



Frank Almond, Artistic Director

May 14, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.
Schwan Hall

Strings Attached

Frank Almond, *violin*
Ilana Setapen, *violin*
Toby Appel, *viola*
Helen Callus, *viola*
Nicholas Canellakis, *cello*
Alexander Hersh, *cello*

PROGRAM

Grande Sestetto Concertante in

E-flat major, K. 364 (320d) Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Allegro maestoso

(1756-1791)

Andante

Presto

Intermission

String Sextet No. 1, Op. 18.....Johannes Brahms

Allegro, ma non troppo

(1833 –1897)

Andante, ma moderato

Scherzo. Allegro molto

Rondo. Poco Allegretto e grazioso



*This program is supported in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board
with funds from the state of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts.*

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BIOGRAPHIES



Photo by Jennifer Brindley

Violinist **Frank Almond** holds the Charles and Marie Caestecker Concertmaster Chair at the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra. Now celebrating his 21st season with the MSO, he returned in

2003 after holding 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, and the Grand Tetons Music Festival.

He continues an active schedule of solo and chamber music performances in the United States and abroad, including appearances with the Ojai Festival, Frankly Music, An die Musik, the Nara Academy in Nara, Japan, Jazz at Lincoln Center,

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.

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 of today's well-known institutions, including the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Sarasota Music

Festival, the Hal Leonard Corporation, the Ravinia Festival, La Jolla Summerfest, Music in the Vineyards, the Cape and Islands Festival, and numerous other summer festivals.

He has recorded for 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 2001.

With pianist William Wolfram, a CD of sonatas by Respighi, Janacek, and Strauss was released on the AVIE label, and was named a "Best of 2007" by the American Record Guide. His latest CD of American violin and piano music was released on Innova Recordings with pianist Brian Zeger and has also garnered much press enthusiasm. A CD 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. It has received notable press in major news outlets, and was twice

featured in a full program of interviews and excerpts on SiriusXM Symphony Hall. In 2015, he premiered *Soul of a Nation* in New York and Chicago, a new violin concerto from composer Victoria Bond based on the life and writings of Thomas Jefferson. The work was recently recorded for release in 2017.

In February 2018, he and the Milwaukee Symphony performed a new violin concerto by Pierre Jalbert, co-

commissioned by the MSO, the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra.

In recent seasons he has occasionally appeared as a conductor, most recently with the Cabrillo Chamber Orchestra (CA), the Baltimore Chamber Orchestra, the Traverse Symphony (MI), on the Frankly Music series with members of the Milwaukee Symphony, and the Berlin Sinfonietta.

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, Northwestern University, and is currently on the faculty as Artist/Teacher of Violin at the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University. In 2014 he was named to a newly created Artist-in-Residence position at the Milwaukee Youth Symphony.

In 2008, he started writing an online column called *nondivisi*.

He usually plays on a violin by Antonio Stradivari from 1715, the "ex-Lipiński". *A Violin's Life, Vol. 2* was released in May 2016, again topping the Billboard chart in its first week of sales.

On January 27, 2014, the "ex-Lipiński" Stradivari was stolen from Mr. Almond in an armed robbery after a concert. The violin was recovered nine days later, and the story continues to make headlines around the world, most recently on the Mainstage at The Moth, 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 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.



Since her solo orchestral debut at age 15 with the Amarillo Symphony, **Ilana Setapen** has been flourishing as a violinist with a powerful and original voice. She is

currently the associate concertmaster of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra and the assistant concertmaster of the Grant Park Festival Orchestra in Chicago.

Ms. Setapen has solo performances this season with the Milwaukee Symphony, the Sheboygan Symphony, the Boca Raton Symphonia, and the Gateway Chamber Orchestra. In past seasons, she has performed with the Pasadena Pops, the Riverside Philharmonic, National Repertory Orchestra, the Glacier Symphony, and the Idaho Falls Symphony, among others. She is also a frequent performer on the Dame Myra Hess Recital Series in Chicago. She has participated in numerous festivals such as the Olympic Music Festival, the New York String Seminar, Aspen Music Festival, and the National Repertory Orchestra.

Ms. Setapen has won top prizes in many competitions, including the Irving M. Klein International String Competition, the Pasadena Showcase Competition, and the Kingsville International Competition. At the age of 21, she became concertmaster of the Riverside Philharmonic in Los Angeles. She has also held concertmaster positions with the Juilliard Orchestra, the Colburn Orchestra, the American Youth Symphony, the National Repertory Orchestra, and the USC Thornton Symphony.

