

# Highland Park Strings



37th Season | 2015-2016 | Francesco Milioto, Conductor

Free Community Concerts

*A Season of Love ~ A Season  
To Love*

# A Season of Love A Season To Love

## Our 37th Season Four Community Concerts Sundays at 3 pm

Once again, as we proudly begin our 37th Season, Romance is in the Air! This season, our Gala Benefit Concert at Ravinia falls on February 14—Valentine's Day! What better way to celebrate than by performing operatic highlights featuring songs of love by Puccini, Donizetti, Verdi, Mozart and others sung by soprano TRACY CANTIN and tenor JOHN IRVIN. Also on this mini love-fest will be the Overture-Fantasy, Romeo and Juliet by Tchaikovsky.

Beethoven, Schumann, Mendelssohn, Brahms and Tchaikovsky are among the great masters of symphonic music during the "Age of Romanticism" (approximately 1790 to 1910) that we will highlight this season.

Our opening concert in October features the young cellist, FRANCISCO VILA. Hailing from Ecuador and having concertized throughout North and South America, as well as Asia and Europe, Francisco will perform the Cello Concerto in A minor by Robert Schumann and the orchestra will add the Symphony No. 3 (the "Eroica") by Beethoven. Our Holiday Concert in December will present 23 year old MATTHEW LIPMAN, violist, in the Concerto by Carl Stamitz. Matthew, the recipient of a 2015 Avery Fisher Grant, recently had a three-page profile in Strad Magazine. Also on the program are symphonies of Mozart and Haydn, written on the cusp of the Romantic era.

The final concert in May will feature the return of the internationally acclaimed pianist, ALON GOLDSTEIN. Last heard with the Strings in the Piano Concerto No. 2 by Brahms, the Israeli native will "complete" the Brahms cycle by performing the monumental Piano Concerto No. 1. The Strings will finish the season with the Symphony No. 3 by Mendelssohn, known as the "Scottish".

We welcome back our Maestro, FRANCESCO MILIOTO, for his ninth season as principal conductor. Due to Maestro Milioto's commitments at Lyric Opera, ROBERT HASTY will conduct the October and December concerts. Dr. Hasty is the Music Director of the Kenosha Symphony and the conductor of the Chamber Orchestra and Philharmonia at the Bienen School of Music at Northwestern University where he also serves as Associate Director of Orchestras.

The mission of the Strings remains 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 primarily by the Park District of Highland Park, YEA! Highland Park and the generosity of supportive foundations and individual donors.

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



Lawrence Block  
Founder and General Manager



*"Many many thanks to you and 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



# Francesco Milioto, Conductor



This season marks Mr. Milioto's ninth as Conductor of the Highland Park Strings. Since coming to Chicago from Canada thirteen years ago, he has become an integral member of the city's musical scene—the "go-to young conductor in Chicago..." as the late Andrew Patner described him. In addition to the Strings, he maintains a busy schedule of both orchestral and opera concerts, and is highly sought after as a vocal coach. Following his first summer at the esteemed Santa Fe Opera where he worked on a production of Strauss' "Salome", Mr. Milioto will begin the season with Chicago Opera Theater conducting Mozart's "Lucia Silla". He then returns to Lyric Opera of Chicago as an assistant and cover conductor

for both "The Merry Widow" and "Der Rosenkavalier". Please visit [francescomilioto.com](http://francescomilioto.com) for more information about Maestro Milioto.



...Milioto led a tight and responsive performance in the pit...his energetic conducting and fine textural clarity provided Orff's score with superb advocacy."

– Chicago Classical Review

...Milioto presides with verve and bite..."

– John von Rhein, Chicago Tribune

...and the idiomatic and seductive conducting of...Milioto...immerses us in these contrasting musical worlds..."

– Andrew Patner, Chicago SunTimes



## Stephanie Ettelson presents

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

# October 25

## Schumann and Beethoven

3 pm ~ Free Admission ~ Highland Park High School ~ 433 Vine Avenue  
Sponsored by First Bank of Highland Park

### SCHUMANN

Cello Concerto in A Minor, Op. 129  
*Francisco, Vila, Cello*

### BEETHOVEN

Symphony No. 3 in E-flat Major, Op. 55 ("Eroica")



© Kirsten Kuhnmann Photography

Commanding presence and mastery of the instrument characterize the playing of Ecuadorian cellist **FRANCISCO VILA**. He began his cello studies at age 8 and had his solo debut at 14. His principal teachers included Sharon Robinson, Gary Hoffman, Janos Starker and Menahem Pressler for chamber music at Indiana University where he was the first prize winner in the 2009-2010 concerto competition. As soloist he has appeared with the Liege Royal Philharmonic, Royal Chamber Orchestra, Bolivia Classica Youth Orchestra and the Central Florida Orchestra. An alumnus of the Ravinia Steans Music Institute, Francisco has been the recipient of many honors including the Second-Prize laureate of the Sphinx 15th Annual Competition, the Presidential Scholarship at The Boston Conservatory and a National Society of Arts and Letters Award for Performance. Under the baton of guest conductor **ROBERT HASTY**, Vila will perform the Cello Concerto in A minor by Schumann. The orchestra will tackle the Eroica Symphony of Beethoven, which may well be said to have ushered in the "Romantic" era.



...Vila brought out the fervor and vitality...with consummate projection."

