

For Immediate Release

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**Concerto Novo presents *An Evening of Classical and New Music* at Weil Recital Hall, Carnegie Hall
October 1, 2016 at 8pm**

The concert will feature the World Premiere of George Oakley's Stabat Mater, and the U.S. debut of up-and-coming Georgian cellist Lizi Ramishvili.

Beethoven's Sonata for Cello and Piano, in D major, op. 102

Schumann's Fantasiestücke, op. 73

Oakley's Sonata for Cello and Piano

Oakley's Stabat Mater

Inga Kashakashvili, Piano

Lizi Ramishvili, Cello

Sivan Magen, Harp

Nikolai Kachanov Singers

Concerto Novo is proud to present *An Evening of Classical and New Music* at Carnegie Hall on October 1, 8 PM.

The concert features the world premiere of George Oakley's *Stabat Mater*. It also features Georgian cellist Lizi Ramishvili's United States debut, in which she will perform Oakley's *Sonata for Cello and Piano*.

This chamber concert will take the audience through three distinct musical periods: The Classical period, represented by the Beethoven's Sonata for Cello and Piano in D major, op. 102, the Romantic period with Schumann's Fantasiestücke, op. 73, and through to contemporary classical via New York-based Georgian composer George Oakley.

The concert will present the World Premiere of Oakley's *Stabat Mater*, for chorus and harp, written exclusively for the Nikolai Kachanov Singers and taking its musical inspiration from the medieval period, filtered through a modern mentality. Also on the program is Oakley's deeply moving *Sonata for Cello and Piano* which premiered at Merkin Hall in February 2014 to a standing ovation.

Tickets are now available at carnegiehall.org for \$35 and \$45 (students \$25).

SHORT BIOS

Composer George Oakley studied at the V. Sarajishvili Tbilisi State Conservatoire. After winning the top prize at the Flier International Piano Competition in 2003, he moved to the US. His compositions have been performed at Carnegie Hall, Merkin Hall, and at concerts and festivals in the Northeast.

"Mr. Oakley is a composer of extraordinary gifts whose music speaks to the heart as well as the mind" – Richard Danielpour.

Cellist Lizi Ramishvili, born in Tbilisi, Georgia in 1997, has performed extensively in Georgia, Russia, and in East and West Europe. She has held a stipend from the Mstislav Rostropovich Foundation since 2010, when she won First Prize at *The Nutcracker*, the First International Competition for Young Musicians in Russia.

Pianist Inga Kashakashvili is a New York-based pianist from Tbilisi, Georgia whose repertoire includes the Classical, Romantic, and Contemporary periods. She has performed at major venues around the world, among them Carnegie Hall, Jazz at Lincoln Center, Lyric Opera (Chicago), Barbican Centre (London), and Gewandhaus (Leipzig).

"I am very impressed with her passion for music, pianistic abilities and a tangible stage presence", said Vladimir Feltsman. Eteri Andjaparidze writes, "Ms. Kashakashvili's talent is truly unsurpassed as she equally awes both broad audiences and professional musicians."

Harpist Sivan Magen, praised as a "budding superstar" (The New York Times), is a winner of the Pro Musicis International Award and in 2012 was chosen as the winner of the Borletti-Buitoni Trust Award by a committee headed by Dame Mitsuko Uchida. He has appeared as a soloist across the US, South America, Europe and Israel in venues such as Carnegie Hall, Wigmore Hall, the Sydney Opera House and the Vienna Konzerthaus, and with orchestras such as the Israel Philharmonic, the Strasbourg Philharmonic, the Jerusalem and Sydney Symphonies, and the Saint-Paul, Scottish, Israeli and Viennese Chamber Orchestras.

