

HIGHLAND PARK STRINGS

Celebrating Ludwig



47th Season 2019-2020

Dr. Robert G. Hasty, Principal Conductor

FREE COMMUNITY CONCERTS

Celebrating Ludwig

Our 41st Season
Four Community Concerts
Sundays at 3pm

Having just completed our celebratory 40th Anniversary Season, the mission of the Strings remains the same: to provide community concerts free of charge where families, friends and North Shore neighbors can gather for an afternoon of musical enjoyment at the highest level. This unique policy of free admission is made possible by the Park District of Highland Park, the Highland Park Community Foundation, the Negaunee Foundation and the generosity of other supportive foundations and individual donors.

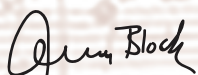
We were pleased last season to have joined in the celebration of the sesquicentennial of the City of Highland Park. So what could we do for an "encore"? We chose to "Celebrate Ludwig" on the semiquincentennial (!) of Beethoven's birth which will occur in 2020. Each of our concerts will feature music of "Ludwig" ending with the Strings' first performance of his Ninth Symphony.

Our opening concert in October will present the acclaimed violinist **YANG LIU**. Making his fourth appearance with the Strings, Liu will perform the the great (and only) Violin Concerto of Beethoven. The holiday concert in December will feature husband and wife, **LARISA AND STEVEN ELISHA**, who perform as the Elaris Duo, in the Double Concerto of Brahms. The Strings will add the Symphony No. 2 of Beethoven.

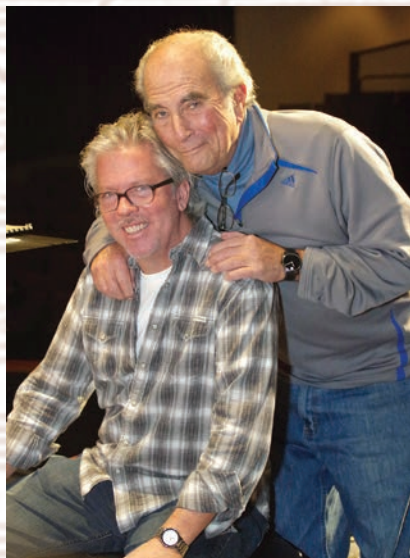
For our Gala Benefit concert in the intimate and acoustically perfect Bennett-Gordon Hall at Ravinia on February 9, we are fortunate to have back for the fourth time the sensational pianist **MARTA AZNAVOORIAN** who will perform the beloved Third Piano Concerto of Beethoven. Many thanks to Ravinia for once again generously making its facilities available rent free.

For the final concert in May, the Strings will perform for the first time the "symphony to end all symphonies" (The Guardian), the Ninth (the "Choral"). Joining us will be the North Shore Choral Society under the direction of **DR. JULIA DAVIDS** and soloists **ALICIA RUSSELL, GABRIELLE BARKIDIJIA, RYAN LUSTGARTEN** and **KEVIN KEYS**. This is a concert not to be missed!

We look forward to your continued support. On behalf of the Strings, I am deeply grateful.



Lawrence Block
Founder and General Manager



"Congratulations and thank you to Larry Block and the incredibly talented members of the Highland Park Strings! May they continue to provide a cultural focal point for our city and beyond."

- Nancy Rotering
Mayor of Highland Park

Call 847.831.3622

Visit hpstrings.org



Dr. Robert G. Hasty, Principal Conductor

Dr. Hasty begins his third full year as Principal Conductor of the Strings, having quickly become beloved by the orchestra and the audience. Dr. Hasty is the conductor of the Chamber Orchestra and the Philharmonia of the Henry and Leigh Bienen School of Music at Northwestern University where he also serves as the Associate Director of Orchestras. He is also the Music Director of the Kenosha and the Skokie Valley Symphony Orchestras and Artistic Director of the International Schools Choral Music Society. Dr. Hasty began his career teaching music in the public schools in Southern California. A noted researcher in music cognition, Dr. Hasty is the author of two publications delivered at the 7th International Conference on Music Perception and Cognition in Sydney, Australia. As a conductor, Dr. Hasty has appeared with the All-American College Orchestra at Walt Disney World, Beijing Youth Orchestra, and the Elmhurst and Grant Park Symphonies, among many others. He also continues to perform as a freelance violinist and violist. These days, you will find him fiddling in several Chicagoland clubs and venues with various local bands, most notably performing and recording with his wife, singer-songwriter Christina Trullio.



