



Contact:
Patrick Scott : 213-483-0216
Vanessa Arts Marketing: 213-446-0774

PRESS RELEASE

Jacaranda's 2008-09 Season helps inaugurate The Broad Stage with California maverick composers and continues Messiaen celebration

Nine concerts in four locations presents 17 composers, as *The OM Century Part II* places Olivier Messiaen (1908-92) in the context of his models, contemporaries and students

SANTA MONICA, Calif. – Jacaranda began in 2003 with an evening of minimalist composers, the same October that Disney Hall opened. The series rapidly found an audience due to its fresh programs, high performance standards, and compelling ideas about music. Jacaranda has taken its context-oriented approach to another level by devoting two seasons to a broad brush appreciation of the French composer Olivier Messiaen called **The OM Century**.

Jacaranda's kaleidoscopic sixth season will open Friday, October 17, 2008 as part of the first week of public programming at The Eli and Edythe Broad Stage. "This theater is the result of passion, deep thought and taste. The attitude is community oriented – we just had to make music there," said Patrick Scott, Artistic Director and Series Producer.

Jacaranda's season of nine concerts will continue at three exciting locations: First Pres of Santa Monica – its regular home, Pasadena Presbyterian, and Barnum Hall in Santa Monica.

The Eli and Edythe Broad Stage

Friday, October 17, 2008 7:30 pm "Tipping the Scales"

Program includes four works (1978-91) by Lou Harrison for Javanese gamelan with soloists playing saxophone, harp, French horn and flute, violin and cello. The Zen-inspired *String Quartet* (1950) by John Cage will be followed by Harry Partch's signature piece *Castor and Pollux* (1952) for his unique instruments. Like Messiaen, these three composers were influenced by Asian music.

Performers include: Denali Quartet; Partch, John Schneider, director; Javanese Gamelan of CalArts Kyai Dorodasih "Venerable Dream come True", Pak Djoko Walujo, director; Alyssa Park, violin; Timothy Loo, cello, Maria Casale, harp, Pamela Vlieg Martchev, flute; Richard Todd, French horn; Katisse Buckingham, saxophone; and Ted Atkatz, drum.

First Pres of Santa Monica

Saturday, November 22, 2008 8:00 pm "Intervals of Passion"

Program includes six exquisite works of Anton Webern with three of J.S. Bach's greatest solo works: *Cello Suite No. 3*, Toccata from *Partita No. 6* for keyboard; and Chaconne from *Partita No. 2* for violin. The Webern survey includes *Two Pieces for Cello & Piano* (1899); *Piano Quintet* (1907); *Five Movements for String Quartet* (1909); *Four Pieces for Violin & Piano* (1910); *Movement for String Trio* (1925) and *Variations for Piano* (1936). These two passionate composers deeply influenced Messiaen.

Performers include: Denali Quartet: Sarah Thornblade & Joel Pargman, violins; Alma Lisa Fernandez, viola Timothy Loo, cello; Gloria Cheng, piano; John Walz, cello; Tereza Lucia Stanislav, violin.

First Pres of Santa Monica – continued

Saturday, December 6, 2008 8:00 pm “Fateful Glances”

Program is devoted to one work *Twenty Glances at the Infant Jesus* by Olivier Messiaen.
Performed by: Mark Robson, piano.

Saturday, January 10, 2009 8:00 pm “Birds, Bells and Spells”

Program includes short works by three generations of Messiaen students and an admirer. These pieces surround a rarely performed mini-cantata, a farewell to his teacher and bird music by Messiaen. Pierre Boulez’s ensemble piece *Derive II*; Tristan Murail’s *Bells of Farewell and a Smile* for piano, and *Ethers* for ensemble; George Benjamin’s *Viola Viola* for two violas; and Toru Takemitsu’s *Rain Spell* for ensemble surround short Messiaen’ works: *Death of Number* for soprano, tenor, violin and piano, two piano works *Piece for the Tomb of Paul Dukas* and *The Golden Oriole*, as well as *The Blackbird* for flute and piano.
Performers include: Gloria Cheng, piano; Elissa Johnson, soprano; Timothy Gonzales, tenor; Pamela Vlieg Martchev, flute; Robert Brophy and Victoria Miskolczy, violas; Joel Pargman, violin; Victoria Kirsch, piano; Donald Foster, clarinet; Timothy Loo, cello; Maria Casale, harp; Kenneth McGrath and Mark Alan Hilt, percussion.

