

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ISABELLA  
STEWART GARDNER  
MUSEUM**

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum's fall 2009 concert season offers an inspired array of classical, jazz, and contemporary music performances

*Nation's longest-running museum music program opens dynamic 83<sup>rd</sup> concert season celebrating tradition and innovation with familiar faces, emerging artists, musical conversations, and a new contemporary classical series*



BOSTON, AUGUST 27, 2009 — The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum's 83<sup>rd</sup> concert season begins this fall with an eclectic slate of concert offerings, mirroring the museum's own unique blend of artistic influences and styles. From September 13 through the end of the year, a range of classical, jazz, and new music concerts – including the launch of a new contemporary classical series, *Avant Gardner* – will bring *tradition with a twist* to the unique setting of the Gardner's Tapestry Room.

“This fall's concerts feature a terrific roster of both new and familiar artists in programs covering a wide swath of musical territory,” says **Scott Nickrenz**, the Gardner's *Curator of Music*, who celebrates 20 years at the museum this season. “The diversity of musical offerings at the Gardner is something we're especially proud of. Where else can you hear world-class musicians performing Beethoven, circus-inspired jazz, and a world premiere by Christian Wolff—amid 15<sup>th</sup> century tapestries in a Venetian-inspired palazzo?”

This season, concert-goers will revel in a rich array of musical programming, celebrating traditional works and familiar faces while discovering new music and performers. September brings an all-new addition to the Gardner's music program with the launch of *Avant Gardner*, a concert series dedicated to the performance of cutting-edge classical works. Now in its 6th season, the acclaimed *Jazz at the Gardner* series features a range of artists whose musical perspectives give traditional jazz a new spin, drawing on influences as varied as Indian music, funk and blues, and the classical string quartet.

In addition to beloved classical masterworks and favorite artists, the *Sunday Concert Series* features several unusual, rarely-performed works this season, including Crumb's *Vox Balaenae* (Voice of the Whale; Sept 13) and Stockhausen's *Mantra* (Nov 15)— and introduces Boston listeners to exciting musical talents including cellist **Narek Hakhnazaryan** (Sept 27), violinist **Ray Chen** (Dec 6), and Norwegian a cappella vocal ensemble **Trio Mediaeval** (Nov 22).

The Gardner also branches out into new formats this fall, merging concert with conversation in two special programs that will take concert-goers inside the music as never before. On October 4, violinist and author **Arnold Steinhardt** discusses and performs Bach's *Chaconne for solo violin*; and on October 8, **Nicholas Kitchen** and the **Borromeo String Quartet** share insights into Bartók's First String Quartet in *Music Kitchen @ the Gardner*, a multimedia presentation offered in connection with their two-part series of the complete Bartók quartets (Oct 11 & 18).

In keeping with this celebration of old and new, concert-goers are invited to come early or stay after the performance to enjoy the museum's historic collection, in addition to two contemporary Artist-in-Residence exhibitions: *Su-Mei Tse: Floating Memories*, on view from July 16 to October 18; and *Taro Shinoda: An Artist-in-Residence Exhibition* (working title) from November 5 to January 31.

In connection with Taro Shinoda's exhibition, which was inspired by the artist's experience of watching the moon from the museum courtyard, the Gardner hosts a special New Year's Eve event, **Lunar Reflections**, from 9pm-1am on December 31. The evening features cocktails, events, and a special performance of Schoenberg's *Pierrot Lunaire* (*Pierrot in the Moonlight*) at 11pm – a magical way for music lovers to celebrate the New Year!

This season's performances are now posted on the Gardner's online calendar, accessible through [www.gardnermuseum.org](http://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](http://www.gardnermuseum.org/information/press.asp). Tickets for all fall 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–4pm).

