



2008 Thayer
Chamber Music Festival

Peter Sulski
Artistic Director

Faculty/Guest Artists

Mark Berger, viola/composer, attended Boston University where he completed his undergraduate studies in violin with Roman Totenberg and viola with Steven Ansell. Mr. Berger has performed in summer festivals such as the Thayer Festival, where he is a returning faculty member, the Kneisel Hall Chamber Music Festival, and the Tanglewood Music Center, where he was invited to return for 2 seasons as violist for the esteemed New Fromm Players. Mr. Berger is very active as a freelance violist and violinist in the Boston area and has performed with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Boston Pops, the Boston Modern Orchestra Project, Boston Lyric Opera, Opera Boston, Emmanuel Music, Boston Musica Viva and ALEA III Contemporary Music Ensemble. An avid chamber musician, Mr. Berger is a member of Music at Eden's Edge and a founding member of the Worcester Chamber Music Society and Trio Mosaic. As a composer, Mr. Berger has studied at Boston University and Brandeis University where he studied with Lukas Foss, Theodore Antoniou, David Rakowsky, Martin Boykan and Eric Chasalow. Mr. Berger's compositions have been heard throughout the USA as well as internationally in Moscow and St. Petersburg, Russia, San Jose, Costa Rica, Mexico City, and Athens, Greece. His music has been performed by ensembles such as the New York New Music Ensemble, Lydian String Quartet, Dinosaur Annex, ALEA III, QX String Quartet, Music at Eden's Edge, the Harvard Group for Contemporary Music, New Music Brandeis, Ensemble Permutaciones (Mexico), NODUS Ensemble, Studio New Music (in residence at the Moscow Conservatory), the Third Coast Percussion Quartet, and the Hellenic Ensemble of Contemporary Music. Mr. Berger teaches composition, theory and electronic music and is on the music faculty of Wellesley College, Clark University and Middlesex Community College.

"...Excellent left hand.." (Toronto Star), "...lovely tonal bloom..." (LeDROIT) are words that describe the performances of violinist **Krista Buckland Reisner**. A musician of great diversity, she has toured across her native Canada as a recitalist, performed concertos in cities ranging from New York City to St. John's, Newfoundland, travelled to New Zealand with Canada's baroque group Aradia and has created multi-media works for herself involving dance and movement. She was Principal Second Violin of the Canadian Opera Company Orchestra for five years and has been a member of the Arizona Opera and Santa Fe Opera Orchestras. In Boston, Krista is Concertmaster of

Opera Boston and the Principal Second of Boston Modern Orchestra Project. Formerly the music librarian and a period violinist in Boston Baroque, she is a tenured member of the period orchestra Handel and Hayden Society, plays frequently with the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra, is a member of the Worcester Chamber Music Society and Concertmaster of Worcester Collegium, conducted by Jan Watson. As one of Boston's leading new music violinists, Krista is lead violinist of Alea III and has premiered hundreds of compositions, including career highlights such as the North America premiere of Eotvos's "Angels in America" and Ades's "Powder her Face".

The Washington Post and The Boston Globe have acclaimed **Maria Ferrante**, soprano, winner of the Mario Lanza Voice competition and one of this region's most accomplished concert artists, for her stellar musical performances. She has appeared in opera, oratorio, performance series, and numerous galas and on radio. Ms. Ferrante has appeared in concert with poet laureate Richard Wilbur, and with artists Richard Stolzman, Julian Milkis, Colon Jacobsen, Dorothy Larson, Paul Speny, and Arnold Black. Ms. Ferrante has performed as featured soloist for BankBoston Showcase Series, The Newton Symphony, Harvard Musical Association, Mohawk Trail Concerts and the Boston Chamber Ensemble. Her most recently released CD, *Sea Tides and Time* is devoted to the theme of water and the importance of its preservation. In Prague, Ms. Ferrante has recorded works of Joseph Summer with members of the Prague Symphony. Recent performances have included the Coffee Cantata with the Queens Symphony, the operatic role of Cho-Cho-San in *Madame Butterfly* with the Newton Symphony, and Chitra in *Chitra* by Shirish Korde with the Boston Musica Viva.

