnership with The Smithsonian Associates

WPAS What Makes It Great program is generously supported by The Bruce Rosenblum and Lori Laitman Music Education Fund

Tokyo String Quartet (WPAS Celebrity Series)

Lynn Harrell, cello

Friday, April 17, 2009 at 8p.m.

The Music Center at Strathmore

Regarded as one of the supreme chamber ensembles of the world, the Tokyo String Quartet has a "fervor for the music that is contagious" (*Chicago Maroon*). One of the foremost cellists of our time, Lynn Harrell "performs with an easy generosity, big phrasing, sincerity, and confidence" (*The New York Times*). Together, they perform Schubert's sublime string quintet.

Haydn String Quartet in G Major, Op. 76, No. 1

Beethoven String Quartet in C minor, Op. 18, No. 4

Schubert String Quintet in D Major, D.956

The Dave Brubeck Quartet

Saturday, April 18, 2009 at 8 p.m.

Warner Theatre

Dave Brubeck's complex experiments with time signatures, improvised counterpoint, and distinctive harmonies remain hallmarks of a unique musical style, unfazed by fad and fashion.

Ravi Shankar, sitar (WPAS World Music and Movement Series)

Anoushka Shankar, sitar

Saturday, April 25 2009 at 4p.m.

Kennedy Center Concert Hall

A living legend, Ravi Shankar is known as “the godfather of world music.” Credited with introducing Western audiences to India’s intricate classical music, Shankar shares the stage with his daughter Anoushka, who is “the purest of her father’s disciples, musically formed entirely in his image” (*The New York Times*). The father-daughter duo has “a bond that comes up only onstage,” Ms. Shankar has said. “It’s spiritual ... and it’s the beautiful music and the excitement.”

MAY

Louis Lortie, piano (WPAS Stars Series)

Saturday, May 2, 2009 at 4p.m.

Kennedy Center Concert Hall

An all-Chopin program performed by Louis Lortie, whose “interpretation of Chopin is electrifying” (*Guardian Review*). Lortie is “one of a half-dozen pianists worth dropping everything to hear” (*Daily Telegraph*, London). A noted specialist in demanding, sonically lush Romantic works, there is seemingly nothing too complex for this master of technique and emotional understanding.

Chopin The Complete Études

Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra (WPAS Great Orchestras Series)

Manfred Honeck, music director and conductor

Alisa Weilerstein, cello

Monday, May 4, 2009 at 8p.m.

Kennedy Center Concert Hall

Music director Manfred Honeck leads the Pittsburgh Symphony in his debut Washington performance with the orchestra. “Based on the strength of its last trip to Washington, the PSO must be ranked among the very best orchestras in the country.” (*The Washington Post*)

R. Strauss Death and Transfiguration

Haydn Cello Concerto No. 1 in C Major

Beethoven Symphony No. 7 in A Major, Op. 92

JUNE

The Philadelphia Orchestra, (WPAS Great Orchestras Series)

Charles Dutoit, conductor

Jean-Yves Thibaudet, piano

Wednesday, June 3, 2009 at 8p.m.

Kennedy Center Concert Hall

The Philadelphia Orchestra returns for its annual WPAS engagement with Charles Dutoit, recently named the ensemble’s chief conductor and artistic advisor. The extraordinary program includes Rachmaninoff’s Symphonic Dances, which the composer wrote expressly for this orchestra. “The Philadelphia Orchestra is unquestionably one of the world’s greats – its sound is incomparably thick and sweet with rich string tone, weighty brass and booming timpani.” (*Financial Times*)

Ravel Piano Concerto for the Left Hand in D Major

Liszt Totentanz (Dance of Death)

Rachmaninoff Symphonic Dances
Ravel La Valse

WPAS Community Connections Education Programs for All Ages

For more than 40 years, Washington Performing Arts Society has enriched the lives of nearly 4 million children and adults through programs taking place all across the region, in schools, community centers, theaters, and outdoor venues.

“Your programs also taught the children to look outside of themselves.” – Parent of education program participant

“Thank you for performing at our school and teaching us more about music. ... Music means a lot to me, since music is everywhere, from people’s door bells to people playing instruments.” – Student who participated in WPAS education programs.

Concerts in Schools

Artists ranging from jazz quintets, dancers from around the world, and storytellers provide students with free curriculum-based performances.

Joseph and Goldie Feder Memorial String Competition

String players in grades 6-12 compete for cash prizes and music camp scholarships.

Embassy Adoption Program

Grades 5 and 6 study the history and traditions of a particular country in collaboration with D.C. Public Schools and embassies. WPAS Embassy Adoption Program is supported through the generosity of WPAS’ Lawyers’ Committee and other individual gifts.

Enriching Experiences for Seniors, made possible through the generosity of NoraLee and Jon Sedmak

Free concerts in nursing homes and recreation centers.

WPAS Summer Performing Arts Academy

WPAS Children of the Gospel Vocal Workshop

WPAS Summer Steps with StepAfrika!

Playful Rhythms (In partnership with The Levine School of Music) for children ages 4-6

For additional information on all WPAS Community Connections programs, please visit wpas.org or call (202) 533-1894.

Funded in part by the D.C. Commission on the Arts & Humanities, an agency supported in part by National Endowment for the Arts.

WPAS is committed to making every event accessible for persons with disabilities. Please call the WPAS Ticket Services Office for more information on accessibility to the various theaters in which our performances are held. Services offered vary from venue to venue and may require advance notice.

Washington Performing Arts Society has created profound opportunities for connecting the community to artists, in both education and performance. Through live events in venues that criss-cross the landscape of the D.C. metropolitan area, the careers of emerging artists are guided, and established artists who have bonded with the local audience are invited to return. In this way, the space between artists and audiences is eliminated, so that all may share life-long opportunities to deepen their cultural knowledge, enrich their lives, and expand their understanding and compassion of the world through the universal language of the arts.

American Airlines® is the official airline of Washington Performing Arts Society’s 2008/2009 Season.

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