Choral director Nikolai Kachanov, founder and Artistic Director of the Russian Chamber Chorus of New York, brings his unique sensitivity and authentic interpretation to the established choral repertoire. He is devoted to presenting new and underexposed works that illustrate Russia's rich heritage and its contemporary spirit. He is the founder of the Ussachevsky Festival of Russian-American contemporary music, held at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City. Two of Mr. Kachanov's choral compositions were premiered by the Russian Chamber Chorus to sold-out audiences at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine.

Mr. Kachanov has been interviewed by Fred Child for NPR's *From the Village to the Concert*, and has appeared on the WNYC-FM programs *Around New York* with Fred Child and *New Sounds* and *Soundcheck* with John Schaefer. Mr. Kachanov enjoys a career as a vocal coach.

LONG BIOS



George Oakley

George Oakley is a Georgian composer with Irish family roots. After finishing the Z. Paliashvili Gymnazium for Gifted Children, Mr. Oakley continued his studies and earned a Bachelor of Music degree from the V. Sarajishvili Tbilisi State Conservatoire. In 2001 he received a full scholarship to participate in the Piano Summer Festival at New Paltz. That same year Mr. Oakley was the top prizewinner at the Flier International Piano Competition. In 2003, he was invited as a guest artist in

the United Sounds of America, festival dedicated to the 9/11 tragedy. In 2005 he graduated from DePaul University in Eteri Andjaparidze's studio. Mr. Oakley is a featured alumnus of the Steinhardt School at NYU, where he studied film scoring with Ira Newborn and classical composition with Justin Dello Joio. More recently he has studied with the prominent composers Richard Danielpour and Robert Aldridge.

Mr. Oakley's piano compositions, *Nostalgia & Toccata*, were premiered at Carnegie Hall in 2009. "Mr. Oakley represents a return to a great tradition" (Jay Nordlinger); *Piano fantasia* was premiered at Jazz at Lincoln Center in 2008. His String Quartet, *Dictator*, dedicated to the August war in Georgia, had its premiere at Steinway Hall in 2008 as part of a concert organized for the *Benefit for Georgia*.

Mr. Oakley served as a co-producer, composer and music editor for the Georgian-American documentary film *Misha vs. Moscow*. The film was an official selection of the 10th Tbilisi International Film Festival. *Misha vs. Moscow* was also screened on the Documentary Channel in 2010. That same year, Mr. Oakley was commissioned to write a cycle of songs for Soprano and Piano based on Shakespeare's Sonnets. The cycle was premiered in 2012 at the Carnegie Weill Recital Hall along with his large orchestral piece, *Concerto for Piano, Orchestra and Chorus*.

In 2014, his *Sonata for Cello and Piano* and his *Remembrance* for clarinet and piano were premiered at Merkin Concert Hall. In 2015, Mr. Oakley's music was presented by the American Irish Historical Society. That same year Mr. Oakley served as a music arranger for *A Ballerina's Tale*, a documentary film about the career of African-American ballerina Misty Copeland. In 2016, the noted contemporary ensemble HELIX, with maestro Kynan Johns conducting, premiered Oakley's orchestral piece *The Magic Circle* at Le Poisson Rouge.

"Mr. Oakley is a composer of extraordinary gifts whose music speaks to the heart as well as the mind" – Richard Danielpour.

For more information, please visit www.georgeoakleycomposition.com



Lizi Ramishvili

Lizi Ramishvili was born in Tbilisi, Georgia, in 1997, and began taking music lessons at the Paliashvili Central Music School under Tamara Gabarashvili. Since 2014 she has been studying at the Kronberg Academy in Germany with Frans Helmerson, where she is a recipient of the Boris Pergamenschikov scholarship.

Lizi Ramishvili has taken part in numerous competitions and festivals, including *Moscow Meets Friends* (Russia), *Musica Mundi* (Belgium), *Arpeggione* (Austria and Switzerland), *Appointment with Slava* – the International Mstislav Rostropovich Festival in Kronberg, Germany – *Peregrinos Musicales* (Spain), *Eurovision Young Musicians* (Austria), *Energy for Life* (Vienna and Geneva), the *Seventh Mstislav Rostropovich Festival* in Baku,

the *Second Mstislav Rostropovich Festival* in Orenburg, among many others.

