

The New Crossroads of American Music

Press Release



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – July 7, 2009



EMF FACULTY AND GUEST ARTISTS TO PERFORM BRANDENBURG CONCERTI

Greensboro, NC- The Friends & Great Performers series continues this summer at EMF integrating faculty members and two guest artists: **harpsichordists Andrew Willis and Henry Lebedinsky**, in a spectacular rendition of J.S. Bach's Brandenburg Concerti 3-6. The concert, taking place on **Wednesday, July 15, 2009 at 8pm**, joins the musical efforts of various faculty members, combining flutes, strings and harpsichord in a celebration of Bach's renowned master works. This performance will be held in the **First Presbyterian Church in Downtown Greensboro**. Tickets may be purchased for \$25 by calling the EMF Box Office at Triad Stage at 336.272.0160 or 866-579-TIXX, or online at www.EasternMusicFestival.org.

The Brandenburg Concerti comprise a collection of six instrumental works written by legendary German composer J.S. Bach, featuring a range of winds, strings and keyboard instruments as soloists. Consistently regarded as the most outstanding musical compositions of the Baroque era, they have become part of the standard repertoire and are continuously performed around the world. In these concertos, Bach explores the infinite possibilities of the instruments playing with the use of timbres and textures altogether. These exemplify the compositional traits that placed him as one of the superior musical figures of this period.

The evening joins famous harpsichordists Andrew Willis and Henry Lebedinsky with several EMF faculty members in a Baroque extravaganza. This performance is guaranteed to display the technical ability and musical audacity of the players, in a tribute to Bach and his legacy. The program includes four of the six previously mentioned concertos: Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 in G major BWV 1048, Brandenburg Concerto No. 4 in G major BWV 1049, Brandenburg Concerto No. 5 in D major BWV 1050 and Brandenburg Concerto No. 6 in B-Flat major BWV 1051.

More About Andrew Willis

Pianist **Andrew Willis** performs in the United States and abroad on pianos of every period. His recordings include the “Hammerklavier” and other Beethoven sonatas for Claves, as part of the first Beethoven sonata cycle on period instruments, a project directed by Malcolm Bilson and presented in concert at New York, Utrecht, Florence, and Palermo. His recording of early German lieder cycles on period instruments with Georgine Resick, soprano, has just been released by Bridge Records under the title "Visions Intérieures." His recordings of Schubert lieder and Rossini songs with soprano Julianne Baird are available on Vox, Newport Classics, and Albany records, and he has recorded music of Rochberg, Schickele, Ibert, and others with flutist Sue Ann Kahn.

Willis appears frequently with period-instrument ensembles such as the Atlanta Baroque Orchestra, the Mozart Society of Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Classical Symphony, the Magnolia Baroque Festival, and the Apollo Ensemble, and he is a past President of the Southeastern Historical Keyboard Society. At the University of North Carolina Greensboro, where he is professor of music, he performs on keyboard instruments ranging from harpsichord to modern piano.

In 2003, Andrew Willis took over leadership of the highly praised biennial symposium known as the UNCG Focus on Piano Literature. For the 2000 Focus on Contemporary Composers, he commissioned and premiered Martin Amlin's *Sonata No. 7*, composed in 1999. His solo recording of this sonata, together with Amlin's *Sonata No. 6*, *Eight Variations*, and *Five Preludes*, Copland's *Four Piano Blues*, and Irving Fine's *Music for Piano*, was recently released by Albany Records as Troy 674.

In 2005, Andrew Willis toured China presenting works of American, Chinese, and Chinese-American composers, performing and teaching under the auspices of the Central Conservatory in Beijing and the conservatories of Shenyang, Dalian, Xi'an, and Chengdu.

Willis's personal collection of keyboard instruments includes an 1841 Bösendorfer 6.5-octave grand piano, an 1848 Pleyel 6.5-octave grand piano, and a 1906 Henry F. Miller concert grand. Recent seasons saw his debut recital on the Pleyel for Music for a Great Space in Greensboro, as well as performances on an 1850's Broadwood at Strathmore Hall Arts Center in North Bethesda, Maryland, and inaugural recitals on a restored 1800 Joseph Schmid piano for the Harpsichord Center of Los Angeles and a new Regier Walter-model piano at Wake Forest University. Andrew Willis participates regularly in scholarly conferences involving performance topics. In fall 2002 he was a coach/performer at the conference *Beyond Notation: The Performance and Pedagogy of Improvisation in Mozart's Time* at the University of Michigan, and in May 2003 his recital on the 1815 Thÿm fortepiano keynoted the conference, “Four Centuries of Great Keyboard Instruments: What They Tell Us,” the first joint meeting of the Southeastern Historical Keyboard Society, the Midwestern Historical Society, and the Western Early Keyboard Association, at the National Music Museum.

