



Frank Almond, Artistic Director

September 25, 2017 – 7:00 p.m.  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Frankly Music presents

# The World of César Franck

Frank Almond, *violin*

Yuka Kadota, *violin*

Margot Schwartz, *viola*

Susan Babini, *cello*

Adam Golka, *piano*

Christopher Berry, *organ*

## PROGRAM

**Prélude, fugue et variation op. 18**..... César Franck  
**Pièce Héroïque, from *Trois Pieces pour Grand Orgue*** (1822–1890)

**Sonata in A Major for Violin and Piano**..... César Franck (1822–1890)  
Allegretto ben moderato  
Allegro  
Ben moderato: Recitativo-Fantasia  
Allegretto poco mosso

## Intermission

**Piano Quintet in F minor**..... César Franck (1822–1890)  
Molto moderato quasi lento  
Lento, con molto sentimento  
Allegro non troppo, ma con fuoco



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Frank Almond, *Artistic Director*

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## BIOGRAPHIES



Photo by Jennifer Brindley

**Frank Almond, violin**  
Violinist Frank Almond holds the Charles and Marie Caestecker Concertmaster Chair at the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra. He has also held

positions as Concertmaster of the Rotterdam Philharmonic with Valery Gergiev, and Guest Concertmaster of the London Philharmonic with Kurt Masur. Other Guest Concertmaster appearances have included the Seattle Symphony, the Montreal Symphony, the Dallas Symphony, the Grand Tetons Music Festival, and the San Diego Symphony. He continues an active schedule of solo and chamber music performances in the US and abroad including appearances with the Ojai Festival, Frankly Music, An die Musik, the Nara Academy in Nara, Japan, the Sarasota

Music Festival, Round Top Music Festival, Music in the Vineyards, and various solo appearances with orchestras. He has been a member of the chamber group An die Musik in New York City since 1997, and also founded and directs the much-loved and somewhat notorious Frankly Music Chamber Series based in Milwaukee. At 17, he was one of the youngest prizewinners in the history of the Nicolo Paganini Competition in Genoa, Italy, and five years later was one of two American prizewinners at the Eighth International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow, which was documented in an award-winning PBS film. Since then he has kept up an eclectic mix of activities in addition to his concertmaster duties, appearing both as a soloist and chamber musician, and more recently as a conductor.

In addition to his work with An die Musik, Mr. Almond's work as a chamber musician has generated collaborations over the years with many well-known institutions, including the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, the Hal Leonard Corporation, the Ravinia Festival, La Jolla Summerfest, Music in the Vineyards, and numerous other summer festivals. The 2017-18 season includes numerous chamber music and solo concerts around the United States, including recitals, master classes, and appearances with various orchestras. In February 2018 he and the MSO will perform a new violin concerto by Pierre Jalbert, co-commissioned by the MSO, the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra.

He has recorded for AVIE, Summit, Albany, Boolean (his own label), Innova, Newport Classic, Wergo and New Albion and has appeared numerous times on NPR's Performance Today. In both 2002 and 2004 An die Musik received Grammy nominations for its "Timeless Tales" series. The re-release of Mr. Almond's recording of the complete Brahms Sonatas, performed in collaboration with pianist William Wolfram, brought extraordinary critical acclaim, and was also listed in the American Record Guide top recordings of the year.

With pianist William Wolfram, a CD of sonatas by Respighi, Janáček, and Strauss was released on the AVIE label to much acclaim, and was named a "Best of 2007" by the American Record Guide. A recording of selected works of Samuel Barber was released in 2010, in cooperation with the Hal Leonard Corporation. In April 2013 AVIE released *A Violin's Life* featuring works and composers directly associated with the "Lipiński" Stradivarius, charting in the Billboard Top 10 in its first week of release. *A Violin's Life, Vol. 2* was released in May 2016, also charting at the top of Billboard and iTunes.

Mr. Almond holds two degrees from the Juilliard School, where he studied with Dorothy DeLay. Other important teachers included Michael Tseitlin, Felix Galimir, and Joseph Silverstein. He has held academic positions at San Diego State University, Texas Christian University, and Northwestern University, and in 2014 joined the faculty of the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University. Also in 2014 he was appointed to a newly created Artist-in-Residence position at the Milwaukee Youth Symphony.