Although Ms. Ramishvili's primary interest is in classical and contemporary music, she has also explored the jazz tradition with pianist Papuna Sharikadze.

Ms. Ramishvili won the First Prize at The Nutcracker, the First International Competition for Young Musicians in Russia, and the Grand Prix at the *Renaissance International Festival and Competition* in Armenia. Lizi Ramishvili has been a stipend holder of the Mstislav Rostropovich Foundation since 2010.



Inga Kashakashvili

Inga Kashakashvili is a New York-based pianist from Tbilisi, Georgia. She has performed at major venues around the world, among them Carnegie Hall, Jazz at Lincoln Center, Le Poisson Rouge, Steinway Hall, Merkin Hall at Kaufman Center, Lyric Opera (Chicago), Barbican Centre (London), Tradegar House (Newport, UK), Gewandhaus (Leipzig), Opera House and Tbilisi Center for Music and Culture (Georgia).

In addition to frequent performances of the classical repertoire, Ms. Kashakashvili actively promotes contemporary music. Her recent performances include music of Grammy-winner composers Robert

Aldridge and Richard Danielpour. She frequently performs the music of composer George Oakley. In 2016 she was invited to perform at the Salmagundi Art Club, the American Irish Historical Society, and the Hudson River Music Hall. In 2014 and 2016 Ms. Kashakashvili was invited to be part of the prestigious contemporary ensemble HELIX. In 2009, she was invited by ABT to perform at the Metropolitan Opera, and in October of 2008, she organized a benefit concert at NY's Steinway Hall to aid refugees in Tbilisi, Georgia.

Ms. Kashakashvili is a prizewinner of numerous international competitions, including the Artists International Auditions and the Jacob Flier International Piano Competition in New York and the Newport International Competition for Young Pianists in Wales.

Ms. Kashakashvili has participated in prestigious music festivals including the Fête de La Musique in conjunction with the French-American Piano Society and Steinway & Sons at Sofitel, NY, the United Sounds of America in Chicago, Pianosummer at New Paltz in New York, and the Leipzig Music Festival in Germany.

"I am very impressed with her passion for music, pianistic abilities and a tangible stage presence", said Vladimir Feltsman. Eteri Andjaparidze writes, "Ms. Kashakashvili's talent is truly unsurpassed as she equally awes both broad audiences and professional musicians."

Ms. Kashakashvili's teachers have included Nino Katamadze, Eteri Andjaparidze, Vladimir Feltsman, and Min Kwon. For more information, please visit www.ingakashakashvili.com



Sivan Magen

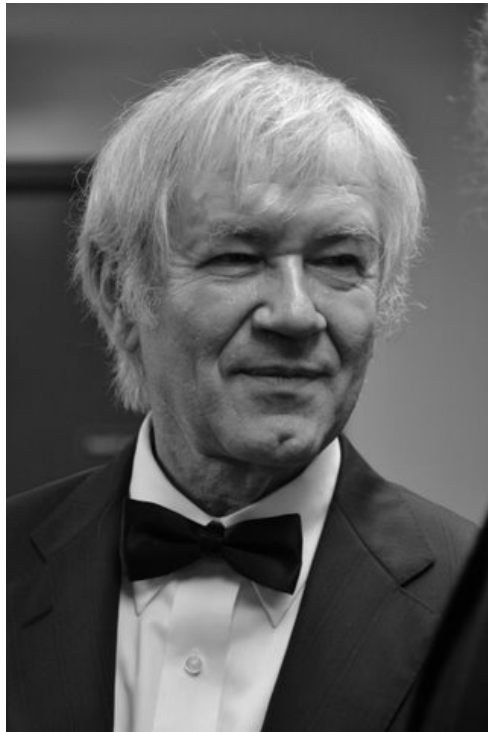
Praised as a "budding superstar" (The New York Times), Sivan Magen is the only Israeli to have ever won the International Harp Contest in Israel. He is a winner of the Pro Musicis International Award and in 2012 was chosen as the winner of the Borletti-Buitoni Trust Award by a committee headed by Dame Mitsuko Uchida. He has appeared as a soloist across the US, South America, Europe and Israel in venues such as Carnegie Hall, Wigmore Hall, the Sydney Opera House and the Vienna Konzerthaus, and with orchestras such as the Israel Philharmonic, the Strasbourg Philharmonic, the Jerusalem and Sydney

