

## PERFORMERS, CLINICIANS, AND JUDGES BIOGRAPHIES

Violinist, **Nancy Bargerstock** has enjoyed an extensive performing career as soloist and chamber musician on radio and television with performances throughout the United States, Europe, and the Middle and Far East. Highlights of her career include eight inaugural concerts with the Brandenburg Ensemble at the Pablo Casal's Hall in Tokyo, Japan and as soloist, the world premiere of the Concerto for Violin and Orchestra by Christos Samaras with the Thessalonica State Orchestra in Thessalonica and Athens, Greece.

In addition to performing, Bargerstock has held collegiate teaching positions at Moravian College (Bethlehem, PA), the American College of Greece (Athens, Greece) and since 1999, appointment at the Hayes School of Music at Appalachian State University in Boone, NC where she is String Coordinator and Associate Professor of Violin. Her educational background includes Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the Juilliard School in New York City, a Soloist Diploma in Viola from the Orpheo Conservatory in Athens, Greece, and a Doctorate in Violin Performance from the University of North Carolina in Greensboro.

A CD of the Complete Works for Violin and Piano by Serge Prokofiev with collaborator, Bair Shagdaron, was released in February 2007. A more recent CD with the Deree Piano Trio (2008 Athens, Greece) is forthcoming which includes works of Mendelssohn, Mozart, and Piazzolla.

**John Kaboff** studied with Janos Starker. He also studied with, and was the teaching assistant for William Pleeth at the International Holland Music Sessions in the Netherlands and at the Britten-Peers Summer School in England. A resident of the Washington, D.C. area, Mr. Kaboff has performed locally at The United States Department of State, The Corcoran Gallery of Art, The Embassy of New Zealand, The Church of the Epiphany, Dumbarton House and has been a repeat soloist with the JCC Symphony Orchestra. His March, 2003 concert appearance at Strathmore Hall in Rockville, MD was acclaimed by The Montgomery County Sentinel arts critic, David Cannon, as "beguilingly lyrical" and in "top form." Internationally, he has performed as recital soloist in the Kleinezaal of the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam and The Adelaide Towne Hall (Australia). Mr. Kaboff has also appeared with the Melbourne Symphony. Mr. Kaboff has been invited by the Suzuki Association of Australia to conduct workshops, masterclasses and solo recitals, and has also been an Artist-in-Residence at the Flinders Street Conservatorium in Adelaide, Australia.

Mr. Kaboff is a highly successful private teacher of pre-college age students. They frequently garner prizes in local, regional and national cello competitions. They have been principal cellists in both the Maryland Classic Youth Orchestra and the American Youth Philharmonic Orchestra associations. His students have been invited to perform at numerous festivals, such as Cello Viva! in Switzerland, the Kronberg Academy in Germany, masterclasses in Brugge and the 2000 World Cello Congress III where they were featured in an internationally broadcasted workshop with world famous cellist, Yo-Yo Ma. Mr. Kaboff's students, now known as the BOW LIGHTLYS, performed a cello choir concert at the Sixth American Cello Congress (2001) as part of Mr. Kaboff's appearance as a guest lecturer. In December 2001 the BOW LIGHTLYS were also featured in concert on radio broadcast in Washington, DC. His former students currently attend highly competitive music schools such as the Juilliard, The Curtis Institute and Indiana University.

Mr. Kaboff has conducted master classes at the Purcell School of Music in London, England, Indiana University Summer String Academy, Michigan State University Pre-College Department and The Music Academy of North Carolina. He has received accolades for his teaching by numerous world-class cellists such as Yo-Yo Ma and Janos Starker and has been the feature of numerous articles with his students in such publications as the Washington Post, The Baltimore Sun, The Washington Jewish Weekly and The Montgomery Journal.

**Eric Koontz** has led the viola sections of the Barcelona Symphony Orchestra (Orquestra Simfònica de Barcelona i Nacional de Catalunya) and the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra before returning to the United States to pursue studies towards the Doctor of Musical Arts at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. In Barcelona, he premiered Max Bruch's *Double Concerto for Viola, Clarinet and Orchestra* on the Iberian Peninsula under the baton of Lawrence Foster. An active chamber musician, he was a founding member of the, Nayades trio (flute, harp and viola); the Reinecke Trio (clarinet, viola and piano); and the Quartet Glinka, with whom he participated in performances of the complete string quartets of Dmitri Shostakovich at the Juan March Foundation in Madrid. In Israel, Koontz has performed with Music in the Desert, a festival for new music at Kibbutz Sde Boker, directed by Michael Wolpe.

