

news release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DIVERSE FALL COLORS AT MANDEL HALL Three varied performances take the stage in November concerts

Chicago, Oct. 29, 2007 – November in Mandel Hall will bring an offering of concerts as varied and vivid as the autumn foliage. Canadian ensemble **Les Violons du Roy** opens the University of Chicago Presents' (UCP) November concerts this weekend with performances of the *Stabat Mater* settings by Vivaldi and Pergolesi, as well as additional works by Vivaldi. Under the direction of renowned conductor Bernard Labadie, the ensemble will take the stage of Mandel Hall this Friday, November 2 at 7:30 p.m, along with soprano Karina Gauvin, well-known among Grant Park audiences, and countertenor Robin Blaze.

On November 9, violinist **Jennifer Koh**, known for her unique programming and extraordinary performances, returns home to Chicago. In this concert, which the *Chicago Sun-Times* suggests “might be the most interestingly programmed recital of the year,” Koh mixes sonatas by Mozart and Schumann with contemporary works by John Zorn and former teacher Jennifer Higdon. Rounding out UCP’s fall concerts, artists-in-residence **Pacifica Quartet** continues its citywide Beethoven Festival in Mandel Hall on November 11. Already underway in six different Chicago locations, the Festival—noted for its “immaculate tonal finish” and “expertly coordinated lines” by the *Chicago Tribune*—will see the quartet perform early and middle quartets by Beethoven, plus a special transcription of an early piano sonata. Philip Gossett, Robert W. Reneker Distinguished Service Professor of Music at the University of Chicago, will present a pre-concert discussion on that evening’s pieces.

Tickets for all events can be purchased by calling the Concert Office at (773) 702-8068, or by visiting 5720 S. Woodlawn Avenue. Reserved seating for Les Violons du Roy and Jennifer Koh is \$32/ticket. Tickets for the Pacifica Quartet concert are general admission at \$20/ticket. Students with a valid ID can purchase tickets for all events for only \$5/ticket.

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NOVEMBER 2007 IN DETAIL

Friday / 2 November / 7:30 p.m.

Les Violons du Roy

Bernard Labadie, conductor

Karina Gauvin, soprano

Robin Blaze, countertenor

Vivaldi: Sinfonia in B minor, "Al Santo Sepolcro," RV 169

Motet "In furore giustissimae irae," RV 626

Stabat Mater, RV 621

Pergolesi: *Stabat Mater*

Les Violons du Roy takes its name from the orchestra that played in the court of Louis XIV. This group of "royal lineage" is the brainchild of **Bernard Labadie**, Canadian conductor, vocalist and recorder artist. The 15-member string ensemble is dedicated to finding new ways to present the vast repertoire of 17th and 18th century music for chamber orchestra, while remaining true to performance practices of the period. Using the latest scholarly research to inform their technique, the musicians play on modern instruments, employing Baroque bows and bowing styles. A favorite of the Québec music world, the group has won two Opus awards, including one for Concert of the Year in 2004–05. Their seasonal performances of Handel's *Messiah* and Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* have gained them a reputation for being the "rock stars" of Early Music in their native Montréal.

Karina Gauvin is a young Canadian soprano whose repertoire spans from Bach to Britten with a special place for Mozart, for whom she claims a particular affinity. Praised for her "serene ease and radiance" by *The New York Times*, she has performed as a recitalist throughout Canada and in London's Royal Opera House and Wigmore Hall. She is a frequent collaborator with Les Violons du Roy and other Early Music groups, including Tafelmusik, Les Idees Heureuses and I Musici de Montréal.

Now established in the front rank of interpreters of Purcell, Bach and Handel, countertenor **Robin Blaze** has given recitals at the théâtre Grévin in Paris, in Karlsruhe, Göttingen, for BBC Radio 3, and has appeared at the Wigmore Hall with Graham Johnson. His lute song programs with Elizabeth Kenny are popular throughout Europe and Japan. With a fast-growing number of acclaimed recordings to his name, Blaze continues to enjoy fruitful relationships with BIS and Hyperion records.

Friday / 9 November / 7:30 p.m.

