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APAP|NYC 2016 Showcases New Class of Young Classical Music Stars

Free Concert at Manhattan’s Merkin Concert Hall January 18

NEW YORK CITY, November 18, 2015 – As part of the Association of Performing Arts Presenters (APAP) annual conference, APAP|NYC 2016, five exceptional young classical musicians and ensembles will be showcased at a free concert at Merkin Concert Hall in New York City on January 18 at 6:00 PM. Akropolis Reed Quintet, Brook Speltz, Francisco Vila, PUBLIQuartet and Steven Lin will also receive performing arts business and industry training and guidance for navigating the next steps of their careers. The up-and-coming musicians were chosen for APAP’s 2016 Young Performers Career Advancement Program (YPCA), now in its twentieth year.

“The YPCA program is designed to offer young classical musicians guidance and resources for their promising careers. They’ll spend their time at the conference learning the business side of the industry, setting long-term goals for career development and establishing relationships that will serve them well into the future,” said APAP president and CEO Mario Garcia Durham. “The concert will be their time to shine, and we’re proud to provide a platform for their talent.”

YPCA was launched in 1996 as a program of the Association of Performing Arts Presenters Classical Connections initiative, which is guided by a committee to support emerging classical musicians during the formative stages of their career. After a competitive application process, the selected artists attend tailored sessions at APAP|NYC that provide a practical overview of the presenting and touring industry and expert instruction in the development of audience engagement skills.

“I am fascinated and inspired by all of the program participants’ creative ideas for projects and programming – and their reimagining of what ‘classical’ means today,” said Angela Beeching who has been facilitating the YCPA program since its inception. “It’s been an honor to facilitate the YPCA program and to see the careers of the YPCA alumni evolve and flourish. One of our alumni, Jennifer Koh was just named Musical America’s instrumentalist of the year,” she added.

The musicians will perform in front of global arts leaders, performing arts presenters, managers, record company representatives and agents at Merkin Concert Hall, from 6-8 p.m., January 18. Tickets for the free concert are available at the door. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

ABOUT THE YPCA PARTICIPANTS

Akropolis Reed Quintet

Described as playing with “imagination, infallible musicality and huge vitality” (Fanfare magazine), the Akropolis Reed Quintet, from Northville, MI, takes listeners on extraordinary musical adventures, performing an innovative, living repertoire with acclaimed precision. Founded in 2009 and winner of the 2014 Fischoff Gold Medal, Akropolis took Grand Prize at the MTNA and Plowman chamber music competitions consecutively in 2011, and has garnered prizes at...
three additional national competitions. Championing the next generation of maverick musicians, Akropolis is also winner of the 2015 Fischoff Educator Award, delivering effective and engaging outreach at venues in the community and schools ranging from kindergarten to conservatory.

Brook Speltz
An extremely versatile cellist, Brook Speltz, of New York, NY, has performed as a soloist, chamber musician and recitalist throughout the US, Canada, Latin America, Europe and Asia. As an avid and sought after chamber musician, Brook has been personally invited by musical giants such as Itzhak Perlman and Richard Goode to collaborate in chamber music recitals and tours throughout the country. As a result of these collaborations, Brook has been nominated for the inaugural Warner Music Prize, a newly established prize presented by Warner Music and Carnegie Hall. He has been praised for his "fluid virtuosity" and "soulful melodies."

Francisco Vila
Ecuadorian cellist Francisco Vila is an emerging soloist and chamber musician from Melbourne, FL. Concert activities have taken him to many of the world’s important venues, including Zankel Hall and Weill Hall at Carnegie Hall; Philadelphia's Kimmel Center and Disney Hall in Los Angeles; Harvard University, Brussels’ Flagey Concert Hall as soloist with the Liège Royal Philharmonic and Royal Chamber Orchestra of Wallonia, Santander Festival Orchestra and others. Vila’s mentors were Janos Starker, Sharon Robinson, Gary Hoffman and Menahem Pressler (chamber music). Collaborations include those with Nobuko Imai, Zakhar Bron, Wolfram Christ, Gary Hoffman, Sergey Schepkin, Michel Arrignon, Sunwook Kim, Martin Charlifour, Andrey Baranov and others. Vila was 2nd prize laureate at the 15th Annual Sphinx Competition and was also a fellow at the Ravinia Festival Steans Music Institute. He plays a 1790 Vincenzo Panormo cello, the “ex-Schiffer ex-Starker” Edward Tubbs bow, and a Vigneron bow on generous loan from the Saul B. and Naomi R. Cohen Foundation and the Velge, Croonenberg and Solvay families, respectively.

PUBLiQuartet
PUBLiQuartet is an engaging ensemble from Brooklyn, NY, whose creative programming expands the role of the traditional string quartet. PQ was named the 2013 Concert Artists Guild New Music/New Places Ensemble and was awarded their Adventurous Artist prize. They were also awarded the 2015 CMA/ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming for their original programs, MIND|THE|GAP, which bridges diverse musical genres through group composition and PUBLIQ Access, an emerging composers program. The ensemble has performed in diverse venues from Lincoln Center and SubCulture to Dizzy’s Club Coca Cola and Carnegie Hall, and have been presented by the Chautauqua Institution, Newport Jazz Festival, Tri-I Noon Recitals, Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival, American Composers Orchestra, and Music of Now at Symphony Space. PQ recently released their self-titled album on CAG Records.
Steven Lin
Taiwanese American pianist Steven Lin is an engaging, imaginative young artist who made his Zankel Hall recital debut in 2015, on the heels of debuts earlier this year at the Kennedy Center and with the Kansas City Symphony. He is a winner of the 2012 Concert Artists Guild Competition, Silver Medalist in the 2014 Arthur Rubinstein Piano Competition, and a recipient of the John Giordano Jury Chairman Discretionary Award at the 2013 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition. Career recital highlights include Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, The Gilmore Rising Stars Series, Strathmore Performing Arts Center and Chicago’s Dame Myra Hess Series. Lin lives in Philadelphia, PA.

ABOUT APAP
The Association of Performing Arts Presenters is the national service, advocacy and membership organization for presenters of the performing arts. APAP is dedicated to developing and supporting a robust performing arts industry and the professionals who work within it. APAP|NYC conference information APAPNYC.org, APAP membership information APAP365.org, Twitter @APAP365, Facebook facebook.com/APAPNYC.

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