Symphonies, and the Saint-Paul, Scottish, Israeli and Viennese Chamber Orchestras.

An avid chamber musician, Magen has performed at the Marlboro, Kuhmo, Giverny, and Jerusalem International Chamber Music festivals. He has performed with Musicians from Marlboro and has collaborated with artists such as Nobuko Imai, Shmuel Ashkenazi, Gary Hoffman, Emmanuel Pahud, Susanna Phillips and the members of the Guarneri and Juilliard Quartets. He is a founding member of the award winning Israeli Chamber Project and of Trio Tre Voci with flutist Marina Piccinini and violist

Kim Kashkashian. In addition to his two solo albums for Linn records, Magen has released acclaimed recordings for Avie, Azica, Koch International, ECM, and with Musicians from Marlboro.

Born in Jerusalem, Sivan Magen studied at the Jerusalem Academy for Music and Dance. He continued his studies with Germaine Lorenzini in France and then joined Isabelle Moretti's harp class at the Paris Conservatory from which he graduated with a "Premier Prix". He then completed a Master of Music degree as a student of Nancy Allen at the Juilliard School. He currently resides in New York City.



Nikolai Kachanov

Nikolai Kachanov, founder and Artistic Director of the Russian Chamber Chorus of New York, was born in Russia in the Siberian city of Barnaul. He holds a Ph.D. in choral conducting from the Novosibirsk Conservatory. In the 1970s he taught in Novosibirsk Conservatory and performed as a choral conductor. In 1981, Maestro Kachanov moved to the United States with his wife, Tamara. Nikolai and Tamara founded the Russian Chamber Chorus of New York in 1984.

Kachanov brings his unique sensitivity and authentic interpretation to the established repertoire; at the same time, he is devoted to presenting new and underexposed works that illustrate Russia's rich heritage and its contemporary spirit. As a result of his commitment, audiences have been introduced to the ancient chants previously banned in his homeland and completely unknown in America. Kachanov founded the Ussachevsky Festival of Russian-American contemporary music, held at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City.

Kachanov has prepared large concert choruses for Vladimir Ashkenazy, Leon Botstein, Valery Gergiev, Yuri Temirkanov and Peter Tiboris; and participated as a coach in the 2004 Lincoln Center Festival's U.S. premiere of John Tavener's all-night vigil, *The Veil of the Temple*. He has also developed several annual RCCNY concert series: *Parallels and Crossings*, *Spirit of Old Russia*, and *Music without Borders*, which has presented many American premieres of choral music from Russia's neighboring countries. Mr. Kachanov has been interviewed by Fred Child for NPR's *From the Village to the Concert*, and on the WNYC-FM programs *Around New York* with Fred Child and *New Sounds* and *Soundcheck* with John Schaefer. Mr. Kachanov enjoys a career as a vocal coach.

Mr. Kachanov composed works that were included in the recording, *The Call*, released in the Spring of 2003. Two of his choral works were premiered by the Russian Chamber Chorus to sold-out audiences at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine: *Benevolence*, a choral cycle set to the poetry of Nicholas Roerich, and *Reflections on Stanzas from the Book of Dzyan* (part of H.P. Blavatsky's Secret Doctrine). The latter work, for chorus, synthesizers and trumpets, interweaves elements of Eastern and Western musical traditions.

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