

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ISABELLA
STEWART GARDNER
MUSEUM**

Spring concerts at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum celebrate the new,
with innovative classical, jazz, and contemporary music performances

Museum's 83rd concert season – and Music Director Scott Nickrenz's 20th! -- continues with riveting performances by emerging artists, creative new formats, revolutionary works, and three world premieres



BOSTON, DECEMBER 18, 2009 — Spring 2010 brings a fresh lineup of classical, jazz, and new music concerts to the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, continuing the museum's 83rd concert season with a celebration of new voices, artistic growth, and musical innovation.

“Since Isabella Gardner’s time, the museum has served as a catalyst for creativity, a place of inspiration and support for emerging artists,” says **Anne Hawley**, *Norma Jean Calderwood Director* of the Gardner Museum. “We continue that legacy today through the *Artist-in-Residence* program and *Young Artists Showcase* concerts, forging strong relationships with young artists and musicians that often continue long after the initial residency or performance.”

“This season is full of new ideas, from the world premiere of a collaborative piece by three young composers as part of *Avant Gardner* to a *Jazz at the Gardner* performance fusing folk, jazz, and bluegrass styles with the classical string quartet,” says **Scott Nickrenz**, the Gardner’s *Curator of Music*, who celebrates 20 years at the museum this year. “*MusicKitchen @ the Gardner* returns in March for a second multimedia program melding conversation and performance, and the *Sunday Concert Series* welcomes several exciting new faces and Gardner favorites for a season of fantastic classical music, ranging from Baroque masterpieces to works by Messiaen and Corigliano.”

This season, the *Sunday Concert Series* features the Boston debuts of three exciting young performers as part of the *Young Artists Showcase*: German pianist **Benjamin Moser**, praised by the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* as “a master of color, atmosphere and delicate nuance, with technical mastery and youthful exuberance,” on January 24; Bulgarian violinist **Bella Hristova**, whose playing was called “a taste of heaven” by the *New Zealand Herald*, on February 28; and 22 year-old South Korean violinist **Hahn-Bin**, whose recent New York debut recital program was lauded as “inspired” by *The New York Times*, on May 2.

Many of the other *Sunday Concert Series* artists this season are Gardner Museum regulars who first appeared at the museum as part of the *Young Artists Showcase* program. The **Borromeo String Quartet**, the **Claremont Trio**, baritone **Randall Scarlata**, and pianists **Gleb Ivanov** and **Paavali Jumppanen** all made their Gardner debuts in *Young Artists Showcase* concerts and have returned again and again to great critical and popular acclaim.

A variety of concerts and programs on Thursday evenings also offer innovative new programming this spring. *Avant Gardner*, the museum’s new concert series dedicated to the performance of cutting-edge classical works, is all about the fresh and new – beginning with a concert of new works (including two world premieres) by three young

composers in January, and concluding in March with a world premiere by **Christian Wolff**. The 6th season of *Jazz at the Gardner* continues with eclectic contemporary circus music by **Cirkestra**, and the Gardner debuts of the Berklee-affiliated **Mark Whitfield Jr. Quartet** and the **Folk Arts Quartet**. And in March, *MusicKitchen @ the Gardner*, a new concert/conversation hybrid presented by **Nicholas Kitchen and the Borromeo String Quartet**, offers an evening of conversation, music, and visuals that will take attendees inside the music of Beethoven as never before.

This season's performances are now posted on the Gardner's online calendar, accessible through www.gardnermuseum.org, and the complete concert schedule is also available as a formatted PDF in our online press area: www.gardnermuseum.org/information/press.asp.