The Highland Park Strings, 1979-1980 Season

"The Highland Park Strings is loved as much as it was...when a group of musicians first played classical string music for the community"

- Hilary Anderson,
Highland Park Landmark

"Many many thanks to ...the Strings for all the years of truly wonderful concerts. The Strings are a real gem and true asset to the area. Every single concert has always been...of downtown caliber."

- Philip Bechen



Stephanie Ettelson presents
"The Art of Listening to Today's Concert"
prior to each concert at 2pm

OCTOBER 20

BEETHOVEN VIOLIN CONCERTO

3pm | Free Admission | Highland Park High School

433 Vine Avenue

Sponsored by *First Bank of Highland Park*

HAYDN

Symphony No. 104 in D Major ("London")

BEETHOVEN

Concerto for Violin in D Major, Op. 61

Yang Liu, Violin

YANG LIU is the winner of China's National Violin Competition and a prize winner of the Twelfth International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow. He has performed as a soloist with some of the world's leading orchestras including The Cincinnati, Atlanta and St. Louis Symphony Orchestras and the Danish Royal Odense Philharmonic to name a few. His award winning album "Song of Nostalgia" showcases his virtuosity and musicality. His repertoire ranges from baroque to the most contemporary works. Born in Qingdao, China, Yang studied at the Central Conservatory in Beijing and, after emigrating to the United States, he furthered his studies at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music with Kurt Sasmannshaus and Dorothy Delay. Making his first appearance with the Strings in 2005, Yang is returning for the fourth time to perform the one and only violin concerto of Beethoven. The Strings will add Haydn's final Symphony, No. 104 -the "London".



"A scorching performance"

- New York Times

"...from China, with dazzling talent!"

- Washington Post

DECEMBER 15

DOUBLE YOUR PLEASURE

3pm | Free Admission/Highland Park High School
433 Vine Avenue

Sponsored by Rotary  Club of
Highland Park/Highwood

MOZART

Overture to the Marriage of Figaro, K. 492

BRAHMS

Double Concerto, Op. 102

Larisa and Steven Elisha (The Elaris Duo), Violin and Cello

BEETHOVEN

Symphony No. 2 in D Major, Op. 36

LARISA and STEVEN ELISHA are each internationally acclaimed soloists, chamber musicians and pedagogues. Individually, and together as the **ELARIS DUO**, the Elishas have performed in venues that include the Concertgebouw, Berlin Philharmonie, Warsaw National Philharmonic, Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, Merkin Hall, Jerusalem Academy, National Taiwan University of the Arts and Summit Music Festival, among many others. Currently, Steven and Elisha are Directors of the String Program at Georgia Southern University where they serve as professors. The Duo's live broadcasts and recordings are frequently heard on National Public Radio and as advocates of contemporary music, the Duo regularly present master classes, workshops, lectures and performances at national and international conferences . While members of the Kansas Arts Commission's "Arts on Tour" Roster, they were featured for the Kansas State Tourism Campaign, appearing over 600 times on the New York Times Square Building. The Duo will perform the Double Concerto by Brahms and the Strings will add the Second Symphony of Beethoven and the Overture to the Marriage of Figaro by Mozart.



"Their performance of the Brahms Double Concerto was revelatory...the Elaris Duo presented a unanimity of phrasing and tonal projection that was stunning in its conception and execution. The synchronicity of the unison passages alone was a marvel"

