



# Highland Park Strings

32nd Season • 2010-2011

Francesco Milioto Principal Conductor



*Chicago's  
Got  
Talent!*



# Chicago's Got Talent!

## 32nd Season • 2010-2011

### Save the Dates!

Four Family Concerts  
"Sundays at 3 pm"

Free Admission  
(except benefit)

Please note multiple  
venues for concerts.

#### October 24, 2010

Highland Park High School  
433 Vine Avenue

#### December 5, 2010

Elm Place School  
2031 Sheridan Road

#### February 20, 2011

All Beethoven  
Benefit Concert

Bennett-Gordon Hall  
at Ravinia

#### May 22, 2011

Highland Park High School  
433 Vine Avenue

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

Design by Valerie Lorimer

Copy by  
Stephanie Ettelson

Strings photography  
by Michael Metzger

A "made-in New York" label is no longer necessary to access top tier talent because we have a plethora of amazing musicians with star quality right here in the greater Chicago area. This season – our 32nd – we will present soloists who are among the very best "our town" has to offer. We also welcome back our principal conductor **Francesco Milioto** who returns for his fourth season.

Our concertmaster, **Aurélien Pederzoli** who hails from Nancy, France, brings his virtuosity to a gem of the Baroque repertoire, Bach's A Minor Violin Concerto No. 1 and an early essay of Mendelssohn, the Concerto in D Minor for Violin and String Orchestra composed at age 13. Two audience favorites – Barber's masterpiece, the Adagio for Strings, marking the centennial of his birth, and Tchaikovsky's Serenade – round out the only all-strings program.

The remainder of this season's concerts is for full symphony orchestra, which represents an evolving new persona for the Strings with adventuresome repertoire. CSO concertmaster **Robert Chen** returns for his third appearance with the Strings in Beethoven's beloved Violin Concerto for our all Beethoven benefit, which also includes the Seventh Symphony.

An eclectic program opens our series with pianist **Lori Kaufman**, whom many of you heard in Tchaikovsky's Piano Trio at Northwestern's Winter Chamber Music Festival. She will perform Chopin's Second Piano Concerto, continuing the celebration of the composer's bicentennial. Aaron Copland's *Quiet City*, incidental music with trumpet and English horn solos composed to accompany Irwin Shaw's play, recognizes the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of this extraordinary American composer. while Mozart's magical "Jupiter" Symphony rounds out our season opener.

Our final concert of the 2010-2011 season pairs pianist **Matthew Hagle** with the formidable Franz Liszt in the composer's First Piano Concerto, celebrating yet another bicentennial. And Brahms' monumental Fourth Symphony undoubtedly will take its place as the new tour de force of our Romantic symphonic repertoire. The Strings also will venture into Lisztian repertoire with his poetically inspired symphonic tone poem *Les Preludes*, which will look forward to yet another year of joyful music-making, thanks to the ongoing support of our Park District, YEA! Highland Park and our generous donors.

Lawrence Block



Lawrence Block

*"Continually reinventing itself is what keeps the Highland Park Strings new, free and exciting each season."*

– Lawrence Block

# Francesco Milioto ~ Principal Conductor

**Francesco Milioto**, heralded as “one of the best young conductors working in the Chicago area” by the Chicago Tribune was born in Toronto of Italian parentage. He arrived in Chicago just over a decade ago and has established himself as one of this city’s busiest musicians wearing many musical hats. He is active on the podium as opera and symphonic conductor, and from the keyboard as chamber musician, collaborative pianist and vocal coach. He is in his fourth season as principal conductor of the Highland Park Strings.



Since 2003 Milioto has been engaged as a regular rehearsal pianist and assistant conductor at the Ravinia Festival where this past summer he worked closely with Maestro James Conlon, the CSO and soloists on productions of Mozart’s *Così fan Tutte* and *The Marriage of Figaro*. For the second year, he also assists with productions at Chicago Opera Theater as assistant conductor and chorus master. In 2010 he will be at Maestro Conlon’s side in Verdi’s *Rigoletto* at the Los Angeles Opera and in 2011 will debut *La Traviata* at Opera Southwest.