CONCERT HIGHLIGHTS

SUNDAY CONCERT SERIES • The renowned *Sunday Concert Series* begins the New Year on January 17th with a performance of Schubert's song cycle *Die schöne Müllerin* featuring two Gardner favorites, baritone **Randall Scarlata** and pianist **Jeremy Denk**. Highlights of the series include: Messiaen's monumental *Vingt regards sur l'enfant Jésus* performed by Finnish pianist **Paavali Jumppanen** (March 14); two new geographically-inspired programs by the **Claremont Trio** (France on February 28 and Czechoslovakia on April 18); an all-Baroque program by the **Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center** (March 21); the return of the acclaimed **Belcea String Quartet** (April 25); the first concert of the Beethoven quartet cycle by the **Borromeo String Quartet** (April 4); and a trio of *Young Artists Showcase* concerts featuring three outstanding young artists: pianist **Benjamin Moser** (January 24), and violinists **Bella Hristova** (February 28) and **Hahn-Bin** (May 2).

AVANT GARDNER • The museum's all-new contemporary music series continues on January 21 with *Hot Butterknife Knight*, an evening of music by three young composers—Adam Roberts, Nicholas Vines, and Lei Liang—featuring two world premieres: *Recoil* by Adam Roberts and *Triplex Mobilis*, a collaborative work by all three composers. On March 18, the season concludes with *Century Classics*, presenting Christian Wolff's *Songs from Brecht: The Exception and the Rule*, a co-world premiere given in conjunction with New England Conservatory as part of the NEC Christian Wolff Festival (March 15-17, 2010), as well as works by Ives, Cardew, and Cowell.

JAZZ AT THE GARDNER • *Jazz at the Gardner*'s eclectic offerings continue this spring, beginning on February 18 with **Cirkestra's** (back by popular demand!) signature blend of gypsy, tango, and klezmer-inspired contemporary circus tunes. On May 20, the **Mark Whitfield Jr. Quartet** fills the Tapestry Room with a mix of favorite jazz standards and original compositions. The season concludes on June 17 with something completely different: the **Folk Arts Quartet**, an ensemble specializing in "ChamberGrass" – which is what you get when you cross bluegrass, folk, and Celtic fiddle tradition with the classical string quartet.

Avant Gardner and *Jazz at the Gardner* concerts are presented as part of the Gardner's acclaimed third Thursday evening event series, *Gardner After Hours*, which offers guests the rare opportunity to experience and explore Isabella Stewart Gardner's personal creation among friends, cocktails, and atmosphere.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS • *MusicKitchen @ the Gardner*, a new evening conversation series featuring Nicholas Kitchen and the Borromeo String Quartet, presents a multimedia look at Beethoven's *Grosse Fugue* on Thursday, March 25 at 6:30pm. The evening integrates conversation, visuals, and performance to offer an insider's perspective on the work, and ends with a complete performance of the work and a wine reception around the courtyard.

AN ENCHANTING VENUE • Concerts at the Gardner are held in the Gardner's century-old Tapestry Room, a unique concert hall hung with 15th-century Flemish tapestries. Concert tickets include admission to the museum's three floors of galleries, housing one of the most important art collections in the world, as well as rotating historic and contemporary art exhibitions. This season, visitors can enjoy *Taro Shinoda: Lunar Reflections*, on view through January 31, followed by *Modeling Devotion: Terracotta Sculpture of the Italian Renaissance* from February 25 through May 23.

The complete spring 2010 concert schedule is available as a formatted PDF in our online press area:
www.gardnermuseum.org/information/press.asp

MUSIC DIRECTOR SCOTT NICKRENZ *CELEBRATING 20 YEARS*

This season, renowned violist **Scott Nickrenz** celebrates 20 years as *Curator of Music* at the Gardner Museum. During his tenure, Nickrenz has taken the Gardner's music programs to an unprecedented level of excellence, initiating a number of exceptional music projects including the Museum's Centennial *Open Air* concerts and *Vivaldi in the Courtyard*, *The Concert* free classical podcast, the *Jazz at the Gardner* concert series, the ongoing *Young Artists Showcase* program, and the new *Avant Gardner* series. Nickrenz formerly served as Director of Chamber Music at the Spoleto Festivals in the USA and Italy; the Brooklyn Academy of Music; and the New World Symphony, Miami Beach, Florida.

