PARTICIPATING ARTISTS’ BIOGRAPHIES 2019-20

**Hayk Arsenyan**, a native of Armenia, has appeared in numerous recitals in USA, Canada, Armenia, Russia, France, Italy, Spain, Canary Islands, Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Argentina, Uruguay, Colombia, Syria, and Lebanon. His performance venues have included Carnegie Hall (New York), Palais d'UNESCO and Salle Cortot (Paris), Tchaikovsky Concert Hall and Kremlin (Moscow), "Petranka" House-Museum of Mozart (Prague),  Auditorio de Miguel Delibes (Valladolid), Dar-Al-Assad Opera House (Damascus), and appearances at the Dame Myra Hess Concert Series in Chicago and the Phillips Collection Concert Series in Washington DC. At the age of 11 Mr. Arsenyan made his orchestral debut with the Armenian National Philharmonic. Currently, Mr. Arsenyan teaches at New York University Tisch School of the Arts. He holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from the University of Iowa and a Master’s degree from the Gnessin Music Academy in Moscow.  In 2007 he was awarded the full-tuition *Yevgeny Kissin Scholarship* for the Professional-Studies performance program at Manhattan School of Music in New York. Mr. Arsenyan also studied the piano in Paris at *École Normale Supérieure de Musique de Paris Alfred Cortot* and the *Conservatoire National de Region D'Aubervillier La-Courneuve*. He is a scholar of Iberian Early Music and has compiled a *Performance Guide to Three Keyboard Sonatas of Antonio Soler* as a part of his Doctoral Dissertation, published by the University of Iowa Press.

**BARRY J. CRAWFORD** is currently Principal Flute of the *Jupiter Symphony Chamber Players, Poetica Musica, Ensemble Pi* and *Sedna Winds*. He regularly performs as a guest artist with some of New York's leading ensembles, including the *American Ballet Theater, Brandenburg Ensemble, the Manhattan Chamber Orchestra, the Zankel Band, Cygnus, Fireworks, Argento, Quintet of the Americas* and *the Riverside Symphony.* He has participated in numerous internationally recognized music festivals, such as Mostly Mozart, the Lincoln Center Festival, the Spoleto Festival in Spoleto, Italy, and the Pablo Casals Festival, in San Juan, Puerto Rico As part of *Poetica Musica*, he has performed in the Bergen Festival in Norway, the International Music Festival in Istanbul, Turkey, as well as chamber music festivals in Poland, Czech Republic, Tunisia, Denmark, Jamaica, Tajikistan & Azerbaijan.  Crawford has been a guest soloist in many of the most important concert halls in the United States, including, Boston Symphony Hall, Kimmel Center in Philadelphia, Davies Symphony Hall in San Francisco, and the Symphony Center in Chicago. He has been featured on the McGraw-Hill Young Artist's Showcase on *WQXR* as both a soloist and chamber player, has been heard on *WNYC* and has performed as a soloist for Lincoln Center's *Great Performers* series. Mr. Crawford attended Purchase College Conservatory of Music as a student of Tara Helen O'Connor, the Mannes College of Music, where he received a Master of Music degree and a Professional Studies Diploma, as a student of Judith Mendenhall. Mr. Crawford is an Affiliate Teaching Artist at Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville, NY, and has recently been appointed as Professor of Flute and director of the flute ensemble at University at Buffalo (SUNY). He has recorded for Albany Records.