- Topeka Capitol Journal

February 9

Annual Gala Benefit

3pm | \$40 General Admission

Bennett-Gordon Hall, Ravinia

Call 847.831.3622 for tickets

Sponsored by *The Negaunee Foundation*

BEETHOVEN

Concerto for Piano No. 3 in C Minor, Op. 37

Marta Aznavoorian, Piano

MENDELSSOHN

Symphony No. 3 in A Minor ("Scottish"), Op. 56

Multi Grammy nominated and Steinway artist

MARTA AZNAVOORIAN has performed throughout the world as orchestral soloist, recitalist, chamber musician and educator. A Chicago native, she made her professional debut at age 13 performing the Mozart Piano Concerto No. 24 with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in four concerts. Having worked with conductors such as the late Sir Georg Solti, Michael Tilson Thomas and Lukas Foss, she has won numerous awards, including first prize at the Stravinsky International Competition. Marta became a Presidential Scholar, was invited to the White House and performed as soloist at the Kennedy Center in Washington. As a founding member of the Lincoln Trio ("one of the hottest young trios in the business"—Fanfare Magazine) she tours regularly throughout the world. The Trio's most recent release, "Trios From Our Homelands" was nominated for a Grammy in 2017. Ms. Aznavoorian has appeared at many Festivals including Tanglewood, Aspen, Caramoor, Hornby Island and Green Lake, and recently made her 11th straight season appearance at the Ravinia Festival. A student of Menahem Pressler, she received her Bachelor's Degree and Artist Diploma at Indiana University and her Masters Degree from the New England Conservatory. She is currently on the faculty of the Music Institute of Chicago and DePaul University School of Music. Marta will perform Beethoven's Concerto No. 3 and the Strings will add the Symphony No. 3 of Mendelssohn (the "Scottish").



Bonus for Major Contributors

Show how important Strings concerts are to you and the community by making a donation of \$100 or more. You will receive a minimum of two tickets, preferred seating, listing in the Program Book and free tickets to a Donor Appreciation Chamber Music Concert at 3pm on Sunday, April 12, at the Highland Park Community House. THE STRINGS IS EXEMPT FROM FEDERAL INCOME TAX UNDER INTERNAL REVENUE CODE SECTION 501(c)(3).

MAY 17

Beethoven 9th

3pm | Free Admission | Highland Park High School

433 Vine Avenue

Sponsored by the Highland Park Community Foundation

BEETHOVEN

Symphony No. 9 in D Minor, Op. 125 (the "Choral")

North Shore Choral Society

Dr. Julia Davids, Music Director

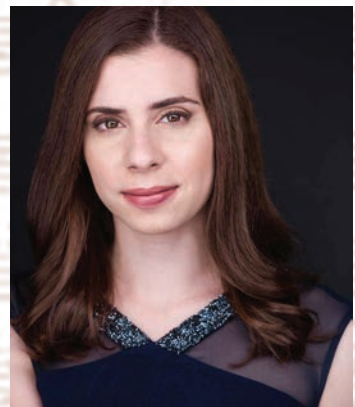
ALICIA RUSSELL, SOPRANO

GABRIELLE BARKIDJIJA, MEZZO-SOPRANO

RYAN LUSTGARTEN, TENOR

KEVIN KEYS, BARITONE

Beethoven's last symphony calls for chorus and vocal soloists in the last movement, which is why this work is called the "Choral Symphony". No symphony took Beethoven so long to write, and none cost him such mental anguish and creative struggle. It proved his most monumental creation, a work that is flooded with humanity and compassion. The premiere took place in Vienna on May 7, 1824, under the composer's direction, an occasion that was one of the most poignant incidents in the life of the master. He was now completely deaf, incapable of hearing the music he was conducting. At the end, Beethoven, a few measures off, continued to beat time. This tragic episode sent an electric current through the audience, which, after a momentary hush, exploded into an ovation. Joining the Strings will be the North Shore Choral Society, a 140 member community chorus which has been performing in the northern suburbs and beyond for over 80 years, giving many hundreds of nonprofessional singers the opportunity to sing choral masterpieces. **DR. JULIA DAVIDS** has been the the Music Director for over ten years. Our four outstanding soloists are: **ALICIA RUSSELL**, Soprano, **GABRIELLE BARKIDJIJA**, Mezzo-Soprano, **RYAN LUSTGARTEN**, Tenor and **KEVEN KEYS**, Baritone.



"It was a fabulous concert. Gorgeous music, beautifully played"
- Joanne Bernstein



Park District of Highland Park

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HIGHLAND PARK STRINGS

41st Season | 2019-2020 | Dr. Robert G. Hasty, Principal Conductor

October 20—Beethoven Violin Concerto/Highland Park High School | 3:00pm

December 15—Double Your Pleasure/Highland Park High School | 3:00pm

February 9—Gala Benefit/ Bennett-Gordon Hall, Ravinia | 3:00pm

May 17—Beethoven 9th Symphony | Highland Park High School | 3:00pm

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Free Admission