TICKETS • \$23 General Public; \$18 Seniors; \$15 Members; \$10 College Students; \$5 Children ages 5-17 (children under 5 not admitted to concerts)

Concert tickets include admission to the museum's three floors of galleries, including the special exhibition gallery. Tickets to *Avant Gardner* and *Jazz at the Gardner* concerts include admission to all *Gardner After Hours* activities, which take place from 5:30–9:30pm on the third Thursday of every month.

Tickets may be purchased by phone through the museum's Box Office at 617 278 5156 (open Tues.–Sun., 10am–4pm), online via www.gardnermuseum.org, or in person at the museum entrance at 280 The Fenway (Tues.–Sun., 11am–4pm).

THE CONCERT PODCAST & MUSIC LIBRARY

Launched in September 2006, *The Concert* features live recordings of classical masterpieces from the Gardner's weekly concert series. The podcast, which surpassed the one million-download mark in May 2009, has been noted in *The Wall Street Journal*, *Fast Company*, and the popular blog *BoingBoing* for its groundbreaking use of flexible copyright and quality programming. The museum's online music library, featuring recordings of works included in the podcast, has grown to include over 150 works.

New podcast programs are posted on the 1st and 15th of every month on the museum's website at www.gardnermuseum.org, and listeners may subscribe to receive free, automatic updates.

ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER MUSEUM

280 The Fenway Boston MA 02115 617 566 1401 www.gardnermuseum.org • Green Line E train or #39 bus to Museum • Hours: Tue.–Sun., 11 am–4:45 pm • Tickets: \$12 adults; \$10 seniors; \$5 students; FREE members, children 18 & under, all named "Isabella," and everyone on their birthday • \$2 off general admission with MFA same day receipt and for anyone wearing Red Sox paraphernalia •

Modeled after a 15th-century Venetian palazzo surrounding an interior courtyard garden, the century-old Gardner Museum houses one of the most remarkable art collections in the world, featuring works by Rembrandt, Michelangelo, Raphael, Degas, and Sargent. Changing exhibitions, a world class music program encompassing jazz, classical, and contemporary concerts, evening events, and seasonal courtyard garden displays enrich the collection and provide ongoing inspiration for all.

SPECIAL ADMISSION OFFERS THIS SPRING

Enjoy the Gardner Museum all season with these special monthly offers!

JANUARY • Mention *Conversation Starter* when purchasing a ticket for any winter/spring 2010 *Room Views* program and bring a friend for FREE

FEBRUARY • Warm up the winter with \$5 off museum admission all month! Mention *Winter Escape* when purchasing tickets

MARCH • \$5 off tickets to *Avant Gardner* on March 18 or *MusicKitchen* on March 25. Mention *Musical Interlude* when purchasing tickets

APRIL • Indulge in a nasturtium-inspired dessert in The Gardner Café—complimentary with the purchase of a full meal. Mention *Culinary Delight* when ordering your meal

MAY/JUNE • \$5 off individual May 2 and June 17 concert tickets! Mention *Curtain Call* when purchasing tickets

Artistic programming is made possible, in part, by the Barbara Lee Program Fund. The Museum receives operating support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Many thanks to our generous concert donors who bring special performances to the museum each season: The Fitzpatrick Family Concert, James Lawrence Memorial Concert, Alford P. Rudnick Memorial Concert, Marie Louise & David Scudder Concert, Wendy Shattuck Concert, and Willona Sinclair Memorial Concert.

A part of Gardner After Hours, Jazz at the Gardner is a collaboration with Berklee College of Music. Avant Gardner is made possible, in part, through the generous support of The Aaron Copland Fund for Music and JoAnne and Charles Dickinson.

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EDITORS' NOTE: *Music Director* Scott Nickrenz and musicians performing this season are available for interviews throughout the season. High-resolution images of all performers are also available upon request. The complete spring 2010 concert schedule is available as a formatted PDF in our online press area: www.gardnermuseum.org/information/press.asp.