***Oren Fader***, guitarist, has performed hundreds of concerts in the U.S., Europe and Asia with a wide range of classical and new music groups, including the Met Chamber Ensemble, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, New York City Opera, New York City Ballet, New York Philharmonic, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Mark Morris Dance Group, Da Capo Chamber Players, New World Symphony, Absolute Ensemble, and Speculum Musicae. A champion of new music, he has premiered over 150 works with guitar. He also performs, tours and records with the new music ensembles Cygnus, Fireworks, and Glass Farm. Mr. Fader has just returned from a three week tour with Poetica Musica performing in Turkey (Istanbul International Festival), Azerbaijan, and Tajikistan (US State Dept.). Recent concerto appearances include the “Concerto de Aranjuez” with the Manchester Music Festival. The past 2 summers he performed works of Carter, Davidovsky and Chin at the Tanglewood Music Festival. Mr. Fader can be heard on over 30 commercial recordings and film, including the classical guitar parts for the recent film “Everything is Illuminated.” His latest solo recordings include “Another’s Fandango”, featuring 500 years of guitar music, and “First Flight”, a disc of 10 premiere solos written for Mr. Fader by New York City composers. Since 1994, Mr. Fader has been on the guitar and chamber music faculty of the Manhattan School of Music.

***EUGENE MOYE***, cellist, is the principal cello of the American Symphony Orchestra, the American Composers Orchestra, the Opera Orchestra of New York, and the Westchester Philharmonic Orchestra. As a soloist, he has played the world premier of a cello concerto by Francais Thorne at Carnegie Hall and the “Millennium Concerto” by Harold Farberman at Avery Fisher Hall. He also premiered the concerto by David Baker with the New York Philharmonic. After his recital at the 92nd Street Y, the New York Times called him one of the   
“foremost cellists of his generation” In addition he has collaborated with virtually every major pop artist, including Ricky Martin, Michael Jackson, Britney Spears, Tony Bennet, Garth Brooks, and Kiss on recordings, live performances and videos.

***Molly Morkoski,*** pianist, made her solo debut on Carnegie’s Stern Auditorium/Perelman stage in June 2007 and, has, performed on the inaugural concert of Carnegie’s Zankel Hall under the direction of John Adams. Ms. Morkowski’s performances also include appearances at Carnegie’s Weill Hall, Lincoln Center’s Alice Tully Hall, Merkin Hall and the Miller Theater.  She has appeared as soloist at the Tanglewood, Bang-on-a-Can, and Pacific Rim festivals, and performed concertos with the Raleigh, Asheville, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Tuscaloosa Symphony Orchestras, and Moravian Philharmonic Orchestras. She is a member of the Zankel Band, Open End Ensemble, Exponential Ensemble, and Meme. She has collaborated with the NY Philharmonic Chamber Players, the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, the St. Louis Symphony, the New World Symphony, Speculum Musicae, and Orpheus Chamber Orchestra; Ms. Morkoski has collaborated with leading musicians including Dawn Upshaw, John Adams, John Corigliano and David Robertson. Her first solo disc, “Threads,” was released in March 2012 on Albany Records, and a disc of solo and chamber music by recent Grammy Award winning composer Gabriela Lena Frank, also for Albany Records, Ms. Morkoski was a Fulbright scholar in Paris, France where she was apprentice with the Ensemble Intercontemporain.  She is a first recipient of the Teresa Sterne Career Grant and was given the Thayer-Ross Award upon completion of her doctorate.   She earned a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, a Master’s degree from Indiana University in Bloomington and a Doctorate degree from SUNY- Stony Brook. Ms. Morkoski is currently an Associate Professor at Lehman College in the Bronx.

***Natasha Mitrovic***, pianist, received her undergraduate and graduate degrees at the Music Academy in Belgrade where she now teaches piano. In 2005, Ms Mitrovic received a Fulbright Grant to attend the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor where she continued her studies in piano. Further studies included work at the Moscow Conservatory of Music and piano studies in Vienna with Ava Kouyoumdjian and in Prague with Jan Novotny. Ms Mitrovic studied at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and has won many prizes for piano performance including a prize from the Music Academy in Belgrade for her contribution as pedagogue and performer, First prize at the International Competition in San Bartolomeo al Mare in Italy and Second prize at the International Competition for pianists in Rome. Ms Mitrovic has performed as a piano soloist with most of the major orchestras in Serbia and Montenegro and with the Bulgarian Philharmonic, and the orchestras in Frankfurt, Germany. She has given recitals and performed as a chamber musician in France, Italy, the Czech Republic, Macedonia, Bulgaria and the United States and has recorded for television and radio in Belgrade, Novi Sad, Macedonia and with RAI, in Italy.