He usually plays on a violin by Antonio Stradivari from 1715, the "ex-Lipiński". In December 2011, he appeared in concerts and masterclasses in Poland to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Karol Lipinski performing on his former violin. On January 27, 2014, the "ex-Lipiński" Stradivari was stolen from Mr. Almond in an armed robbery after a Frankly Music concert. The violin was recovered nine days later, and the story continues to make headlines around the world, most recently with NPR's *All Things Considered*, the BBC World Service, a major investigative feature in *Vanity Fair*, and the upcoming feature documentary *Plucked*, slated for release in early 2018. Mr. Almond is extremely grateful to the Milwaukee Police Department, the FBI, and the thousands of individuals who sent messages of concern and support.

Mr. Almond writes an online column, *nondivisi*, which may be found, along with more information about Frankly Music, *A Violin's Life* and the Lipiński Stradivari, at [frankalmond.com](http://frankalmond.com).


**Yuka Kadota, violin**

Originally from Whitestone, NY, Yuka Kadota is a graduate of Indiana University with a Bachelor of Music and Performer Diploma in

Violin Performance and a Bachelor of Science in Political Science. Her major teachers were Henryk Kowalski and Franco Gulli. She completed graduate studies at the Royal College of Music in Stockholm, Sweden.

Ms. Kadota began her professional orchestral career at the age of 24 with the Fort Wayne Philharmonic and held the title of associate concertmaster for six seasons. Yuka has been a featured soloist with that orchestra and during her tenure was also the second violinist of the Freimann Quartet, the Quartet in Residence of the Fort Wayne Philharmonic. Since 2004, she has been on faculty of the Eastern Music Festival in Greensboro, NC.

Ms. Kadota has given performances at the White House, the Vatican, and the UN General Assembly for such dignitaries as First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, Pope John Paul II, and Secretary General Boutros-Boutros Gali. In addition to performing as a soloist with several orchestras in the New York area, she has been broadcast in Italy on the Vatican Radio and Chicago on WFMT, and she has appeared on a televised broadcast of the BBC Proms with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

Since 2007, Ms. Kadota has performed regularly as an extra violinist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and joined them for the entire 2011.12 season. She has toured with the CSO throughout the United States and abroad, most recently touring Russia and Italy with Music Director

Riccardo Muti. Through the CSO, she has had the privilege of working with other esteemed conductors, including Bernard Haitink, Pierre Boulez, Daniel Barenboim, Valery Gergiev, Charles Dutoit, and Esa-Pekka Salonen.

Ms. Kadota is currently a member of the first violin section of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra.


**Margot Schwartz, viola**

Margot Schwartz is a member of the First Violin section in the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra and violinist

in Milwaukee's esteemed Prometheus Trio. A native of Oakland, California, she has appeared as soloist with the Milwaukee, Berkeley, and Oakland East Bay Symphony Orchestras. As a chamber musician, Ms. Schwartz has performed extensively on both violin and viola — including at New York's Bargemusic and for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's MusicNOW — and can be heard on numerous series in the Milwaukee area, such as Frankly Music and Present Music. She also performs in the violin/viola duo Bowing Rogue, recently formed with MSO colleague Ilana Setapen. Ms. Schwartz enjoys teaching privately as well as coaching sectionals and chamber music at many local high schools and for the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra. In summer, she performs in the First Violin sections of both the Bellingham (WA) and Peninsula (WI) Music Festivals. She holds degrees from the Yale School of Music, where she was a student of Ani Kavafian; and the Northwestern University School of Music, studying with Roland and Almita Vamos.


**Susan Babini, cello**

Increasingly recognized for her “gorgeous sound,” “liquid sense of phrasing” and “arresting performances” (*The Philadelphia Enquirer*),

cellist Susan Babini holds the position of Principal Cello with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra. In addition, Ms. Babini is principal cellist of the New Century Chamber Orchestra.