Also a passionate chamber musician, Ms. Setapen was for two years the first violinist of the award-winning Calla Quartet in New York. Her talent has also led her to collaborations with such distinguished artists as Ron Leonard, Lynn Harrell, Toby Appel, Peter Stumpf, Paul Coletti, Cynthia

Phelps, the Fine Arts Quartet, Frank Almond, Joe Johnson, Todd Levy, and David Geber. Solo and chamber music performances have brought her abroad to France, Brazil, Holland, England, Monaco, and Italy. She is now the first violinist of the Milwaukee-based Arcas Quartet and a frequent guest on the Frankly Music Series as well as Chamber Music Milwaukee.

Ms. Setapen grew up in Amarillo, Texas. She studied with Robert Lipsett both at the University of Southern California and at the Colburn Conservatory. She received her Master of Music Degree from The Juilliard School as a student of Donald Weilerstein and Ronald Copes.



Toby Appel now splits his time between Santa Fe and New York, and is in his 28th year of teaching at the Juilliard School. He is a former member of Tashi, and the Lenox and

Audubon Quartets. He began training at age 13 at the Curtis Institute with Max Aronoff. He has held professorships at SUNY, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, University of New Mexico, Rutgers University, Carnegie Mellon, and Yale. Appel is a winner of the Young Concert Artists International. He is a frequent commentator for National Public Radio's "Performance Today." He has toured for the U.S. State Department and performed at the United Nations and at the White House. Chamber music and recital recordings can be heard on the Columbia, Delos, Desto, Koch International, Opus 1, and Musical Heritage Society labels.



Hailed as “one of the world’s greatest violinists” (*American Record Guide*), and “one of the foremost violinists of her generation” (*Fanfare* magazine), **Helen Callus** continues to

captivate audiences with her lyrical tone, technical command, and profound artistry. Sought after as a recitalist, chamber musician, and concerto soloist, Ms. Callus has performed with such world-class ensembles as the Tokyo, Juilliard, Dover and Fine Arts String Quartets and the New Zealand and BBC Concert Orchestras.

While maintaining an international concert calendar, Ms. Callus’s career also includes distinguished work as an award-winning recording artist. Her 2002 debut recording, “Portrait of the Viola,” was met with high critical acclaim, with the *American Record Guide* noting, “Only really great artistry can hold a listener in thrall like that, and that is the artistry of Helen Callus.” She has since made recordings of works of Walton, Prokofiev, Vaughn Williams, J.S. Bach, Gordon Jacob, Giya Kancheli, and more. *Gramophone* gave the Walton disc its highest recommendation, and observed, “Helen Callus plays with a sumptuous tone matched by flawless intonation to give the most beautiful account I have ever heard of the Walton Concerto.” The recording was named Orchestral Disc of the Month by Britain’s *Classic FM Magazine*, and “the most beautiful Walton on disc” by the 2006 *Penguin Guide to Compact Discs*. This award winning disc will be re-issued on the Naxos label in 2018.

In live performances, Ms. Callus has delighted audiences around the world, including those of Russia, Europe, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, and is much in demand at international chamber music festivals such as the Seattle Chamber Music Festival, the Palaces of St. Petersburg Chamber Music Festival (Russia), and the Dilijan Chamber Music Series in Los Angeles.

Ms. Callus can be heard regularly on American Public Media’s Performance Today, in interviews on National Public Radio and Public Radio International, and has performed as soloist on American Public Media’s Saint Paul Sunday.

Ms. Callus currently holds the appointment of Professor of Viola at the Bienen School of Music at Northwestern University. In high demand across the country as a visiting professor, she has taught over 100 master classes around the world at such prominent institutions as the Royal Academy of Music in London and The Royal Danish Academy in Copenhagen, and given residencies at many of nation’s leading schools of music, including The Juilliard School, New England Conservatory, Rice School of Music, Indiana University and Oberlin Conservatory of Music. She has served as adjudicator at the Coleman Chamber Ensemble Festival and the American String Teachers Association to name a few and was Chair of the jury for the Primrose International Viola Competition. In 2005 Ms. Callus was invited as the guest of honor for the Australia’s “Year of the Viola” Festival. Ms. Callus served as the first female President of the American Viola Society.