- The Strad Magazine

# December 13

## Mozart, Stamitz and Haydn

3 pm ~ Free Admission ~ Highland Park High School ~ 433 Vine Avenue  
Sponsored by The Negaunee Foundation

### MOZART

Symphony No. 29 in A Major, K. 201

### STAMITZ

Viola Concerto in D Major, Op. 1  
*Matthew Lipman, Viola*

### HAYDN

Symphony No. 45 in F sharp minor ("Farewell")



An alumnus of the Ravinia Steans Music Institute and the recipient of a 2015 Avery Fisher Career Grant, 23 year old **MATTHEW LIPMAN** was the only violist recently featured on WFMT's list of "30 Under 30" top international classical musicians. As one of the most sought after proponents of his instrument, Matt's engagements have been in halls across America including Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, the Isabella Stewart

Gardner Museum in Boston, Alice Tully Hall and the Morgan Library in New York. His debut recording of the Mozart "Sinfonia Concertante" with violinist Rachel Barton Pine, Sir Neville Marriner and the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, was released to critical acclaim and rose to # 3 on the Billboard Classical chart. Under the baton of ROBERT HASTY, Matthew will play one of the best known works for viola, the Concerto in D Major by Carl Stamitz. The Strings will add works by Stamitz's "better known" contemporaries, the Symphony No. 29 in A Major, K. 201 by Mozart and the delightful "Farewell" Symphony of Haydn.



"Chicago-born ...Lipman, still in his early 20s and gifted with poise and a warmth of timbre, ideally complements the allure of the...(Mozart concertos) as a whole."

– Daily Telegraph

...rich tone and elegant phrasing..."

– New York Times

...splendid technique and musical sensitivity..."

– Chicago Tribune

# February 14 Annual Benefit

## Operatic Highlights

Sponsored by YEA! Highland Park

3 pm ~ \$40 General Admission ~ Bennett-Gordon Hall, Ravinia

Call 847.831.3622 for tickets.

### OPERATIC HIGHLIGHTS

Donizetti ~ Gounod ~ Mozart ~ Puccini ~ Verdi ~ Rossini

Tracy Cantin, Soprano and John Irvin, Tenor

### TCHAIKOVSKY

Overture-Fantasy

Romeo and Juliet



The Strings' Annual Benefit concert in the intimate and acoustically perfect Bennett-Gordon Hall at Ravinia is the highlight of the season. Praised for her "full, gleaming sound" (Chicago Tribune), Canadian soprano TRACY CANTIN "has it all—agility, power and dazzling coloratura" (Chicago Sun-Times). A recent graduate of the Ryan Opera Center at Lyric Opera of Chicago, Cantin won critical acclaim last season at Lyric as

Berta ("Barber of Seville"), has appeared with the company in "Elektra", "Rigoletto", "Parsifal" and most recently in the title role of Donizetti's "Anna Bolena". Cantin has also appeared with the Ravinia Festival, Grant Park Festival, Oregon Symphony and the Illinois Philharmonic. Tenor JOHN IRVIN began pursuing his passion for opera when he earned his Bachelor of Music from Georgia State University in 2010 and his Professional Certificate from Boston University's Opera Institute in 2012. As a member of the Ryan Center at Lyric Opera, he had the honor of appearing as Don Ottavio for Stars of Lyric Opera at Millennium Park and as Alfred for two performances of "Die Fledermaus". Other Lyric performances included "The Barber of Seville", "La Traviata", "Parsifal", "Otello", "Rigoletto" and "Werther". Recently, he had notable debuts with the Chicago Symphony and the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

### 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 3, at the Highland Park Community House.



"I am very impressed with what has evolved over the years—the orchestra has grown, developed... very professional ... (and) here to stay. What a legacy! The community has been really blessed!"

— Virginia Schick

# May 22

## Brahms and Mendelssohn

3 pm ~ Free Admission ~ Highland Park High School ~ 433 Vine Avenue  
Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Highland Park/Highwood

### BRAHMS

Piano Concerto No. 1 in D minor, Op. 15  
*Alon Goldstein, Piano*

### MENDELSSOHN

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



Returning as soloist for the third time is the Israeli pianist, **ALON GOLDSTEIN**. Considered one of the most original and sensitive pianists of his generation, Goldstein is admired for his musical intelligence, dynamic personality, artistic vision and innovative programming. He has played with the Israel, London, Radio France and Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestras as well as the Philadelphia, San Francisco, Baltimore, St. Louis, Dallas, Houston and Vancouver Symphonies. Highlights of his 2014-15 season included a recital tour in South America and Spain, a return to the Baltimore Symphony and a debut with the New Jersey Symphony under Michael Stern. A member of the esteemed faculty of the Ravinia Steans Music Institute, this past summer, Alon performed two Mozart Concertos with the

Fine Arts Quartet, having performed with the CSO the previous summer both the Double and Triple Concertos of Mozart. As a member of the Tempest Trio, Alon has performed with the Strings in the in the Beethoven Triple Concerto as well as soloist in the Concerto No. 2 by Brahms. He honors the Strings again by returning to play the monumental Concerto No. 1 by Brahms. The Strings will also play the Symphony No. 3 (the "Scottish") by Mendelssohn.



"Alon Goldstein. Simply profound"

– Washington Post

"Such performances take a kind of courage so seldom heard...you want to hear him at every possible opportunity"

– Philadelphia Inquirer

"A beautifully balanced approach...refined yet impetuous, noble yet spirited"

– New York Times



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37th Season | 2015-2016 | Francesco Milioto, Conductor

October 25 – Schumann and Beethoven • Highland Park High School  
December 13 – Mozart, Stamitz and Haydn • Highland Park High School  
February 14 (Benefit) – Operatic Highlights • Bennett-Gordon Hall, Ravinia  
May 22 – Brahms and Mendelssohn • Highland Park High School

Call 847.831.3622

Visit [hpstrings.org](http://hpstrings.org)

*Free admission sponsored by the Park District of Highland Park*