Other ongoing Milioto projects are as music director of the Skokie Valley Symphony Orchestra and the New Millennium Orchestra, which he also co-founded. The NMO has performed at the Harris Theater and at the Ravinia Festival on the Kraft Kids concert series. He also makes regular appearances as guest conductor with Opera Elgin and Opera on the James in Lynchburg, Virginia.

*“We heard wonderful music sung by two fine young singers and played with both strength and subtlety under Milioto’s baton.”*

– Dorothy Andries,  
Pioneer Press

*“Even so, it was Milioto, a terrifically talented local conductor, who was the spark plug of this performance. He presided over a confident, well-drilled 26-piece orchestra with Bernsteinesque bravura, shaping the vocal lines deftly and keeping the music (“Candide”) bouncing along with irresistible verve.”*

– John von Rhein,  
Chicago Tribune

## History & Mission

### Unique Among Community Orchestras

Founded in 1979 by Lawrence Block, an attorney who serves as co-principal cellist and general manager, the mission of the Highland Park 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 featuring top-notch soloists, many from the Chicago Symphony, others from the world stage and gifted rising stars, who are given the opportunity to perform for an appreciative audience.



The unique policy of free admission is made possible primarily by The Park District of Highland Park, which assumed the improbable role of sponsoring a classical ensemble. Its ongoing support is augmented by funds from an annual benefit concert, YEA! Highland Park, the Rotary Club of Highland Park/Highwood and the generosity of individual donors. Concerts are videotaped for continual broadcast on Cable Channel 19 Saturdays and Sundays at 6 p.m.

But it is the extraordinary commitment of accomplished amateur chamber musicians now blended with a smattering of professionals who have established the ensemble’s reputation as a cultural institution on the North Shore called the “little miracle in Highland Park” by the Chicago Tribune. For 28 years, the esteemed Francis Akos was at the helm as music director and conductor until becoming emeritus in May 2007. Now the baton has passed to his talented successor Francesco Milioto.



**Preconcert  
Conversations  
with  
Stephanie Ettelson  
Musicologist, Teacher  
and Violinist  
promptly at 2 pm**

All are invited to attend!

# October 24, 2010

3 pm • Free Admission

Highland Park High School • 433 Vine Avenue



Lori Kaufman

## ▶ Copland

*Quiet City*

**Stephen Burns, Trumpet**  
**Grover Schiltz, English Horn**

## ▶ Chopin

Concerto No. 2 for Piano and  
Orchestra in F Minor, Op. 21

**Lori Kaufman, Piano**

## ▶ Mozart

Symphony No. 41  
in C Major ("Jupiter"), K.551

*"Lori Kaufman's performance  
was a virtuoso exercise in  
control of touch and  
dynamics."*

– The Boston Globe

*"...high-octane virtuosity and  
sensitive collaboration...  
the music was driven by  
Kaufman's dynamic pianism...  
a stunning performance of  
Tchaikovsky's Piano Trio."*

– Chicago Classical Review

*"Kaufman overwhelmed the  
audience with her brilliant  
pianistic technique and  
unmistakable extraordinary  
musicality."*

– Neue Zürcher Zeitung,  
Zurich, Switzerland

Award-winning American pianist **Lori Kaufman** has concertized and appeared on radio broadcasts throughout the United States and internationally, including concerto performances with major orchestras. In recital, she has performed at prestigious venues such as Zurich's Tonhalle, Leipzig's Gewandhaus and Amsterdam's Concertgebouw.

Kaufman studied with John Perry at the University of Southern California and with Leon Fleisher at the Peabody Conservatory where she received the Lillian Gutman Award. Among other honors are a career grant from the Seymour Obermer Foundation, the Prix Mieville–Hory from Switzerland and prizes in the Scottish International Piano Competition, the Cantu Piano Competition in Italy and the Washington International J.S. Bach Competition.

Since moving to Chicago in 2005, she has been in great demand, appearing with the Callisto Ensemble, Pintele Trio, Ars Viva Symphony Trio, Chicago Chamber Musicians, Fulcrum Point Ensemble and Northwestern's Winter Chamber Music Festival, as well as the Fazioli Salon Series, Rush Hour Concert Series and Lake Forest Symphony Chamber Music Series. She also collaborates in violin-piano duos with Ilya Kaler, Joseph Silverstein, Kyoko Takezawa and David Taylor. She has taught at the People's School of Music and Sherwood Conservatory, and formerly at conservatories in Geneva and Neuchatel, Switzerland.