Born in Orpington, Kent, Ms. Callus graduated from London’s Royal Academy of Music, and was bestowed an Honorary ARAM (Associate of the RAM) and FRAM (Fellow) for her achievements in the field. She continued her graduate studies at the Peabody Conservatory in Maryland:

Ms. Callus plays on a viola made for her by Gabrielle Kundert which is a copy of the ex-Primrose Amati.

For more information please visit www.helencallus.com.



Hailed by *The New Yorker* as a “superb young soloist,” **Nicholas Canellakis** has become one of the most sought-after and innovative cellists of his generation, captivating

audiences throughout the United States and abroad. In *The New York Times* his playing was praised as “impassioned” and “soulful,” with “the audience seduced by Mr. Canellakis’s rich, alluring tone.”

Mr. Canellakis recently made his Carnegie Hall concerto debut, performing with the American Symphony Orchestra in Isaac Stern Auditorium. Mr. Canellakis is an artist of The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, with which he performs regularly in Alice Tully Hall and on tour, and is a regular guest artist at many of the world’s leading music festivals, including Santa Fe, La Jolla, Music@Menlo, Ravinia, Bridgehampton, Hong Kong, Music in the Vineyards, Moab, and Saratoga Springs. Mr. Canellakis also performs numerous recitals each season with his regular collaborator, pianist/composer Michael Brown.

Recent and upcoming season highlights include concerto appearances with the Albany Symphony, New Haven Symphony, Greenwich Symphony, and Erie Philharmonic, and a recital tour of American cello/piano works, culminating in a performance in New York City presented by The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center.

A winner of The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center’s CMS Two international auditions, Mr. Canellakis was also selected to be in residence at Carnegie Hall as a member of Ensemble ACJW, in which he performed in Weill and Zankel Halls and worked to enhance music education throughout New York City. He is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music and New England Conservatory, where his teachers included Orlando Cole, Peter Wiley, and

Paul Katz. Mr. Canellakis is on the faculty of the Brooklyn College Conservatory of Music.

Filmmaking and acting are special interests of Mr. Canellakis. He has produced, directed, and starred in several short films and music videos, including his popular comedy web series “Conversations with Nick.”



Since making his Symphony Hall debut with the Boston Pops in 2015, cellist **Alexander Hersh** has quickly established himself as a rising young talent. He

has received numerous awards both as a soloist and as a chamber musician and been invited to festivals worldwide including: Marlboro, Caramoor, Ravinia Steans Music Institute, Music@Menlo, I-M-S Prussia Cove, Perlman Music Program Chamber Music Workshop, Piatigorsky International Cello Festival, Amsterdam Cello Biennial, Kneisel Hall, Lucerne, New York String Orchestra Seminar, Domaine Forget, and the Meadowmount School of Music.

Season highlights have included his Carnegie Weill Hall debut, a “Three-generation” Hersh Trio performance of the Beethoven Triple Concerto with the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra, a performance of the Brahms Double Concerto with the DuPage Symphony Orchestra, as well as recital and chamber music appearances in New York, Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, Penzance (England), Blonay (Switzerland), and Berlin (Germany).

A 4th generation string player, Alexander’s parents, Stefan and Roberta, are both active professional violinists. His grandfather, Paul Hersh, is professor of viola and piano at San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and his great grandfather, Ralph Hersh, was a member of the WQXR and Stuyvesant String Quartets, and principal violist of the Dallas and Atlanta Symphony Orchestras.

BIOGRAPHIES CONT.

Raised in Chicago, Alexander Hersh began playing the cello at the age of 5. He studied with Steve Balderston and Hans Jørgen Jensen, and attended the Academy at the Music Institute of Chicago. Hersh received his B.M. from New England Conservatory (with academic honors) where he was a student of Laurence Lesser and recipient of the Clara M. Friedlaender Scholarship. In May of 2017, he received his M.M. from

New England Conservatory where he studied under the tutelage of Paul Katz and Kim Kashkashian. Hersh is a recipient of the Frank Huntington Beebe fund for studies in Berlin during the 2017 - 2018 academic year where he studies with Nicolas Altstaedt at Hanns Eisler Hochschule for Musik Berlin. He plays a G.B. Rogeri cello on generous loan from a sponsor through Darnton & Hersh Fine Violins in Chicago, IL.

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