



Beethoven, Bagels & Banter

The
Edge

SUN / NOV 18 / 11:00 AM

Ilya Itin
PIANO

Robert Davidovici
VIOLIN

Benjamin Lash
CELLO

There will be no intermission.

Please join us after the performance for refreshments
and a conversation with the performers.

PROGRAM

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)
Piano Trio in E major, K.542

- I. Allegro
- II. Andante grazioso
- III. Allegro

Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)
Trio élégiaque No. 2 in D minor, Op. 9

- I. Moderato
- II. Quasi variazione – Andante
- III. Allegro risoluto

*This series made possible by a generous gift from
Barbara Herman.*

Audiences throughout the world revere **ILYA ITIN's** (piano) unique artistry. Playing sold out houses in Japan and in the US, he is known for his extraordinary range, power, quality of sound and command of the piano. His Princeton recital was singled out by the *Philadelphia Inquirer* as a "top ten musical moment of the year," and a *New York Times* critic described him as "a brilliantly insightful pianist who offered a superb recital." Since capturing the Gold Medal, BBC Audience Award and Contemporary Music Prize at the 1996 Leeds International Piano Competition, he has performed throughout the world bringing his powerful musical imagination and mastery to wide ranging repertoire. "I'd go to hear him play the phonebook," remarked BBC TV critic Ian Burnside.

Ilya Itin has performed with many of the world's great conductors, including Sir Simon Rattle, Neemi Jarvi, Christoph von Dohnanyi, Yakov Kreizberg, Vassily Sinaisky, Valery Polyansky and Mikhail Pletnev, performing as soloist with orchestras, including the Cleveland Orchestra, the St. Petersburg Philharmonic, the Tokyo Symphony, the National Symphony, the London Philharmonic, the China National Symphony, the Symphony Orchestra of India, the Mexico City Philharmonic and the Rochester Philharmonic.

Much lauded for his chamber music collaborations with colleagues and friends in the US, Europe and Asia, he recently performed Beethoven's Archduke Trio in New York with the Jupiter Chamber Players followed by a recital of the complete Brahms Sonatas in Tokyo with violinist Fuminori Maro Shinozaki. He has made numerous recordings of chamber music, including Beethoven's "Spring" Sonata, Brahms' Viola Sonata; Martinu's Double Violin Sonata; and Piazzola's Spring/Autumn in Buenos Aires, with Igor Gruppman, violin and Vesna Gruppman, viola/violin. He has also recorded a full recital with legendary violinist Ida Haendel at the Miami International Piano Festival.

During the 2015/16 season, he released his newest recording of the complete Debussy Preludes on vinyl and high definition audio. His Princeton recital, in July 2015, was also released as a state of the art high definition recording of the live performance. It featured beloved works of Rachmaninov and Scriabin. Itin's DVD of the "Russian Marathon" concerts at the Miami International Piano Festival was also recorded live in one day and included all 24 Preludes of Rachmaninov and Prokofiev's 7th and 8th Sonatas. Other recordings include Beethoven's 2nd Piano Concerto with the Jerusalem Camerata on the JDR label and Prokofiev's 6th Sonata with Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition on VAI.

He is also a much sought after teacher, giving regular master classes throughout Japan and in Princeton, Miami and New York. His students include winners of top prizes in international competitions and highest awards at the most competitive conservatories of the U.S. and Japan.

Born in Yekaterinburg, Russia, his piano studies began at the Sverdlovsk School for the Gifted with Natalia Litvinova. He went on to graduate from the Moscow Conservatory with the highest honors in 1990, working with legendary teacher Lev Naumov. He won his first major piano competition while at the Conservatory, taking second place in the 1990 Russian National Rachmaninov Competition. Soon after, he won top honors in the William Kapell Competition, followed by First Prize and the Special Chopin Prize at the Casadesus Competition (Cleveland Competition), and the Best Performance of a Work of Mozart, Best Prokofiev Performance and Third Prize at the Gina Bachauer Competition.

He is on the teaching faculties of the Musashino Academy in Tokyo, the Academy of the Miami International Piano Festival and the Golandsky

Institute at Princeton University. He has also taught in the piano departments of the Juilliard School prep and college divisions, Peabody Conservatory and the Graduate Program at CUNY. He resides in Tokyo, Japan, and New York City, where he maintains a private teaching studio.