Kaufman lives in the city with her husband, two sons and daughter – and two pianos, a 1926 Pleyel and a 1985 Bosendorfer.

## Guest Artists Featured in Copland's *Quiet City*



Stephen Burns

Trumpet virtuoso, conductor, composer, arranger and teacher **Stephen Burns** is the founder and artistic director of the Fulcrum Point New Music Project in Chicago. He has traversed the globe in performance as soloist and conductor, sometimes as both. Committed to new music, he has given numerous premiers by American and internationally renowned composers and has written electronic music, chamber music, orchestral music and works for trumpet.

**Grover Schiltz** was appointed CSO oboe and English horn player in 1959 by Fritz Reiner. Upon his retirement in 2005, he received the Theodore Thomas Medallion for Distinguished Service. He was active in chamber music ensembles, including the Chicago Symphony Winds, and taught oboe and English horn at Northwestern University, the University of Illinois at Chicago and Roosevelt University. He has served as Strings' principal oboe for more than a decade.



Grover Schiltz

# December 5, 2010 Holiday Concert

Sponsored by Rotary Club Highland Park/Highwood  
3 pm • Free Admission  
Elm Place School • 2031 Sheridan Road

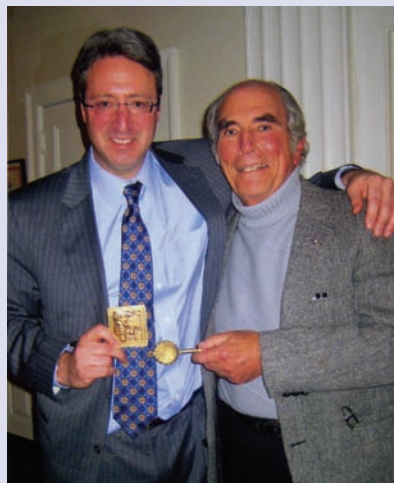
Born in Nancy, France, violin prodigy **Aurélien Pederzoli** began his studies at age 3 and at 7, gave his first concert as soloist playing the Saint Saens Concerto No. 3 with orchestra. Only a year later, he was invited by the Societé de Versailles to give debut recitals in Paris and Lyon. Accepted at the Nancy Conservatoire with Marthe Tercieux (student of Milstein and Szeryng), he was recipient of the Gold Medal in Chamber Music at age 12. He went on to study at the world renowned Paris Conservatory under Jean Lenert. In 2001 he was invited to Roosevelt University to study with Shmuel Ashkenasi, first violinist of the Vermeer Quartet. He earned his master of music degree at De Paul University under the tutelage of Ilya Kaler.

His passion is chamber music, which evolved into Anaphora, an ensemble he co-founded in 2008 to perform, develop and enhance classical, jazz and contemporary music alike. Its *raison d'être* is to bring musical classics into this age and fuse the fresh with the familiar, thus conveying one coherent statement about the music of our time.

During the past season, the Strings were fortunate to have Pederzoli serve as concertmaster, a position in which he continues. He resides with his wife Sarah Ritch, who is a composer, in Evanston.

## Lawrence Block Receives Humanities Service Award

Nominated by Highland Park Mayor Michael Belsky, Larry received the biennial 2009 Studs Terkel Humanities Service Award. The Illinois Humanities Council initiated this awards program to honor individuals who have encouraged the understanding of the humanities in their communities. While Larry has contributed to the civic life of Highland Park in many ways, the IHC honored him "in particular for his decades of work for the Highland Park Strings, making classical music accessible and readily available for people in the Highland Park area and beyond." The bronze medal Award and a key to the City were presented by Mayor Belsky at a City Council meeting.