Before receiving the D.M.A. in Historical Performance from Cornell University, where he studied fortepiano with Malcolm Bilson, Willis studied piano at The Curtis Institute of Music

with Mieczyslaw Horszowski and at Temple University with George Sementovsky and Lambert Orkis. For many years, he participated in the musical life of Philadelphia, serving as keyboardist of The Philadelphia Orchestra for several seasons. Before joining the UNCG faculty in 1994, he had taught at Cornell, Syracuse, and Temple universities, and at Swarthmore and Franklin & Marshall colleges.

More about the Henry Lebedinsky

Henry Lebedinsky holds degrees from Bowdoin College and the Longy School of Music, where he earned a master of music in historical organ performance as a student of Peter Sykes. An active performer on organ, harpsichord, and clavichord, he has given numerous recitals around the country and divides his time between Charlotte, Miami, and San Francisco, performing as a member of The Firebird Chamber Orchestra, Seraphic Fire, The Wild Rose Ensemble, Ensemble Vermillian, and The Charlotte Symphony. With GRAMMY® award-winning countertenor Ian Howell, he is a founding member of the innovative early music ensemble Tableau. He has also performed with Saltarello, Revels, the Portland Early Music Consort, the Harvard Baroque Orchestra, The South Coast Chamber Music Society, Concertino Ensemble of Rostock, Germany, and Holland's Ensemble New Amsterdam among others. In addition to performing, Mr. Lebedinsky has led workshops on historical keyboards and performance practice at The New England Conservatory of Music, Boston University, Davidson College, The University of North Carolina Greensboro, and Appalachian State University. His editions of works by Isabella Leonarda, Barbara Strozzi, and Maria Xaviera Peruchona for Saltarello Editions have been performed across the country and recently in Italy, France, South Korea, and Lebanon. In his spare time, he plays bouzouki and guitar with several Celtic bands including The Beggar Boys, whose second CD, *Salem's Musick: Songs and Dances of the Puritans*, was recently praised as "lush and revealing" by the *Boston Globe*. A church musician since the age of 17, he currently serves as organist and director of music at St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Davidson, North Carolina, where he also directs the successful Music at St. Alban's concert series.

Tickets: Triad Stage Box Office 336.272.0160 or 866.579.TIXX or www.EasternMusicFestival.org.

*a service fee will apply

Discounts are available for full-time students with a valid ID, seniors aged 65 or older, and groups of 10 or more for most performances. Young Artists and EMF*kids* concerts offer family-friendly packages. Please call the box office about packages. This season most discounts will be available at the door. Discounts and gift certificates will not be accepted for concerts designated as special events.

**Dates, programs, venues, and artists are subject to change.*

More About Eastern Music Festival

Now in its 48th year, the Eastern Music Festival & School is recognized for its prodigious contributions to the field of American music and its commitment to nurturing talented American and international youth through a collaborative learning process. The program brings together a cross-section of America's most sought-after artists with pre-professional students in a five-week

schedule of 100 concerts and music-related events. **Music Director Gerard Schwarz** heads a distinguished list of participating artists scheduled for 2009, including **Peter Serkin, Sarah Chang, Horacio Gutiérrez, Nadja Salerno Sonnenberg, Xavier Phillips**, plus many others.

The Festival also produces a popular EMF*fringe* series of alternative programming, featuring everything from Americana to alt country, blues, jazz and gospel with artists such as **Mike Cross, The John Cowan Band, Laurelyn Doseff, Steep Canyon Rangers, Waybacks, The Chris Hicks Band**, blues artist **Larry McCray** and more. EMF*kids* offers camps and concerts with each uniquely designed to foster a love and knowledge for classical and non-classical music. This year's concerts are **Shana Banana** and **Dan Zanes**. EMF*jazz&blues* runs each spring and EMF Fringe on the Fall each autumn. Season tickets on sale through June 27th (EMF*fringe* season tickets on sale through July 9th); single tickets on sale now. www.EasternMusicFestival.org; Box Office 336.272.0160 or 866.579-TIXX.

The 2009 Eastern Music Festival season is sponsored in part by the United Arts Council of Greater Greensboro, the North Carolina Arts Council, Lincoln Financial Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Southern Arts Federation, WFDD Triad Arts Station, Greensboro's News and Record, Continental Airways, Yes! Weekly, and Piedmont Music Center (Steinway Pianos).

For more information about EMF or its programs, please visit www.EasternMusicFestival.org, or call toll free: 1.877.833.6753

The Eastern Music Festival's mission is to promote musical enrichment, excellence, professional collaboration, innovation and diversity through a nationally-recognized teaching program, music festival, concerts and other programs which will enhance the quality of life, health and vitality of our region.

EMF is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.
All contributions are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

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