**Anna Marrethe Nilsen** has performed in venues such as Wiener Konzerthaus, Oslo Concert Hall, St. Petersburg Philharmonic and Carnegie Hall, and performed with distinguished artists like Lars Anders Tomter, Guy Braunstein, Liza Fershtman, Henri Demarquette, the American String Quartet, Øyvind Gimse, Paul Neubauer, Amanda Forsyth and Pinchas Zukerman. She obtained a Bachelor and Master of Music at the Manhattan School of Music, studying with Patinka Kopec and Pinchas Zukerman. Nilsen is a winner of the Sparre Olsen Competition, National Violin Competition for Youth (Norway), Lillian Fuchs Chamber Music Competition (New York) and Eisenberg-Fried Concerto Competition, and has received the Medal of Honor of Málaga, Dobloug Award and Hugo Kortschak Award.  
Recently Nilsen toured Spain as guest concert master of the Santa Cecilia Orchestra with conductor and violinist Julian Rachlin, performing in Madrid’s National Auditorium, Auditorium of Zaragoza and Palau de Valencia. This season Nilsen is releasing a CD for Centaur Records, which includes Szymanowski’s Mythes and Bartok’s Violin and Piano Sonata no. 2, with pianist Anna Petrova and Josu de Solaun, and furthermore a recording of all Grieg’s Violin and Piano sonatas.