Rohan Gregory, violinist, has cultivated a wide-ranging expertise in chamber music, new music and world music. He has played with the Apple Hill Chamber Players, the Ancora Ensemble and award-winning Boccherini Ensemble and was also a founding member for ten years of the Arden String Quartet, performing new music concerts in New York, Boston, Amsterdam and St. Petersburg, Russia. On the world music scene, Rohan has toured extensively. His travels have taken him to Europe with The Klezmatics, to Thailand with multi-ethnic flute player Abbie Rabinowitz, to India with the Indo-jazz group Natraj and to the U.S. west coast with Sophia Bilides Greek Folk Ensemble. Locally, Rohan is a member of the Boston Lyric Opera Company, the New England String Ensemble and Boston Modern Orchestra Project. He also coaches chamber music for the Walnut Hill School for the Performing Arts, the Greater Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra, Music at Port Milford, Canada and the Apple Hill Chamber Music Festival

Chilean cellist Jan Müller-Szeraws made his debut at age twelve with the Orquesta Sinfónica de Concepción and has since then performed frequently as a soloist with orchestras in Chile, Germany and the United States. As a chamber musician he has been a guest artist at the Andover Chamber Music Series, the Cape & Islands, Rockport, Delaware, Florida Arts and the Kingston Chamber Music Festivals and has collaborated with ensembles such as Muir and St. Petersburg String Quartets. In Boston, Jan performs regularly with Boston Música Viva and Mistral, the touring group of the Andover Chamber Music Series and is also a grant recipient of the Saul and Naomi Cohen Foundation. He can be heard regularly on radio stations across the globe including America's WGBH, Germany's WDR and SWR and Chile's Radio UDEC. This season's highlights include several solo appearances, playing cello concertos by Chou Wen-Chung with the New England Philharmonic and Dvorak with the Boston Landmarks Orchestra. Currently on Faculty at the Phillips Academy in Andover, Jan is also looking forward to the upcoming release of Pedro Humberto Allende's cello concerto he recently recorded with the Chilean National Symphony Orchestra under David del Pino Klinge.

Violist **Peter Sulski** has recently returned to his native Worcester after many years abroad in Europe and the Middle East. Peter is a musician who uniquely combines performing and teaching in an entrepreneurial way. For seven years, Peter was a member of the London Symphony Orchestra's viola section, as well as being a prime player in the education Discovery Program. In London, he was on faculty at the Royal College of Music and Trinity College and ran the viola masterclasses at the Dartington International Summer School in the south of England. After touring to the Middle East with the Apple Hill Chamber Players, Peter was asked to become Head of Strings at the Palestinian Conservatory, a position he held for several years, before becoming Principal Violist of the Cyprus Chamber Orchestra. He was also the Fulbright Commission's bi-communal chamber coordinator for the Turkish and Greek Cypriot communities. Currently, Peter is on faculty at the College of the Holy Cross, Clark University and University of Massachusetts, Lowell and plays frequently with Boston Música Viva. As of 2009, he will be Artistic Director of the Lewes Chamber Music Society. (Sussex, England).

A native of the Northwest, **Karin Thompson** obtained her Bachelor of Music degree from Walla Walla College. She went on to finish her Master of Music degree in cello performance at the Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. While a student, she attended the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara, California, the Encore School for Strings in Hudson, Ohio, and the Baroque Performance Institute at Oberlin, Ohio. Her principal teachers include

Christopher von Baeyer, Stephen Kates, Evelyn Elsing, and Kenneth Slowik. After finishing her master's degree, she taught English in St. Petersburg, Russia, for one year. In 2001 she completed a PhD in historical musicology at the University of Maryland, College Park. She has been on the faculty at Atlantic Union College since 2000, where she has taught primarily music history and interdisciplinary humanities courses.