Jennifer Koh, violin

Reiko Uchida, piano

Mozart: Violin Sonata in F major, K. 377

Jennifer Higdon: *String Poetic*

John Zorn: *Goetia*

Schumann: Violin Sonata No. 2 in D minor, op. 121

Jennifer Koh shuns the label virtuosa, even though it fits the dazzling violinist who won the Tchaikovsky competition at 17 to a tee. After completing degrees in English and violin performance at Oberlin College, the Chicago native continued her studies at the Curtis Institute with Jaime Laredo and Felix Galimir. Composers like her former teacher Jennifer Higdon, Charles Wuorinen and John Zorn have been inspired to write for the versatile violinist who brings a well-rounded perspective to her art. She has also created an outreach program called “Music Messenger,” with the hope of providing young people with an emotional and creative outlet through music. Koh’s curiosity and scholarship inform her recordings as well, like the disc of Slavic-influenced concertos she produced after reading the works of Czech novelist Milan Kundera. Recent recordings on Cedille feature the Szymanowski and Martinu concertos performed with the Grant Park Orchestra, as well as the complete Schumann sonatas for violin and piano with Reiko Uchida.

Reiko Uchida is also a graduate of the Curtis Institute where she studied with Claude Frank and Leon Fleisher. A native of Los Angeles, she made her Carnegie Hall/Weill Recital Hall debut in 2003. Her solo recitals have included performances at Avery Fisher Hall, the Kennedy Center and the White House. A frequent chamber music partner of cellist Sharon Robinson, she and Robinson have performed the complete cycle of Beethoven cello sonatas. Uchida is also a member of the Laurel Trio and an instructor at Columbia University.

Sunday / 11 November / 3 p.m.

Pacifica Quartet

Simin Ganatra, violin

Sibbi Bernhardsson, violin

Masumi Per Rostad, viola

Brandon Vamos, cello

Beethoven: Quartet in F major, op. 14, no. 1 (arrangement of Piano Sonata)

Quartet in F major, op. 18, no. 1

Quartet in F major, op. 59, no. 1, “Razumovsky”

The University of Chicago’s Artists-in-Residence, the Pacifica Quartet, now well into their Beethoven Festival performing the complete cycle of the Beethoven Quartets throughout the Chicago area, continues the series at Mandel Hall. Philip Gossett, Robert W. Reneker Distinguished Service Professor of Music at the University of Chicago, will present a pre-concert discussion on the works presented in this performance at 1:45 p.m. For more information on the Pacifica’s Beethoven Quartet Cycle, visit their Web site at www.pacificabeethoven.com or call (847) 242-0775.

The **Pacifica Quartet** is rapidly achieving international stature as one of the finest chamber ensembles. Shortly after its 1994 formation in California, the Pacifica Quartet came to the Winnetka campus of the Music Institute of Chicago. During its tenure there it won top prizes in leading competitions, including the 1998 Naumburg prize. The Quartet has since received many honors, including appointment to Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center's program for gifted young musicians and Chamber Music America's coveted Cleveland Quartet award. In 2006 it was awarded an Avery Fisher Career Grant, becoming the second string quartet in the 30-year history of the program to be so honored.

The University of Chicago Presents is one of the city's landmark classical music presenters on the campus of the University of Chicago in the heart of the city's South Side. Among the musical legends who made their debuts at Mandel Hall are violinist Isaac Stern, guitarist Andres Segovia, soprano Cecilia Bartoli and The Juilliard String Quartet.

UCP offers five concert series—Classic Concert, the Howard Mayer Brown International Early Music, The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Artists-in-Residence Series featuring the Pacifica String Quartet, and the Contempo series.

TICKETS: By phone with credit card at (773) 702-8068; minimum \$10 charge
In person with cash, check or credit card, weekdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
– Office of Professional Concerts, 5720 S. Woodlawn Ave.
– At Mandel Box Office after 6:30 p.m. on concert day
– By email at concert-office@uchicago.edu

PRICE: \$32 general public for all Classic Concert and Early Music performances
\$35 general public for all Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra concerts
\$5 students with valid ID

LOCATION: Mandel Hall is located at 1131 E. 57th Street.

PARKING: Street or free in lot at 55th Street and Ellis Avenue

DISABILITIES: Persons with disabilities or who otherwise need assistance may call the Office of Professional Concerts at (773) 702-8068 prior to the concert, but no later than 3 p.m. on concert day.

PHOTOS: Photos of the artists may be obtained upon request to the University of Chicago Presents at (773) 834-7965, or by fax at (773) 834-5888.
To download pictures directly from the web site, visit chicagopresents.uchicago.edu/news/photos.

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