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| ***Jesus Reina***, violinist, has performed with conductors Eiji Oue, Pinchas Zukerman and Valery Gergiev and given recitals throughout América and Europe. He has performed in prestigious venues as Wiener Saal in Salzburg, Wiener Konzerthaus in Vienna, Wigmore Hall in London, Carnegie Hall in New York, Southam Hall in Ottawa and Glinka Hall of the Saint Petersburg Philharmonic. He has given recitals in his native Spain in the Palau de la Música Catalana, Auditori de Barcelona, Kursaal de San Sebastian, Teatro Real de Madrid, Maestranza de Sevilla, Festival de Música de Granada, Festival de Música y Danza en Nerja, Teatro Cervantes Málaga, Teatro de Alicante and Auditorio San Lorenzo del Escorial, highlighting a performance of the Tchaikovsky violin concerto with Valery Gergiev and The Mariinsky Theater Orchestra. Mr. Reina has been the recipient of numerous prizes and awards including Queen Sofía’s award “To The Most Outstanding Violinist”, top prize winner at the “Eisenberg-Fried” concerto competition, four-year-consecutive winner of the “Lillian Fuchs” chamber music competition, winner of the “Indiana Solo Competition”, certificate of excellence from the American Strings Teachers Association, recipient of the “Tom Marks Memorial” award and winner of the “Waldo Mayo Memorial” competition. Recently, Mr. Reina was selected as an International Artist in the festival Music@Menlo, and performed in the music series at the Harvard Club, the Metropolitan Museum and at the Embassy Series in Washington DC. Mr. Reina has also been named Maestro of the BAJA Musical Arts Foundation Program. As Soloist of the Mahler Philharmonic, Jesús Reina appeared at the Wiener Konzerthaus and Carnegie Hall this past season. Upcoming engagements include a recital tour featuring all of Brahms Sonatas for violin and piano, a concert tour in Spain performing the Sibelius violin concerto and a CD recording with the Málaga Philharmonic Orchestra. Mr. Reina is a co-founder and artistic director of the Festival Málaga#Clásica. Jesús Reina resides in Málaga (Spain), city which provided him with the Honorary Medal for his cultural achievements.  **Louise Schulman, violist,** has been widely recognized as one of New York’s most dedicated, versatile and gifted instrumentalists. She is a founding member [1974] and principal viola of the St. Luke’s Chamber Ensemble and Orchestra of St. Luke’s, performing in virtually all of the group’s acclaimed concerts and recordings. Ms. Schulman also has a major affinity for early music, performing on a variety of stringed instruments including baroque viola and violin, vielle, cittern, viola d’amore and viols. Some of the groups she has performed and recorded with include the Waverly Consort, Philomel, Long Island Baroque Ensemble, Folger Consort, Breve, Clarion Concerts, New England Bach Festival, Ensemble for Early Music and Bacchinalia. Her solo recordings of Telemann and Vivaldi concerti [Music Masters and Essay labels] have won much praise from critics. In the field of contemporary music Ms. Schulman has also made her mark. Since 1975 she has been on the performing and coaching staff of the Composers Conference, performing and recording numerous chamber works of gifted young composers, and is now the staff representative on the conference board of directors. Her recording of “Interviews” for viola and piano by Eleanor Cory is on CRI records. Ms. Schulman gives frequent duo recitals with guitarist Bill Zito, and they have recorded two CDs together. "An Italian in Vienna" is on the Sono Luminus label, and their new CD, "Windows" is soon to be released on Cambria Master Recordings.  **Eleanor Valkenburg**, soprano, has achieved worldwide recognition as a chamber musician, soloist and as the Director of Poetica Musica. Ms Valkenburg has performed in some of the most prestigious festivals and chamber music series including the Bergen Festival, the Istanbul International Music Festival, the Sarajevo Festival and L’ Octobre Festival du Carthage, the Martinu Festival in Czech Republic, at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC, the Victoria and Albert Museum and the St-Martin-in-the Fields in London .As a chamber music musician, she has performed in more than thirty-five countries on four continents including Tunisia, Bosnia, India, Serbia, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Syria, etc. conducting master classes as well as performing concerts. She has taught seminars and master classes at the Higher Institute of Music in Damascus, The Music Academies of Sofia, Istanbul, Bucharest, Bratislava, and Belgrade. She is currently on the faculty of the Summer Rhodope Festival in Bulgaria and has taught at the College of New Rochelle, Adelphi University, and University of Alabama.  Along with the members of Poetica Musica, she has performed in the 2005 Hans Christian Andersen celebration at Weill Hall of Carnegie Hall sponsored by Royal Danish Consulate in New York and the Hans Christian Andersen Foundation in Copenhagen. She recently performed at the Edvard Grieg Centennial Festival sponsored by Royal Norwegian Consulate in New York.  Ms. Valkenburg has appeared in radio and television broadcasts for the CNN World Report, CNN Turk, Polish and Czech Television and has received praise for her work and artistry from the New York Times, Newsday, and the Washington Post.  **Niklas Walentin**, Danish/Swiss, violinist has appeared as a soloist with all the Danish States orchestras and the National Danish Radio Symphonic Orchestra. He has worked with many of the great international conductors such as Mario Venzago, Marc Soustro, Henrik Schäfer, Jean Thorell, Michael Kuen and Martin Yates. He has performed as soloist at prestigeous venues such as the Philharmonia and The Mariinsky Theater in St. Petersburg, Maison Danois in Paris, Carnegie Hall in New York and the Phillips Collection in Washington.  ​Mr. Walentin has represented Denmark at several Festivals, such as Usedom in Germany, Baastad in Sweden, XIX International Music Festival in Ukraine and Larissa Gergieva’s International Music Festival in Vladikavkaz, Russia.  In March 2014 his first CD was released: Solo Violin, with works by Bach, Paganini, Ysaÿe, Nielsen, Reger and Nørholm. His seccond CD was released in 2015 in conjunction with a recital in Weill Hall - Carnegie Hall. This recording was award ed “Record of the week” by National Danish Radio. In early 2016, he finished recording the American composer Lou Harrison's violin concerto for violin and percussion ensemble and in 2017 he recorded the CD “Around the World” as the duo Walentin & McKenzie. |  |
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