In their first year, QX made their debut in Mechanics Hall in Worcester, performed with pianists Andrew Rangall and Judith Gordon at the Rockport Chamber Music Festival (MA), premiered a newly commissioned work written for them by Christos Koulendros, by invitation of the St. Botolph Club in Boston and recorded their first CD of works by composer Joseph Summer for Albany Records, released in the Fall of 2006. Other performances venues include the St. Paul's Festival in Worcester, Boston College and Boston's Goethe Institute, where they gave the American premiere of German composer Bernd Franke's "Versuch zur Nacht", a piece dedicated to the late Louis Krasner, as part of a concert concept linking the Jewish influence on the music of 19th-century Vienna and 20th-century America. 2006-07 included their debut in Boston's Jordan Hall as part of the Shakespeare Concerts series, collaborations with the Newport dance troupe Island Moving Company, as well as premieres of works by composers David Claman, John McDonald and Mark Berger. They continued their "mini-residencies", working with young composers at Tufts University and MIT and instrumentalists at College of the Holy Cross, as well as hold a lecture/recital series at Fitchburg State College, and were guests of the Worcester Chamber Music Society. Since founding its own highly successful Thayer Chamber Music Festival in 2005, sponsored by Atlantic Union College, which brings together budding young instrumentalists for an intensive week of chamber music coaching, Faculty and participant concerts, QX expanded their Festival to two 5-day sessions, opening the Festival up to include adult amateurs, with the support of a grant from the Amateur Chamber Music Players, and presents four Faculty concerts and two participant concerts within this 10-day period. Events in 2007-08 include another Shakespeare Concert in Boston's Jordan Hall, recording a second CD of works by Joseph Summer for Albany, a premiere of a concerto for string quartet and block flute by Shirish Korde, performances at the Center for the Arts in Natick, College of the Holy Cross and Clark University, appear as guests as of the Worcester Chamber Music Society, and coach and perform at their 2008 Summer Chamber Music Festival held from July 14-25, 2008. In 2008-09, QX will be the quartet-in-residence at Clark University in Worcester, giving a series of classroom demonstrations and lectures, as well as several recitals.

Jan Watson, Director of Music at St. Paul's Cathedral, is a world-renowned conductor and performer. Jan is the Founder and Director of the St. Paul's Music Festival, Artistic

Director of the acclaimed period-instrument ensemble, Arcadia Players, Worcester Collegium and Principal Guest Conductor of Karlstad Baroque in Sweden. Ian is a prominent figure at the highest levels of the international music scene, and played an important role in the British Baroque revival which brought such renowned orchestras into prominence as the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, the English Chamber Orchestra, the English Baroque Soloists, the Monteverdi Choir and The Sixteen - all with whom he has performed as organist, harpsichordist, solo pianist and/or director. Ian has been the leading keyboard player with most of the major English ensembles, with whom he toured and recorded extensively, as well as being featured on numerous film soundtracks and broadcasts including Amadeus, Mr. Holland's Opus and Restoration. In the field of opera, Ian has worked at Glyndebourne, and conducted productions throughout England, and internationally at Bremen Opera, Giessen Opera, the Komische Opera, Berlin, and as a Principal Conductor with the Darmstadt State Opera in Germany.

Pianist **Jonathan Yasuda** was born in Boston, grew up in Wellesley, and began studying piano at the age of five. He was a student at the All Newton Music School under Mrs. Susan Osberg, and winner of the school's concerto competition at age eleven, performing Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3. Jonathan enrolled in the New England Conservatory Preparatory School, studying first with Mrs. Jean Stackhouse for three years and then with Mr. Jonathan Bass. After being awarded first place in the 1998 Preparatory School's Concerto Competition, Jonathan performed Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 1 in Jordan Hall. Upon graduation, he received the 2001 Theory Department Award, Chamber Music, and Piano Department Award. Jonathan graduated from the College of the Holy Cross, class of 2005. He was the Brooks Scholar for his class, receiving a full tuition merit based scholarship, majoring in Music with a minor in Economics-Accounting and a Pre-Law concentration. Jonathan does not limit himself to the classical world. He frequently performs for venues as a jazz pianist as well. He is open to all genres so long as it broadens his musical horizon. In his opinion, every piece of music is like a message in a bottle: it can be from all the way around the world, but it's for the artist to open the bottle and read the letter to the world. When he is not in front of a piano, Jonathan can often be found sailing or ferrying on the water. He is a certified United States Sailing Instructor and a Coast Guard licensed Merchant Marine Officer. Jonathan is composing, performing, and teaching in the Boston area. Currently, Jonathan is living in Boston and pursuing his Juris Doctorate at the New England School of Law.

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