As soloist, Babini has appeared with the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, New Century Chamber Orchestra, and Princeton Symphony among others. She gave the East Coast premiere of Aaron Jay Kernis’s *Colored Field for Cello and Orchestra* with the Symphony in C and is featured in Kernis’s recent CD *On Distant Shores*. With the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra she performed the Schumann Cello Concerto under Gilbert Varga as well as *Don Quixote* and *Schelomo* under maestro Edo de Waart.

Ms. Babini has been a participant of the Marlboro Music Festival and has toured on the prestigious “Musicians from Marlboro” series. She appeared in recital at the Aspen Music Festival with Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg and Anne-Marie McDermott. A former Astral Artist, she has also been presented in solo recital by the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society.

Susan Babini teaches at Northwestern University. She received her Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and a Graduate Diploma from The Juilliard School where she studied with Bonnie Hampton.


**Adam Golka, piano**

Polish-American pianist Adam Golka was recently selected by Sir András Schiff to perform recitals at the Klavier-Festival Ruhr in

Germany, Tonhalle Zürich, as well as in Berlin and New York (organized by the 92nd Street Y). Adam has been regularly on the concert stage since the age of sixteen, when he won first prize at the 2nd China Shanghai International Piano Competition. He has also received the Gilmore Young Artist Award and the Max I. Allen Classical Fellowship Award from the American Pianists Association.

With his extensive concerto repertoire, Golka has appeared as a soloist with dozens of orchestras, among those the BBC Scottish, Atlanta, Houston, Dallas, Indianapolis, New Jersey, Milwaukee, Phoenix, San Diego, Fort Worth, Vancouver, Seattle, and Jacksonville symphonies, Grand Teton Festival Orchestra, National Arts Centre Orchestra of Ottawa, the Sinfonia Varsovia, the Shanghai Philharmonic, the Warsaw Philharmonic, and the Teresa Carreño Youth Orchestra of Venezuela. Adam made his Carnegie Hall Isaac Stern Auditorium Debut in 2010, performing Rachmaninoff’s Third Concerto with the New York Youth Symphony, and also performed a cycle of all five Beethoven concerti in 2011 with the Lubbock Symphony, under the baton of his brother, Tomasz Golka.

As a recitalist, he has performed scores of solo concerts, among those at excellent venues such as Lincoln Center’s Alice Tully Hall in New York (presented by the Musicians Emergency Fund), Concertgebouw’s Kleine Zaal, and Musashino Civic Cultural Hall in Tokyo, and at festivals such as Mostly Mozart, the Gilmore Keyboard Festival, the Ravinia Festival, the New York City International

Keyboard Festival at Mannes, the Newport Music Festival, and the Duszni Chopin festival. As a chamber musician, his appearances have included prestigious festivals such as Marlboro, Caramoor, Ravinia, and Music@Menlo. Adam Golka has premiered solo works written for him by Richard Danielpour, Michael Brown, and Jarosław Gołombowski. His début disc, featuring the first sonata of Brahms and the Hammerklavier Sonata of Beethoven, was released in 2014 by First Hand Records.

Adam Golka's 2017/18 season begins at the Minnesota Beethoven Festival with the Manhattan Chamber Players, and followed by concerts at the extraordinary Tippet Rise Arts Center in Fishtail, Montana in a recital of Schubert, Liszt, and Brahms and in the Schumann Quintet with the Ariel String Quartet. He returns to the Krzywowa Festival in Poland in August and caps off the summer with a return to the Fort Worth Symphony for Mozart Cto. No. 27, K. 595, with Music Director Miguel Harth-Bedoya. The season continues with recitals and chamber music in Milwaukee, Washington, D.C., at the Cliburn in Fort Worth, Boston, Sedona, and at the College of the Holy Cross, where Adam is Artist-in-Residence. With orchestra, Adam plays Mozart Cto. No. 25 with the Harrisburg Symphony, Ravel G Major in Lubbock, and Rachmaninoff Cto. No. 2 with the Tallahassee Symphony.

