



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 13, 2009

Philadelphia Connection: Curtis on Tour

Bay Chamber Concerts presents "L'Histoire du Soldat"

Bay Chamber Concerts will present one of the most famous dramatic works of the twentieth century: Stravinsky's "L'Histoire du Soldat" (or "Soldier's Tale") on Saturday, February 21 at 7:00 p.m. at the Rockport Opera House. The performing musicians are part of the "Curtis on Tour" ensemble, which brings the world-renowned Curtis Institute of Music to audiences nationwide.

Bay Chamber Concerts has a special bond with the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, arguably one of the most important musical conservatories internationally. Both institutions were founded with support from philanthropist Mary Louise Curtis Bok Zimbalist. The Curtis Institute, its teachers, students and founders summered in Rockport for decades over half a century ago. Since the founding of Bay Chamber Concerts in 1961, all of the directors of the Curtis Institute (world class performers in their own right) have performed in Rockport, from founding director Joseph Hofmann to current director Roberto Díaz.

The concert will begin with the world premiere of David Ludwig's "From the Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyám," a song-cycle based on the thousand-year-old quatrains of the Persian poet and scholar Omar Khayyám. Written for mezzo-soprano and ensemble, the work combines the spirit of eleventh-century Persia with a contemporary-music setting.

As well as this new work, the program also includes three pieces by Igor Stravinsky: "L'Histoire du Soldat," "Divertimento for Violin and Piano" and "Three Pieces for Clarinet Solo." "L'Histoire du Soldat" (The Soldier's Tale) is a narrated performance based on a Russian folk tale about a soldier who sells his fiddle to the devil and soon regrets it.

Performing will be Josef Špaček, violin; Harold Hall Robinson, bass; Yao Guang Zhai, clarinet; William Short, bassoon; Christopher Stingle, trumpet; Ryan Seay, trombone; Benjamin Folk, percussion; Kuok-man Lio, conductor/piano; David Ludwig, narrator; Allison Sanders, mezzo-soprano. The event is sponsored by Robin & Kathie Ledwith and Mrs. Cary W. Bok in honor of Curtis on Tour.

- more -

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www.BayChamberConcerts.org

Most tickets to the concert are \$20. Prime seating is \$40. Youth ages 18 and under are \$8 (limited availability). Bay Chamber Concerts is a 501(c)(3) registered non-profit organization. The \$20 Ticket Underwriter is Brewster Point. The media sponsor is VillageSoup.com. For more information, or to purchase tickets, contact Bay Chamber Concerts at (207) 236-2823, toll free at (888) 707-2770 or online at www.baychamberconcerts.org.

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Date: Saturday, February 21, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Rockport Opera House, 6 Central Street, Rockport, ME 04856

Title: L'Histoire du Soldat

Sponsors: \$20 Ticket Underwriter: Brewster Point. Honorary Sponsors: Robin & Kathie Ledwith and Mrs. Cary W. Bok in honor of Curtis on Tour.

Performers: Curtis On Tour

Program: Igor Stravinsky's "L'Histoire du Soldat" (The Soldier's Tale), "Divertimento for Violin and Piano," and "Three Pieces for Clarinet Solo" plus the world premiere of David Ludwig's "From the Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyám."

Description: Curtis On Tour brings the extraordinary artistry of the world-renowned Curtis Institute of Music to audiences nationwide, with tomorrow's leading musicians performing alongside celebrated alumni and faculty.

Price: Most tickets \$20. Prime seating \$40, discounted up to 50% with subscription. \$8 for Youth ages 18 and under, limited availability.

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