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**ISABELLA
STEWART GARDNER
MUSEUM**

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Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum announces winter/spring 2009 concert schedule, featuring classical, jazz, and contemporary music performances

Nation's longest-running museum music program unveils diverse concert offerings showcasing young performers, celebrating contemporary composers, & exploring globally-inspired jazz

BOSTON, DECEMBER 18, 2008 — The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum's 82nd concert series, under the direction of *Curator of Music* Scott Nickrenz, continues in the New Year with an extensive array of classical, jazz, and new music performances beginning Thursday, January 15th and continuing through June.

Lauded as “an invaluable chamber music destination” (Jeremy Eichler, *The Boston Globe*, 2008), the Gardner offers a transporting concert-going experience for listeners of all musical inclinations. In keeping with the museum's spring exhibition, *Journeys East: Isabella Stewart Gardner and Asia*, on view from February 21 through May 31, this season offers an eclectic range of music from near and far.

Globetrotting highlights include: a *Young Artists Showcase* performance on double bass and pipa featuring both western classical and traditional Chinese music (April 12); a Middle Eastern jazz fusion performance by the talented musicians from Berklee College (June 18); and two more concerts in the Gardner's popular *Tin Pan Alley* series, celebrating the birth of a uniquely American musical idiom (March 8 & 15).

This season's performances are now posted on the Gardner's new online calendar, accessible through www.gardnermuseum.org, and the complete concert schedule is also available as a formatted PDF in our online press area: www.gardnermuseum.org/information/press.asp. Tickets for all winter/spring concerts are now on sale and may be purchased by phone through the museum's Box Office at 617 278 5156 (open Tues.–Sun., 10am–4pm), online via the museum's website, or in person at the museum entrance at 280 The Fenway (Tues.–Sun., 11am–4:00pm).

CONCERT HIGHLIGHTS

Credited with “energiz[ing] the city's musical life” (*The Boston Globe*), the Gardner's *Composer Portraits* series of contemporary classical concerts, presented in collaboration with New York's Miller Theatre, is now in its fifth season at the museum. On Thursday, January 15th, the winter/spring season opens with a *Composer Portraits* concert honoring Pulitzer Prize-winning composer (and former Gardner Chamber Orchestra co-director) **Leon Kirchner**. And in April, *Composer Portraits* celebrates the powerful music of **Iannis Xenakis** with a performance by the International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE).

Jazz at the Gardner serves up internationally-inspired jazz in three concerts this season: **Cirkestra**, an ensemble composed of America's finest circus musicians, performs on February 19th; the **Melissa Aldana Quartet**, headed by a Chilean saxophonist from Berklee College, plays original compositions on March 19th; and a performance by the **Berklee Middle Eastern Fusion Ensemble (MEF)** on June 18th concludes the spring season.

Held on select Thursday evenings as part of the museum's popular *Gardner After Hours* events, *Composer Portraits* and *Jazz at the Gardner* concerts offer contemporary classical and jazz performances in a celebratory ambiance. After the concert, guests are invited to join the performers and composers for an informal reception around the courtyard. Tickets to these concerts include admission to all *After Hours* activities, which take place from 5:30–9:30pm every third Thursday from September to June.

The Gardner's renowned *Sunday Concert Series*, featuring a mix of established performers and up-and-coming musicians highlighted in *Young Artists Showcase* concerts, continues weekly from January 18th through May 10th. Highlights include: back-to-back concerts of Bach's *Goldberg Variations*, performed first on marimba (**Pius Cheung**, Jan 25) and then on a dual-keyboard Steinway-Moór piano (**Christopher Taylor**, Feb 1); a rare US concert appearance of the acclaimed London chamber group **The Nash Ensemble**, performing Mozart, Ligeti and Dohnányi (March 29); the return of two concerts in the Gardner's popular *Tin Pan Alley* series, featuring soprano **Jennifer Aylmer** and baritone **Randall Scarlata** performing music from the Great American Songbook (March 8 and 15); and a number of performances by exciting young artists, including double bassist **DaXun Zhang** (April 12), the **Moët Trio** (May 3), musicians from **Ravinia's Steans Institute** (March 22), and pianists **Alexander Ghindin** (March 1), **Jean-Frédéric Neuburger** (April 5) and **Katherine Chi** (April 26). The *Sunday Concert Series* wraps up on May 10th with Schubert's Octet for Strings and Winds in F Major performed by **Musicians from Marlboro**.

