



Frank Almond, Artistic Director

November 12, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

The Voice of the Clarinet

Frank Almond, violin

Susanna Phillips, soprano

Todd Levy, clarinet

Brian Zeger, piano

PROGRAM

"Parto! Ma tu ben mio" (La Clemenza di Tito), K. 621 Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)

Wir geniessen die himmlischen Freuden..... Gustav Mahler
from Symphony No. 4 (1860-1911)
Arr. Arnon Zimra

Der Hirt auf dem Felsen, D965 – op. post. 129 Franz Schubert
(1797-1828)

Intermission

A Foggy Day/Love Walked In George Gershwin
Let's Call the Whole Thing Off (1898-1937)
Love is Here to Stay Arr. Richard Walters

Contrasts Béla Bartók (1881-1945)
I. Verbunkos (Recruiting Dance)
II. Pihenő (Relaxation)
III. Sebes (Fast Dance)



This program was 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.

The 15th Anniversary Season is lovingly dedicated to Katherine Denton Almond (1968-2017).

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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. 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 US 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 “Lipinski” 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-Lipinski” 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.



Alabama-born soprano **Susanna Phillips**, recipient of The Metropolitan Opera’s 2010 Beverly Sills Artist Award, continues to establish herself as one

of today’s most sought-after singing actors and recitalists.

Highlights of Ms. Phillips’ previous opera seasons include numerous starring roles at the Metropolitan Opera including appearances as Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte* in what the New York Times called a “breakthrough night,” Rosalinde in *Die Fledermaus*, Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni*, Pamina in Julie Taymor’s production of *The Magic Flute*, Musetta in *La Bohème*

(both in New York and on tour in Japan), Antonia in *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*, and as a featured artist in the Met's Summer Recital Series in both Central Park and Brooklyn Bridge Park. She also appeared at Carnegie Hall for a special concert performance as Stella in Previn's *A Streetcar Named Desire* opposite René Fleming – a role she went on to perform, to rave reviews, at Lyric Opera of Chicago and as Ellen Orford in *Peter Grimes* with the St. Louis Symphony. In March 2017, Ms. Phillips will make her Zurich Opera debut as Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni*. She also appeared as Cleopatra in Handel's *Giulio Cesare* with Boston Baroque and Martin Pearlman.

As a member of the Ryan Opera Center, Phillips sang the female leads in *Roméo et Juliette* and *Die Fledermaus*. Additional roles include Elmira in Reinhard Keiser's *The Fortunes of King Croesus*, and the title roles in *Lucia di Lammermoor* and *Agrippina*, as well as appearances with the Oper Frankfurt, Dallas Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Minnesota Opera, Fort Worth Opera Festival, Boston Lyric Opera and Opera Birmingham.

Highly in demand by the world's most prestigious orchestras, Ms. Phillips has appeared with the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic under Alan Gilbert, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, San Francisco Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, Oratorio Society of New York, Santa Fe Symphony, Santa Barbara Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, Gulbenkian Orchestra, Orchestra of St. Luke's, and Santa Fe Concert Association.

A fervent chamber music collaborator, Ms. Phillips recently teamed with bass-baritone Eric Owens for a recital of all Schubert which they have taken on tour in Chicago with members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, at the Gilmore Festival, and Philadelphia Chamber Music Society. Additional recital engagements included

chamber music concerts with Paul Neubauer and Anne Marie McDermott, and at Twickenham Fest, a chamber music festival she co-founded in her native Huntsville, Alabama. The soprano also made her solo recital debut at Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall with pianist Myra Huang. She made her Carnegie Hall debut with Skitch Henderson, Rob Fisher, and the New York Pops. Following her Baltimore Symphony Orchestra debut under Marin Alsop, the *Baltimore Sun* proclaimed: "She's the real deal."

In August 2011, Ms. Phillips was featured at the opening night of the Mostly Mozart Festival, which aired live on Live From Lincoln Center on PBS. The same year saw the release of *Paysages*, her first solo album on Bridge Records, which was hailed as "sumptuous and elegantly sung" (*San Francisco Chronicle*). The following year saw her European debut as Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte* at the Gran Teatro del Liceu Barcelona.

In 2005, Ms. Phillips won four of the world's leading vocal competitions: Operalia (both First Place and the Audience Prize), the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, the MacAllister Awards, and the George London Foundation Awards Competition. She has also claimed the top honor at the Marilyn Horne Foundation Competition, and has won first prizes from the American Opera Society Competition and the Musicians Club of Women in Chicago. Ms. Phillips has received grants from the Santa Fe Opera and the Sullivan Foundation, and is a graduate of Lyric Opera of Chicago's Ryan Opera Center. She holds both a Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degree from The Juilliard School and continues collaboration with her teacher Cynthia Hoffmann.

A native of Huntsville, Alabama, over 400 people traveled from her hometown to New York City in December 2008 for

Ms. Phillips' Metropolitan Opera debut in *La Bohème*. She returns frequently to her native state for recitals and orchestral appearances.