### CONCERT HIGHLIGHTS

The Gardner's renowned *Sunday Concert Series* begins Sunday, September 13 with *Fantasies from the Sky and Sea*, a program of works inspired by nature, featuring flutist **Paula Robison**, cellist **Yeesun Kim**, and pianist **Bruce Brubaker**. Highlights of the series include: the complete Bartók string quartets performed by the **Borromeo String Quartet** (Oct 11 & 18); Stockhausen's electrifying *Mantra*, a work combining technology and instruments (Nov 15); a performance and conversation with violinist **Arnold Steinhardt** focused on Bach's *Chaconne for solo violin* (Oct 4); the pure, haunting sounds of Norwegian a cappella ensemble **Trio Mediaeval** (Nov 22); and the return of Gardner Museum favorites the **Claremont Trio** (Sept 20), **Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center** (Oct 25), pianist **Seymour Lipkin** (in a two-part series of the late Schubert sonatas on Nov 1 & Dec 13), and **Musicians from Marlboro** (Nov 8).

On September 17, the Gardner launches an all-new contemporary music series, *Avant Gardner*, with a program of works by 20<sup>th</sup>- and 21<sup>st</sup>-century Japanese composers performed by the **Callithumpian Consort**, a Boston-based new music ensemble. *Avant Gardner* continues in January with an evening of music by three young composers—including the premiere of a collaborative work—and concludes in March with a world premiere by Christian Wolff. *Avant Gardner* is the successor to the Gardner's popular contemporary classical series presented in collaboration with New York's Miller Theatre, which *The Boston Globe* credited with "energiz[ing] the city's musical life."

*Jazz at the Gardner* offers eclectically-influenced jazz in two concerts this fall: the funk- and blues-inspired sounds of the **Khris Miller Group** fill the Tapestry Room on November 19, and the **Annette Philip Quintet** brings original compositions melding jazz with traditional Indian music to the museum on December 17. Spring 2010 will see the return of **Cirkestra**, an ensemble composed of America's finest circus musicians (Feb 18), as well as performances by the **Mark Whitfield Jr. Quartet** (May 20) and the **Folk Arts Quartet** (June 17).

Concerts are held in the Gardner's century-old Tapestry Room, a unique concert hall hung with 15<sup>th</sup>-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 *Su-Mei Tse: Floating Memories*, on view through October 18, followed by an Artist-in-Residence exhibition by Taro Shinoda from November 5 through January 31.

Tickets to *Avant Gardner* and *Jazz at the Gardner* concerts include admission to all *Gardner After Hours* activities, which take place from 5:30–9:30pm on the third Thursday of every month, including an informal post-concert gathering around the courtyard with the performers and composers.

*The complete fall 2009 concert schedule is available as a formatted PDF in our online press area:*  
[www.gardnermuseum.org/information/press.asp](http://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 *Avant Gardner* 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](http://www.gardnermuseum.org), or in person at the museum entrance at 280 The Fenway (Tues.–Sun., 11am–4pm).

## THE CONCERT PODCAST & MUSIC LIBRARY

Live since September 2006, *The Concert* features live recordings of classical masterpieces from the Gardner's weekly concert series. The podcast, which surpassed the one million-download mark in May 2009, 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. The museum's online music library, featuring recordings of works included in the podcast, has grown to include almost 150 recordings.

New podcast programs are posted on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of every month on the museum's website at [www.gardnermuseum.org](http://www.gardnermuseum.org), and listeners may subscribe to receive free, automatic updates.

## MUSIC DIRECTOR SCOTT NICKRENZ

This season, renowned violist **Scott Nickrenz** celebrates 20 years as *Curator of Music* at the Gardner Museum. During his tenure, 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*, the ongoing *Young Artists Showcase* program, and the new *Avant Gardner* series. Nickrenz formerly served as Director of Chamber Music at the Spoleto Festivals in the USA and Italy; the Brooklyn Academy of Music; and the New World Symphony, Miami Beach, Florida.

## ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER MUSEUM

280 The Fenway Boston MA 02115 617 566 1401 [www.gardnermuseum.org](http://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, all named "Isabella," and everyone on their birthday

Modeled after a 15<sup>th</sup>-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 and provide ongoing inspiration for all.

*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. Avant Gardner and Jazz at the Gardner are made possible, in part, by the Wallace Foundation. Avant Gardner 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 fall 2009 concert schedule is available as a formatted PDF in our online press area: [www.gardnermuseum.org/information/press.asp](http://www.gardnermuseum.org/information/press.asp).