ROBERT DAVIDOVICI, violin, is acclaimed in the United States, Canada, Europe, South America, Australia and Asia as a virtuoso in concerto, recital and chamber music performances who combines spectacular technique, wide-ranging repertoire and magnificent artistry with an exciting, compelling stage presence. Born in Transylvania, Romania, he began his studies as a student of David Oistrakh. He went on to study with Ivan Galamian at the Juilliard School, where, upon graduating, he became a teaching assistant to the Juilliard String Quartet. He has collaborated in concert with such esteemed artists as Yo-Yo Ma, Isaac Stern, Lynn Harrell, Yefim Bronfman, Cho Liang-Lin and Emanuel Ax, among others. Carnegie Hall has featured him as part of its "American Music Masters" series and he was the subject of a television special on WGBH Boston. His multifaceted career has included being Concertmaster of such orchestras as the Osaka Philharmonic, Vancouver Symphony, The Residentie Orchestra (The Hague) and Cincinnati Symphony, as well as the Grand Teton Music Festival and Chautauqua and Colorado Music Festival Orchestras. In addition to his solo engagements, he is Artist-in-Residence and Professor of Violin at Florida International University in Miami. He is a guest professor at leading music schools around the world, most recently at the Musashino Academia Musicae in Tokyo, Universities of Washington and British Columbia and the Australian National University. *The Montréal La Presse* said that, "Robert Davidovici is a born violinist in the most complete sense of the word." In October 2013, he performed the Beethoven Violin Concerto with the Royal Philharmonic

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Orchestra (RPO) under Grzegorz Nowak, after which he recorded his second CD with the RPO under G. Nowak, containing the Beethoven and Mendelssohn Concerti. The reviews for the first CD with the RPO, under G. Nowak, released in the autumn of 2013, comment on “the fantastic performance of the Kletzki Violin Concerto and Robert Davidovici’s full-blooded tone being just what the work deserves” (TheArtsDesk.com). He returned to London in February 2015 to perform the Tchaikovsky and Brahms Violin Concerti, again with the RPO under Maestro Nowak. In February 2007, he was soloist at Lincoln Center’s Avery Fisher Hall in the American premiere of the Kletzki Violin Concerto (1928) with the American Symphony Orchestra conducted by Leon Botstein, following which *The New York Times* commented on the “excellent” performance. *The New York Times*, in describing his performance on Bach’s Solo Sonata No. 1 said, “he played cleanly and without affectation. Contrapuntal lines emerged clearly because multiple stops stayed in tune, and a fast, tight vibrato helped keep the music from sounding expressive in a 19th-century manner. This was, in fact, excellent Bach.” In describing his performance of the *Bernstein Serenade*, *The New York Times* stated that “it would have been hard to imagine a sweeter performance,” and the *Sydney Morning Herald* wrote, “Robert Davidovici lingered lovingly over the poetic passages of the Tchaikovsky Concerto, and ignited the fiery ones with passion.” *Fanfare Magazine* commented on his first CD that “Davidovici handles the five compositional styles with confidence. His tone is ripe, his intonation dead on, and he plays with aplomb. This is an impressive disc debut.” He has recorded as violin soloist with the London Symphony Orchestra for Cala Records. His CD *Mélodie-The Art of Robert Davidovici* was selected as one of the top 30 CD releases in Japan in 1995. He may also be heard on New World Records, Centaur, Clavier, and Meistermusic. His CD recording of

transcriptions of Chopin’s *Nocturnes* was released in May 2004 in Japan by JVC Victor. He is the recipient of several distinguished First Prize honors, among them, the Naumburg Competition and the Carnegie Hall International American Music Violin Competition.

Cellist **BENJAMIN LASH** was a top prizewinner in the Washington International Competition. Recent concerto performances include Tchaikovsky’s *Rococo Variations*, Haydn’s *C Major Cello Concerto* with the Colburn Orchestra and Dvořák’s *Cello Concerto* with the Brentwood Symphony Orchestra. An avid chamber musician, Benjamin has participated in summer festivals including Ravinia’s Steans Music Institute, Sarasota Music Festival, Taos, Aspen, Holland International Music Sessions, Fortissimo Fest in Bulgaria and Franco-American Chamber Music Festival in Missillac, France. Lash is a member of Sakura (sakuracellos.com), a cello quintet based in Los Angeles.

Benjamin began studying cello at the age of six. In his early teens, as a first-place winner of multiple Chicago area competitions, he performed concertos by Saint-Saëns, Shostakovich, Hindemith and Haydn. Benjamin received his Bachelors of Music from the Colburn Conservatory of Music where he studied with Ronald Leonard. He completed a Master of Music degree at the USC Thornton School of Music and is currently pursuing a Doctorate degree in cello performance. He is a recipient of the USC Music Faculty Endowed Scholarship and studies with Ralph Kirshbaum.