Concerts are held in the Gardner's century-old Tapestry Room, a unique concert hall hung with 15th-century Flemish tapestries. Concert tickets include admission to the museum's three floors of galleries, housing one of the most important art collections in the world as well as rotating historic and contemporary art exhibitions. This season, visitors can enjoy *The Triumph of Marriage: Painted Cassoni of the Renaissance*, on view through January 19th, followed by *Journeys East: Isabella Stewart Gardner and Asia* from February 21st through May 31st.

The complete winter/spring 2009 concert schedule is available as a formatted PDF in our online press area:
www.gardnermuseum.org/information/press.asp

TICKETS

\$23 General Public; \$18 Seniors; \$15 Members; \$10 College Students; \$5 Children ages 5-17 (children under 5 not admitted to concerts). Concert tickets include admission to the museum's three floors of galleries, including the special exhibition gallery. Tickets to *Composer Portraits* and *Jazz at the Gardner* concerts also include admission to all *Gardner After Hours* activities.

Tickets may be purchased by phone through the museum's Box Office at 617 278 5156 (open Tues.–Sun., 10am–4pm), online via www.gardnermuseum.org, or in person at the museum entrance at 280 The Fenway (Tues.–Sun., 11am–4:00pm). Additional information about museum events, including concerts, is available on our Event Information Line at 617 278 5102.

“THE CONCERT” PODCAST & MUSIC LIBRARY

Live since September 2006, “The Concert” features live recordings of classical masterpieces from the Gardner's weekly concert series, and has been noted in *The Wall Street Journal*, *Fast Company*, and the popular blog *BoingBoing* for its groundbreaking use of flexible copyright and quality programming. To date, the podcast has garnered over three quarters of a million downloads and enjoys a steady audience of approximately 30,000 listeners per month. The museum's online library of classical works has grown to include well over 100 recordings.

New podcast programs are posted on the 1st and 15th of every month on the museum's website at www.gardnermuseum.org, and listeners may subscribe to receive free, automatic updates. **During January, February, and March 2009, we'll be offering a chance to win an iPod Shuffle loaded with classical music from “The Concert!”** Additional details will be posted on www.gardnermuseum.org in January.

MUSIC DIRECTOR SCOTT NICKRENZ

Renowned violist **Scott Nickrenz** began his 19th season as music director at the Gardner Museum in fall 2008. Since 1990, Nickrenz has taken the Gardner's music programs to an unprecedented level of excellence, initiating a number of exceptional music projects including the Museum's Centennial *Open Air* concerts and *Vivaldi in the Courtyard*, and the ongoing *Young Artists Showcase* program and *Composer Portraits* series. Formerly the Director of Chamber Music at the Spoleto Festivals in the USA and Italy, and also at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Scott Nickrenz is currently the Director of Chamber Music at the New World Symphony, Miami Beach, Florida.

ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER MUSEUM

280 The Fenway Boston MA 02115 617 566 1401 www.gardnermuseum.org • Green Line E train or #39 bus to Museum • Hours: Tue.–Sun., 11 am–4:45 pm • Tickets: \$12 adults; \$10 seniors; \$5 students; FREE members, children 18 & under and all named “Isabella”

Modeled after a 15th-century Venetian palazzo surrounding an interior courtyard garden, the century-old Gardner Museum houses one of the most remarkable art collections in the world, featuring works by Rembrandt, Michelangelo, Raphael, Degas and Sargent. Changing exhibitions, the oldest museum music program in the country, evening events, and seasonal courtyard garden displays enrich the collection.

Many thanks to our generous concert donors who bring special performances to the museum each season: The Fitzpatrick Family Concert, James Lawrence Memorial Concert, Alford P. Rudnick Memorial Concert, Marie Louise & David Scudder Concert, Wendy Shattuck Concert, and Willona Sinclair Memorial Concert.

The piano is dedicated as the Elliot Forbes Hamburg Steinway. The harpsichord was generously donated by Dr. Robert Barstow in memory of Marion Huse. Its care is endowed in memory of Dr. Barstow by The Barstow Fund. The Tapestry Room chairs are a gift from Charles O. Wood III and Miriam M. Wood. Artistic programming is made possible, in part, by the Barbara Lee Program Fund. The Museum receives operating support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Composer Portraits and Jazz at the Gardner are made possible, in part, by the Wallace Foundation. Composer Portraits is made possible, in part, through the support of JoAnne and Charles Dickinson.

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EDITORS' NOTE: *Music Director Scott Nickrenz and musicians performing this season are available for interviews throughout the season. High-resolution images of all performers are also available upon request. The complete winter/spring 2009 concert schedule is available as a formatted PDF in our online press area: www.gardnermuseum.org/information/press.asp.*