Aurélien Pederzoli

### Barber

Adagio for Strings, Op. 11

### Bach

Concerto for Violin  
and Orchestra No. 1  
in A Minor, BWV 1041  
**Aurélien Pederzoli, Violin**

### Mendelssohn

Concerto for Violin  
and String Orchestra  
in D Minor, Op. 64  
**Aurélien Pederzoli, Violin**

### Tchaikovsky

Serenade for Strings  
in C Major, Op. 48

*"His interpretation [of Bach's Chaconne] is served by his natural abilities. Aurélien's first quality is his perfect intonation, his second is his insatiable musical curiosity and his third, his musical audacity."*

– Paul Leboeuf,  
L'est Republicain

*"Superb tone and a constant control of the instrument."*

– The Florida Musician

# February 20, 2011

Sponsored by YEA! Highland Park

3 pm • \$40 General Admission • Bennett-Gordon Hall at Ravinia  
Call Park District for tickets at 847.831.3810.



Robert Chen

Photo by Todd Rosenberg

## All Beethoven Benefit Concert

### Beethoven

Concerto for Violin and  
Orchestra in D Major, Op. 61

**Robert Chen, Violin**

### Beethoven

Symphony No. 7  
in A Major, Op. 92

*"The silken tone Chen drew in long bow strokes from his instrument, the deep musicality he invested in the sustained meditation of the Canzonetta (Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto), the hair-trigger precision and honest excitement (as opposed to schmaltzy sensationalism) he brought to the outer movements all infused this Romantic warhorse with new life."*

– John von Rhein,  
Chicago Tribune

**Robert Chen**, concertmaster of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra since 1999, first appeared with the Strings in May of 2000 shortly after being appointed and again in 2004 on the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary series. As soloist with the CSO, he has performed the Beethoven and Tchaikovsky violin concertos and given the world premiere of

Augusta Read Thomas' *Astral Canticle* and the CSO premiere of Elliot Carter's Violin Concerto. Other solo appearances included performances with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Moscow Philharmonic, New Japan Philharmonic, National Symphony Orchestra of Taiwan, Orchestra of the Komische Oper Berlin, NDR Orchestra of Hannover, and the Bournemouth Symphony.

As a chamber musician, Chen has collaborated with Daniel Barenboim, Itzhak Perlman, Pinchas Zukerman, and Yo-Yo Ma, both at Orchestra Hall in Chicago and at Carnegie Hall in New York. He has toured extensively with Musicians from Marlboro and is a founding member of the Johannes Quartet. Chen has been a participant in numerous festivals including the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, La Jolla Chamber Music Festival, and the Schloss Moritzburg Festival in Germany.

After winning first prize in the Hanover International Violin Competition, Chen recorded Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto for Berlin Classics label. He is the recipient of the American Heritage Award from the American Immigration Law Foundation and the Arts and Science Achievement Award from the Taiwanese-American Foundation.

A native of Taiwan, Robert Chen began his violin studies at age 7, immigrating with his family to Los Angeles three years later where he studied with Robert Lipsett and participated in master classes given by Jascha Heifetz. He earned both bachelor and master degrees from Juilliard where he studied with Dorothy DeLay and Masao Kawasaki. Chen teaches at Roosevelt University. He and his wife have two children.

*"Haitink told me this week he thinks Robert Chen is the finest concertmaster in the front seat of any major orchestra today. I agree. And with the extensive violin solos in Heldenleben, Chen and Haitink are in a stylish and touching accord that seems almost telepathic."*

– Andrew Patner

"The View from Here"

(Chicago-based author, broadcaster, journalist and arts critic)

**Preferred benefit seating for all contributors of \$100 and above plus free admission to a Donor Appreciation Chamber Music Concert**

featuring members of the Highland Park Strings and Guests

3 pm • Sunday, April 4, 2011  
Highland Park Community House  
1991 Sheridan Road

**Complimentary tickets will be mailed with benefit tickets.**



2010 Benefit at Ravinia's Bennett-Gordon Hall

*"We have a jewel in our community; it is the Highland Park Strings... I hope that the community will step forward with generous support for this great gift of ours. I cannot think of a better way to enrich our lives."*

– Letter to the Editor from Loyal Listener

# May 22, 2011

3 pm • Free Admission

Highland Park High School • 433 Vine Avenue



Matthew Hagle

Renowned in Chicago for performances in the Ravinia Festival's Martin Theater, Symphony Center and the Chicago Cultural Center, as well as on WFMT, **Matthew Hagle** has performed nationally at Symphony Space in New York, the National Gallery of Art and the United States Supreme Court and, internationally, in England, Australia and Japan. Known for adventuresome programming that explores 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century repertoire, as well as lesser-known older works, he also has been heard on NPR's "Performance Today" and Minnesota Public Radio's "St. Paul Sunday Morning."