As a child, Adam studied with his mother, Anna Golka, as well as with Dariusz Pawlas. For most of his teenage years and as a young adult, Adam studied with the late José Feghali, whom he considers his most significant influence. Adam also spent four years at the Peabody Conservatory studying with Leon Fleisher. Since finishing his official studies, Adam has continued his work with great musicians such as Andrés Schiff, Alfred Brendel, Richard Goode, Murray Perahia, Ferenc Rados, and Rita Wagner.

Adam Golka acts as Artist-in-Residence at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts.



### **Christopher Berry, organ**

Christopher Berry's international career as an organist began in 1993, when he served as an organist for the

final liturgy of World Youth Day, presided over by Pope John Paul II. Since then, he has performed concerts throughout the United States and Europe, including Belgium, Czech Republic, England, Italy, France, and Poland. His performance venues have included Notre Dame Cathedral, La Madeleine and St. Sulpice, Paris; St. Vitus Cathedral, Prague; and St. Peter's Basilica, Rome.

Prof. Berry was a two-time semifinalist in the International Organ Competition of the City of Paris and a two-time semifinalist in the American Guild of Organists' National Competition in Organ Improvisation. He has appeared on Pipedreams and as organist on the compact disk recordings *Alzad la Cruz* and *Psalms*, both recorded at The Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas.

Prof. Berry holds degrees in Organ Performance from the University of North Texas as a student of Prof. Jesse Eschbach, where he graduated as the Outstanding Undergraduate Student in Organ, and from the University of Kansas, where he was a Graduate Teaching Assistant as a student of Prof. James Higdon. Prof. Berry was awarded a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship for the 2000-2001 academic year, during which time he won the Premier Prix from the Conservatoire of Rueil-Malmaison, as a student of François Henri-Houbart, Organist of the Church of the Madeleine

in Paris. His improvisation study during this time was with Sophie-Véronique Cauchefer-Choplin, organist of St. Sulpice, Paris. During this year, he also studied Gregorian chant conducting with Louis-Marie Vigne at the Paris Conservatory. Prof. Berry spent the summer of 1996 in Paris studying with eminent organists Marie-Claire Alain and Marie-Madeleine Duruflé.

Christopher is the Director of Music and Organist at the Basilica of St. Josaphat in Milwaukee where he conducts the semi-professional Basilica Choir which recently released its first commercial recording, *Pax tibi*. At the basilica, Prof. Berry regularly collaborates with members of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra.

From 2009 to 2011, he was Organist and Choirmaster at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation in Dallas, where he led their renowned choir in English choral residencies at Litchfield Cathedral, Canterbury Cathedral, St. George's, Windsor Castle, and Westminster Abbey. As Director of Liturgical Music at the Pontifical North American College in Vatican City from 2007 to 2009, Prof. Berry conducted a private concert for patrons of the Chicago Symphony in the Sistine Chapel and produced a recording with the seminary choir, on which are heard his own organ harmonizations of the Gregorian chant propers for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

From 2003 to 2007, he was Music Director and Organist at the Church of the Holy Trinity on the Upper West Side

of Manhattan. During this time, he was also heard regularly on Sirius Satellite Radio as an Associate Organist of The Cathedral of Saint Patrick, New York City. Prof. Berry's full-time professional career as a church musician began when he was appointed Assistant Director of Music at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. in 2001, upon his return from France. In his position, he performed regularly for internationally broadcast liturgies as well as for daily services at the basilica.

Prof. Berry has worked as the accompanist for the University of Kansas Chamber Singers under Simon Carrington, and as Staff Accompanist at Westminster Choir College, where he worked with conductors such as Anton Armstrong, Lorin Maazel, Andrew Megill, and Dale Warland. Recently, Prof. Berry has performed as organist with the Milwaukee Symphony Chorus, the Milwaukee Chamber Choir, and the Orpheus Chamber Singers.

Prof. Berry maintains a high school organ studio and is in demand as a solo performer, accompanist, conductor, and teacher. He teaches for the Carthage Arts Academy. Recent engagements have included a solo recital in August 2017 at the Cathedral of St. Paul in Pittsburgh, PA, and a September 2017 appearance as a presenter and performer at the Classical Keyboard Improvisation Symposium at Cedarville University in Ohio. Christopher and his wife, Meredith, live in Cudahy, Wisconsin with their young daughters.

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