Principal clarinet of the MSO, the Santa Fe Opera Orchestra and participant in the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, three-time Grammy Award-winner

Todd Levy has performed as a soloist at Carnegie Hall, the Mostly Mozart Festival, with the Israel Philharmonic, and at the White House; as chamber musician with members of the Guarneri, Juilliard, Orion, Miró, and Miami quartets, Christoph Eschenbach and Mitsuko Uchida; as a participant at the Marlboro Music Festival for four summers; as a member of the Naumburg Award-winning Aspen Wind Quintet; as guest principal clarinet with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic, the Metropolitan Opera, and as a frequent principal clarinet for Seiji Ozawa, Riccardo Muti, and Alan Gilbert at the Tokyo Opera Nomori and Saito Kinen festivals in Japan.

He has performed world premiere concerti or chamber works by composers such as John Harbison, Joan Tower, Peter Schickele, Paquito D'Rivera, Morton Subotnick, Marc Neikrug, and performs on the new release of Marc Neikrug's *Through Roses* chamber work with violinist Pinchas Zuckerman, actor John Rubenstein, and the composer conducting.

In 2012, Levy recorded the Finzi Five Bagatelles for the newly released edition for Boosey and Hawkes/Hal Leonard. In 2010, Levy co-edited and recorded the Bernstein Clarinet Sonata for the newly released edition of the work published by Boosey and Hawkes/Hal Leonard. He has recorded three book/CDs of clarinet competition works for

G. Schirmer/Hal Leonard entitled *The Clarinet Collection*, the Brahms Clarinet Sonatas for Avie and over 20 other orchestral and chamber music CDs on the Deutsche Grammophon, Sony and Decca labels. He performs exclusively on Vandoren reeds, mouthpieces and ligatures and Selmer Signature clarinets. He is also on the faculty of UW-Milwaukee.



Widely recognized as one of today's leading collaborative pianists, **Brian Zeger** has performed with many of the world's greatest singers including Marilyn

Horne, Deborah Voigt, Anna Netrebko, Susan Graham, René Pape, Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, Frederica von Stade, Piotr Beczala, Bryn Terfel, Joyce DiDonato, Denyce Graves and Adrienne Pieczonka in an extensive concert career has taken him to the premiere concert halls throughout the United States and abroad.

His recent recordings include *All Who Wander*, a recital disc with Jamie Barton; *Preludios*—Spanish songs with Isabel Leonard; a recording of Strauss and Wagner lieder with Adrienne Pieczonka, and *Dear Theo: 3 Song Cycles by Ben Moore* with Paul Appleby, Susanna Phillips and Brett Polegato, all for the Delos label.

Recent concert highlights have included recitals with Deborah Voigt, collaborations with Susan Graham at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and at Carnegie Hall; recitals with Anna Netrebko at the Vilar Performing Arts Center, with tenor Paul Appleby as part of the Bard Music Festival and at the Schubertiade Festival with Adrienne Pieczonka; and two concerts where he served as both pianist and curator: Juilliard Songfest at Alice Tully Hall and *Pergamon: The Romantic Obsession* at Metropolitan Museum of Art with soprano Susanna Phillips and bass Shenyang.

He also took part in a celebration of the songs of Ben Moore for Cliburn Concerts in Fort Worth with baritone Edward Parks and other artists.

Recent chamber music appearances have included the Bard Music Festival and the Cape Cod Chamber Music festival with the Jupiter String Quartet as well the Frankly Music series in Milwaukee. In past seasons he has been a regular guest at many summer festivals including Aspen, Ravinia, Caramoor, Aldeburgh, and Santa Fe and enjoyed chamber music collaborations with the Borromeo and Brentano Quartets, An die Musik, the New York Philharmonic Chamber Ensembles and with Bernard Greenhouse, Glenn Dicterow, Eugene Drucker and Paula Robison. He has also made concerto appearances with the Boston Pops, multiple concert appearances at the White House and United States Supreme Court and appeared with Deborah Voigt and Frederica von Stade on the telecast of the Metropolitan Opera's Gala saluting Joseph Volpe.

In addition to his distinguished concert career, he also serves as Artistic Director of the Vocal Arts Department at The Juilliard School and the Executive Director of the Metropolitan Opera Lindemann Young Artists Development Program. Previously he had served for many seasons as the director of the vocal program at the Steans Institute at the Ravinia Festival as well as on the faculties of the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara, the Chautauqua Institute, the Mannes College of Music and the Peabody Conservatory. He has given master classes for numerous institutions, including The Guildhall School of Music in London, Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, Tanglewood Music Center, the Marilyn Horne Foundation and Stanford University.

Some of his critical essays and other writings have appeared in Opera News, The Yale Review and Chamber Music magazine. He has made frequent appearances on the Metropolitan Opera radio broadcasts both on the opera quiz and as intermission host and performer and has the distinction of creating, narrating and performing in five intermission features devoted to art song, a first in the long history of the Met broadcasts. He has also made numerous musical appearances on live-streamed broadcasts from WQXR's The Greene Space. He has adjudicated many prominent competitions including the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, the Concert Artists Guild auditions, the Walter W. Naumberg Vocal Competition and Richard Tucker Music Foundation Auditions.

Born in upstate New York, Mr. Zeger is now a resident of Manhattan. He holds a bachelor's degree in English Literature from Harvard College, a master's degree from The Juilliard School and a doctorate from the Manhattan School of Music. His important teachers have included Morris Borenstein, Sascha Gorodnitzki and Nina Svetlanova.

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