Valued as a collaborator by many artists he has been the principal recital partner of violinist Rachel Barton Pine since 1999. Their CD *American Virtuosa*, released on the Cedille label, garnered many favorable reviews and reached No. 12 on Billboard magazine's classical chart. He also performs with members of the Chicago Symphony and as a piano duo with his wife Mio Isoda-Hagle. Currently on the piano faculty of the Music Institute of Chicago where he is director of the musicianship program, his students have won prizes in local and national competitions. Also an occasional composer, his pieces have been performed in Germany and Japan.

A graduate of the Peabody Conservatory with masters and doctor of musical arts degrees from Yale University, Hagle received faculty prizes in piano, accompanying and music theory. While at Yale, he also received a Fulbright Scholarship for private piano study in London. His teachers have been Claude Frank, Robert Weirich, Donald Currier and Maria Curcio Diamand.

He and his wife reside in Chicago with their two small children.



The Strings and standing ovations are synonymous!

## Liszt

Les Préludes, G. 97

## Liszt

Concerto for Piano and Orchestra No. 1 in E-Flat Major, G. 124  
**Matthew Hagle, Piano**

## Brahms

Symphony No. 4 in E Minor, Op. 98

*"...a sensitive pianist"*

– The New York Times

*"rare clarity and sweetness"*

– Clavier Magazine

*"...he played with unaffected brilliance and profound understanding."*

– Springfield (MA) Republican



**Park District of Highland Park**  
636 Ridge Road  
Highland Park, Illinois 60035

Presorted Standard  
U.S. Postage  
**Paid**  
Permit No. 127  
Highland Park, IL  
60035

*Chicago's Got Talent!*

**32nd Season • 2010-2011**

**Four Family Concerts**

**"Sundays at 3 pm"**

**October 24, 2010**

**Lori Kaufman, Piano**

**December 5, 2010**

**Aurélien Pederzoli, Violin**

**February 20, 2011**

**All Beethoven Benefit**

**Robert Chen, Violin**

**May 22, 2011**

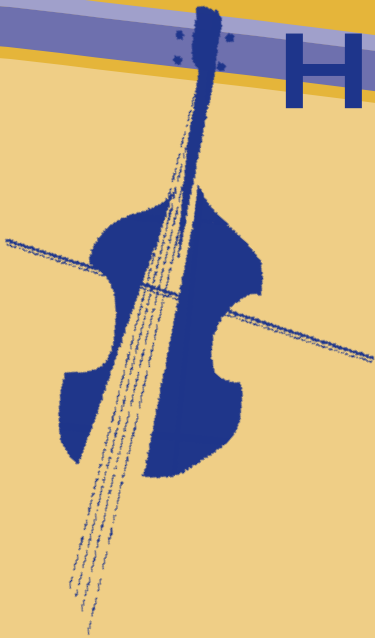
**Matthew Hagle, Piano**

**Residential Postal Patron**  
**Highland Park, Illinois 60035**



**Free admission sponsored by the Park District of Highland Park**  
[www.hpstrings.org](http://www.hpstrings.org)

# Highland Park Strings



[www.hpstrings.org](http://www.hpstrings.org)  
**Cable Channel 19**



Alice Anson, Hugh (Bud) Block, Lawrence Block, Dennis Burg, Lucy Colman, Jane Conway, Iris Cosnow, Elizabeth Duke, Stephanie Ettelson, Rachel Fisher, Elaine Fohrman, Betty Hill, Olena Hirna, Gregory Jacobson, Munkbagt Jihd, Dominic Johnson, Barbara Julis, Joseph Krzysiak, Francesco Milioto, Joan Noven, Aurélien Pederzoli, Stephanie Quinn, Joanne Ross, Francine Sherman, Susan Silverstone, Arnold Sklar, Margarita Solomensky, Ellen Stiller, Mary Stoltz, Desi Tantchev, Jerry Taxy, Lorraine Wallace, Ronna Warshauer, Janet Weinberg, Karen Weismehl, Nora Williams, Marylou Witz