Saturday, February 7, 2009 8:00 pm “Arcs of Light”

Program includes the *Second Violin Sonata* and the daunting solo piano version of *Ballade*, both rarely performed, as well as the harp favorite *Impromptu* by Gabriele Fauré, a key figure in French musical life at the turn of the century. Complementing is *Harpalycé*, an iconoclastic work for harp by the under-appreciated Messiaen student Marius Constant, as well as the virtually unknown and masterful *Piano Quintet* by Louis Vierne, an influential organist and tragic figure.

Performers include: Sarah Thornblade, violin; Mark Robson, piano, Maria Casale, harp; and the Denali Quartet: Sarah Thornblade & Joel Pargman, violins; Alma Lisa Fernandez, viola, and Timothy Loo, cello, with Steven Vanhauwaert, piano.

Saturday, March 7, 2009 8:00 pm “Rain Forest in Paris”

Program includes three works by the Brazilian Heitor Villa-Lobos who influenced Messiaen’s style in the 1930’s and 1940’s. Those works include *Choro No.5 “Alma Brasileira”* and *Rudepoema (Savage Poem)* for piano as well as the famous *Bachianas Brasileiras No. 5* for soprano and eight cellos. Two early songs from *Poems for Mi* by Messiaen, *Pierre-Jewels*, for three solo cellos by Marius Constant, and the great *Piano Trio* by Maurice Ravel, another one of Messiaen’s models, complete the evening.

Performers include: Danny Holt, Robert Edward Thies and Mark Alan Hilt, pianos; Jacquelynne Fontaine, soprano; Andrew Schulman, Timothy Loo, and Cecilia Tsan, cellos; plus five more cellists to be announced.

Saturday, April 4, 2009 8:00 pm “Sacrifice”

Program includes the piano four-hands version of Igor Stravinsky’s *Rite of Spring*, a seminal work about sacrifice in ancient Russia that informed Messiaen’s style and was a key work in his teaching. The Rite’s companion is Messiaen’s *Harawi*, an epic song cycle that reconciles the love/death of Tristan and Isolde with ancient Peruvian myth, setting Quechua words, the French language of surrealist poets and onomatopoeic syllables.

The influence of Villa-Lobos can be heard in this *tour de force* for both singer and pianist.

Performers include: Danny Holt and Steven Vanhauwaert, piano four-hands; Elissa Johnson, soprano with Vicki Ray, piano.

Pasadena Presbyterian

Saturday, November 29, 2008 8:00 pm “Written by Wind”

Program includes a survey of organ works by Messiaen spanning 50 years. Pasadena’s grand Aeolian Skinner organ, with 6,000 pipes and 112 ranks, was expanded with an echo organ and completely refurbished in 2003. In addition to *Versicle for the Feast of the Dedication* (1960), an insightful selection of excerpts comes from *The Ascension* (1934), *The Nativity of Our Lord* (1935), *Pentecost Mass* (1950), *Meditations on the Mystery of the Holy Trinity* (1969) and *Book of the Holy Sacrament* (1984).

Performed by: Mark Alan Hilt, organ

Barnum Hall

Saturday, May 9, 2009 8:00 pm "Signals from Heaven"

Program includes a major work of Messiaen, a U.S. premiere and three Los Angeles premieres, all employing large ensembles. Arvo Part's compact *Magnificat* for chorus á capella, and Toru Takemitsu's pair of fanfares, *Signals from Heaven*, help frame a grand finale to **The OM Century**. In addition to *Et Expecto Resurrectionem Mortuorum* (1965) for winds, brass and percussion, the Los Angeles premieres include three late works: *A Smile* (1989) for strings and winds; "Abide in Love" from *Flashes from the Beyond* (1992) for strings, and *The City on High* (1987) for piano solo with winds, brass and percussion. Closing the concert will be the U.S. premiere of *Song of the Deported* (1945) for large orchestra and chorus commissioned by Radio France to commemorate the liberation of the concentration camps. Believed to be lost after its first radio performance, the work was found in the Radio France archive in 1991 and given a second performance in 1995. Performers include: Gloria Cheng, piano; Jacaranda Chamber Singers; and Jacaranda Orchestra and Chorus, made up of professionals, pre-professionals and youth, conducted by Mark Alan Hilt.

First Pres of Santa Monica

1220 Second St. between Wilshire Blvd. and Arizona Ave., Santa Monica, CA 90401

Pasadena Presbyterian

585 East Colorado Blvd. between Los Robles Ave. and Lake Ave., Pasadena CA 91101

Barnum Hall

601 Pico Blvd. between Lincoln Blvd. and Fourth St., Santa Monica CA 90405

Jacaranda is a series of adventures offering the cornerstones of music from centuries past next to unforgettable new and modern music performed by brilliant musicians.

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