PERFORMERS, CLINICIANS, AND JUDGES BIOGRAPHIES (*continued*)

**Eric Koontz** (*continued*)

As a chamber and symphonic violist, Koontz has recorded with the RCA, EMI, Ars Harmonica, Columna, Koch and Decca labels. He earned the Bachelor of Music at the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, and holds the Master of Music and the Master of Musical Arts degrees from Yale University. He has studied with Donald McInnes, Scott Rawls, Msao Kawasaki, Jesse Levine, Hatto Beyerle, Gerald Stanick, Jaap Schroder, and Lawrence Dreyfus.

Koontz joined the string faculty at the Hayes School of Music at Appalachian State University in 2005 and the faculty of the Brevard Music Center in 2004. Examples of his writing in print include the articles "Els músics i els reptes de l'OBC" (4 April 2002, *Avui* newspaper, Barcelona) and "Una orquesta eficaz y plural" (November 2002, *Scherzo* magazine, Madrid).

Cellist **Wesley Baldwin** performs throughout the United States and Europe as cello soloist and chamber musician. As a soloist with orchestra he has appeared with conductors Kirk Trevor, Serge Fournier, Jorge Richter, Francis Graffeo, Cyrus Ginwala, Richard Rosenberg, David Wiley, and Daniel Meyer, with orchestras including the Laredo Philharmonic, the Oregon Mozart Players, the Symphony of the Mountains, the Oak Ridge Symphony, and the Wintergreen and Hot Springs Festival Orchestras.

The Washington Post called his playing "almost orchestrally rich in sound; bold but well controlled in phrasing and dynamics." The Miami Herald wrote of his "passionate conviction" in performance. And the Knoxville News Sentinel observed that "Baldwin played with the consummate skill of a gifted musician who never upstages the communication of the music."

As a chamber musician he has collaborated with principal string players from the Utah, Philadelphia, Saint Paul Chamber, and Atlanta Symphony Orchestras; he has also enjoyed collaborations with the Miami String Quartet, and with many prominent solo artists, recently including Norman Krieger, Michael Gurt, Julie Albers, Janet Sung, and Jasper Wood. He has performed chamber music at the Aspen, Cazenovia, Ojai, Sandpoint, Mainly Mozart, May in Miami, Skaneateles, and Subtropics Music Festivals. Internationally he has performed in chamber concerts in Italy, France, Monte Carlo, Spain, Austria, Brazil, Argentina, the United Kingdom, and Costa Rica.

He was the founder of the Plymouth String Quartet, with whom he was a top prizewinner in the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition and a finalist in the Paolo Borciani International String Quartet Competition. Other honors Dr. Baldwin has received include the Prix Mercure at the Mercure Wettbewerb in Vienna and the first prize in the Homer Ulrich Performance Award Competition.

As a member and principal cellist of the New World Symphony, Baldwin performed with many of the world great conductors, and toured Japan, Scotland, England, Argentina, and Brazil. His orchestral colleagues there selected him as the recipient of the New World Symphony's Community Board Award for artistic integrity and leadership. He now serves on the audition committee for New World Symphony auditions in regional auditions throughout the U.S. and Canada each spring.

Wesley has recorded for the Naxos and Zyode labels, as well as for Centaur records, which released his solo recording of Belgian cello music in 2004, and his recording of duos with violist Sheila Browne in the summer of 2006.

Dr. Baldwin currently serves as associate professor of cello at the University of Tennessee, where he received the Provost's Award for Professional Promise in Research and Creative Activity. In the summers he performs and teaches at the Hot Springs Music Festival, the Michigan City Chamber Music Festival, and at the Wintergreen Festival, where he serves as principal cellist and faculty member of the Wintergreen Academy. Dr. Baldwin has led workshops and master classes throughout the US, and is the founder and director of the Tennessee Cello Workshop, an annual three-day seminar for young cellists. His former cello students play and teach throughout the U.S.

**Brad Clark** holds a Doctor of Music Degree from the Catholic University of America. He has accompanied master classes for Janos Starker and Richard Stoltzman. He regularly appears with the Kennedy Center Chamber Series and accompanies for the National Symphony Orchestra Youth Fellowship Program. He has performed throughout Germany and Italy and is a principal accompanist for the Spoleto Festival in Italy.