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APAP|NYC 2018 Showcases New Class of Young Classical Music Stars
Free Concert in Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall January 15, 2018

WASHINGTON, DC, November 8, 2017 – As part of the Association of Performing Arts Professionals (APAP) annual conference, APAP|NYC 2018, five exceptional young classical music artists and ensembles will be showcased at a free concert at Carnegie Hall in New York City on January 15. Annelle K. Gregory, Argus Quartet, Delphi Trio, Fei-Fei Dong and Tessa Lark will also receive business training in the performing arts industry and guidance for navigating the next steps of their careers. The up-and-coming musicians were chosen by a team of industry experts on APAP’s Classical Connections Committee for APAP’s 2018 Young Performers Career Advancement Program (YPCA).

“It is important to provide young people in the arts with access to experienced and articulate leaders,” said APAP president and CEO Mario Garcia Durham. “The YPCA program is instrumental in setting the right tone and frame of reference for the artists to both self-reflect and engage in problem-solving and strategy-building with mentors and with their peers. The concert at Carnegie Hall showcases their talent, and we are proud to shine the light on this group of rising stars.”

YPCA was launched in 1996 as a program of APAP’s Classical Connections initiative to support emerging classical music artists during the formative stages of their careers. After a competitive application process, the selected artists attend APAP|NYC as special guests. At the conference, artists participate in a professional development track tailored to fit the unique needs of artists in the early part of their careers and provide a practical overview of the presenting and touring industry. They also receive expert instruction in the development of audience engagement skills.

“I’m excited to be facilitating the YPCA program as it enters its 21st year in January, gathering another cohort of highly talented artists,” said Dr. Nathaniel Zeisler, director of community engagement and career development at the Colburn School in Los Angeles, and 2018 YPCA facilitator. “The training and guidance they’ll receive in a packed, four-day period will give the artists an incredible and necessary glimpse into the APAP ecosystem and set them up for a successful career as performing artists.”

The musicians will perform in front of global arts leaders, performing arts presenters, managers, record company representatives and agents in Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, from 6-8 p.m., January 15. The event is open to the public, and tickets for the free concert are available at the door. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.
ABOUT THE YPCA PARTICIPANTS

**Annelle K. Gregory**
Award-winning violinist Annelle K. Gregory is a laureate of international competitions, virtuoso violinist, and recording artist. She is 1st Prize winner of the 2017 National Sphinx Competition and Laureate of the 2013 Stradivarius International Violin Competition. Gregory’s most recent project was the release of the first-ever CD of Rachmaninoff’s complete violin/piano works with Russian pianist Alexander Sinchuk. The CD has received international acclaim and aired on radio stations across the U.S. and Europe. As a soloist Gregory has performed with the symphonies of Detroit, La Jolla, San Diego, Chicago Sinfonietta, Houston, Nashville, Santa Monica, and Torrance, and made appearances at Carnegie Hall, Walt Disney Hall, and the Kennedy Center, as well as abroad in Russia, the U.K., Germany, and Portugal. She has been featured on BBC, American Public Media, KUSC, and WQXR radios, as well as on German Television and Detroit Public TV. Gregory graduated summa cum laude from USC’s Thornton School of Music, where she studied under Glenn Dicterow. She also studied with Michael and Irina Tseitlin.

**Argus Quartet**
Praised for their “supreme melodic control and total authority,” (Calgary Herald), the Argus Quartet is gaining a reputation as one of today’s most dynamic young ensembles. The quartet has received grants from Chamber Music America, Tarisio, and the Caramoor Center to support their efforts to commission, perform, and record works by living composers. Argus has served as the Fellowship Quartet in Residence at the Yale School of Music and began an appointment as the Graduate String Quartet in Residence at the Juilliard School in fall 2017. The quartet was recently awarded first prize at the MPrize Chamber Arts Competition.

**Delphi Trio**
Praised for “…spot-on ensemble playing and a beautifully blended sound…,” the Delphi Trio has become a powerfully eloquent voice in the world of chamber music. Prizewinners of the 2015 Orlando Concours, the Trio has performed in Germany, the Netherlands, Canada, and across the U.S. World premieres include trios by William Bolcom, Max Stoffregen, and Sahba Aminikia. Delphi Trio runs an Emerging Artist Program collaborating with collegiate students; curates the Practice Project, a social media group that fosters community among both professional and amateur artists; and collaborate with the Prison University Project to bring classical music to inmates in California.
Fei-Fei Dong
Praised for her “bountiful gifts and passionate immersion into the music she touches” (The Plain Dealer), Chinese pianist Fei-Fei Dong is a winner of the Concert Artists Guild Competition and a finalist at the 14th Van Cliburn International Piano Competition. Her burgeoning international career includes numerous prominent concerto engagements, including the Fort Worth Symphony, Kansas City Symphony, Pacific Symphony, Buffalo Philharmonic and the Hong Kong Philharmonic. Recent recital highlights include performances at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Gilmore Rising Stars, and, in Europe, at the Auditorio Nacional de Madrid, Warsaw Philharmonic Concert Hall and the Louvre. Dong is the winner of the 2014 Concert Artists Guild Competition and finalist in the 2013 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition.

Tessa Lark
Recipient of a 2016 Avery Fisher Career Grant, Silver Medalist in the International Violin Competition of Indianapolis (highest American-born finisher), and winner of the 2012 Naumburg International Violin Competition, Tessa Lark is one of the most captivating artistic voices of our time. She has performed throughout the U.S. since making her concerto debut with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra at age sixteen. Keeping in touch with her Kentucky roots, Ms. Lark also performs bluegrass and Appalachian music regularly. She is a graduate of New England Conservatory, where she studied with Miriam Fried. Ms. Lark is represented worldwide by Sciolino Artist Management.

About the Association of Performing Arts Professionals (APAP)

The Association of Performing Arts Professionals, based in Washington, D.C., is the national service, advocacy and membership organization dedicated to developing and supporting a robust performing arts presenting field and the professionals who work within it. Our more than 1,600 national and international members represent leading performing arts centers, municipal and university performance facilities, nonprofit performing arts centers, culturally specific organizations, foreign governments, as well as artist agencies, managers, touring companies, and national consulting practices that serve the field, and a growing roster of self-presenting artists. As a leader in the field, APAP works to effect change through advocacy, professional development, resource sharing and civic engagement. APAP is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization governed by a volunteer board of directors and led by President & CEO Mario Garcia Durham. In addition to presenting the annual APAP|NYC conference - the world's leading forum and marketplace for the performing arts (Jan. 12-16, 2018) - APAP continues to be the industry's leading resource, knowledge and networking destination for the advancement of performing arts presenting.

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