

OJAIMUSICFESTIVAL JUNE 10-13, 2010

THOMAS W. MORRIS, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

GEORGE BENJAMIN, MUSIC DIRECTOR

ARTISTS BIOS 2010

Javad Ali Butah, tabla

A disciple of world-renowned tabla master Pandit Anindo Chatterjee, Javad's thorough approach to the instrument reflects his training at the hands of one of the finest tabla artists alive today. Javad has had the honor of accompanying such world-renowned artists as Ustad Sultan Khan, Sri Alam Khan, and Sri Shakir Khan. He has played in venues worldwide, including the Peter Norton Symphony Space in New York, Yale University, Columbia University, the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and the Saptak Music Festival in Ahmedabad, India. His playing, noteworthy for its clarity and fine sound quality, represents a virtuosic tradition alive in a new generation. This will be his Ojai debut.

Eric Huebner, piano

Pianist Eric Huebner has drawn worldwide acclaim for his performances of new and traditional music since making his debut with the Los Angeles Philharmonic at age 17. His playing has been described as "full of grace and light" by critic Paul Griffiths and he was referred to as "the new superstar" by critic Alan Rich during his appearance at the 2008 Ojai Festival. Mr. Huebner is a frequent guest pianist with the New York Philharmonic and has performed with a number of the world's leading conductors, including Lorin Maazel, David Robertson, and Oliver Knussen. Since 2001, Mr. Huebner has been a member of Antares, an award-winning quartet comprised of clarinet, violin, cello and piano.

In addition to a career as soloist and chamber musician, Mr. Huebner is an active freelancer in the New York City area. He has appeared with many of the city's leading new music ensembles including Speculum Musicae, Zankel Band, Manhattan Sinfonietta, So Percussion, Continuum, New York New Music Ensemble, American Modern Ensemble, and ACME. He is also a founding member of the group Flexible Music. A dedicated teacher as well as performer, Mr. Huebner was recently appointed Visiting Assistant Professor of Piano at the State University of New York at Buffalo. Mr. Huebner holds a BM and MM from The Julliard School, where he studied with Jerome Lowenthal.

Brad Lubman, conductor

An Ojai Festival alumnus, conductor and composer Brad Lubman enjoys a multi-faceted career. He has worked with a wide range of illustrious musical figures including Pierre Boulez, Luciano Berio, Steve Reich, and Michael Tilson Thomas. Assistant Conductor to Oliver Knussen at the Tanglewood Music Center from 1989-94, Mr. Lubman has since emerged as an unusually versatile conductor of orchestras and ensembles all over the world.

Mr. Lubman's repertoire ranges from classical to contemporary orchestral works, and he has guest conducted with many major orchestras in both Europe and the United States, including the Dresdner Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, New World Symphony, and the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. In addition, he has worked with some of the leading European and American ensembles for contemporary music, including Ensemble Modern Frankfurt, the London Sinfonietta, Los

Angeles Philharmonic New Music Group, and Steve Reich and Musicians. Mr. Lubman is an Associate Professor of Conducting and Ensembles at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York.

Anu Komsu, soprano

Anu Komsu continues to be praised for her versatile musicianship and for her dynamic coloratura voice. Equally at home on both opera and concert stages, Ms. Komsu has appeared regularly throughout Europe and the United States. Her repertoire includes over 40 operatic roles, including Stravinsky's *Nightingale* and Ligeti's *Mysteries of the Macabre*. She has collaborated with such influential conductors as Sir Roger Norrington, Oliver Knussen, Esa-Pekka Salonen, and George Benjamin, and has performed with leading orchestras in both Europe and the United States. In November 2006, Ms. Komsu sang a leading role in the world premiere of George Benjamin's *Into the little Hill* at the Opera National Bastille. In addition to her performing engagements, Ms Komsu heads a new opera company in her hometown of Kokkola, Finland as its Artistic Director.

Patrick Juedt, viola

Patrick Juedt is an acclaimed viola performer and teacher. He is a member of the Ensemble Phoenix Basel and since 2006 has worked in close co-operation with the Ensemble Modern. Mr. Juedt's international engagements include the Schleswig Holstein Music Festival, the Lucerne Festival, Summer Festival Hamm, and Ars Musica Brussels. He studies at the University of Music and Theater Hannover and at the University of Music Basel with Professor Hatto Beyerle, and studies chamber music with Walter Levin and with members of the Amadeus and Vermeer quartets. Since 2006, Mr. Juedt has taught viola, chamber music, and interpretation of contemporary music at the University of Arts, Berne.

Megumi Kasakawa, viola

Megumi Kasakawa is a Japanese violist who has participated in the Open Chamber Music Festival of Prussia Cove in England and Japan's Viola Space. In addition, she was awarded Geneva Conservatory's Albert Lullin Prize as well the Verbier Academy's special prize for viola, which is sponsored by the Fondation Henri-Louis de la Grange. Ms. Kasakawa graduated in 2005 from Soai University in Osaka, Japan, and received her Soloist Diploma with distinction at the Geneva Conservatory as a student of Nobuko Imai.

Aashish Khan, sarode

Aashish Khan was initiated into North Indian Classical Music at the age of five by his grandfather, the legendary Acharya Baba Allaiddin Khan. His training was continued by his father, Ustad Ali Akbar Khan, and his aunt Annapurna Devi. Mr. Khan gave his first public performance at the age of 13, with his grandfather on the All India Radio National Program. Since then, he has performed throughout India and the world, both with his father and as a soloist in his own right.

Mr. Khan is a prolific composer, and has written music for ballets, movies, and the stage. He worked on music for Sir Richard Attenborough's film *Ghandi*, John Houston's *The Man Who Would Be King*, and David Lean's *A Passage to India*. Mr. Khan is a pioneer in the art of combining Indian classical music with Western music. His collaborations include works with John Barham, Ringo Starr, Eric Clapton, and Alice Coltrane, among others. Mr. Khan teaches North Indian Music at the California Institute of the Arts, and teaches students throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, and India.

Mr. Khan received the "Best Sarode Player" award from the All India Critics Association of India in 1996, and was recognized with the Sangeet Natak Akademi award, India's highest recognition of performing arts, in 2004. He was nominated for a Grammy Award in 2006.

Hilary Summers, contralto

Hilary Summers was born in Newport, South Wales and gained a BA in music from Reading University before continuing her vocal studies at the Royal Academy of Music and the National Opera Studio in London. Since her professional debut as a Valkyrie on stilts for the Scottish Opera in 1992, she has enjoyed a rich and varied career encompassing repertoire from the 12th to the 21st centuries.

In 1999 she created the role of Stella in Elliot Carter's opera *What Next* and the role of Irma in Eötvös's opera *Le Balcon* at the 2002 Aix en Provence Festival. Under the direction of the composer, she has performed and recorded Boulez's *Le Marteau sans Maître* with the Ensemble Intercontemporain, winning a Grammy Award for the best Small Ensemble Performance. In Britain she has forged a special relationship with the composer Michael Nyman and recorded the soundtrack to his film scores of *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *The Claim*, and *The Libertine* as well as performed his operas *Noises Sounds and Sweet* and *Facing Goya*.

An acclaimed interpreter of the Baroque repertoire, Ms. Summers has taken part in the acclaimed Wiener Festwochen production of Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* (Sorceress) with William Christie and the first ever performance in Russia of Handel's *Messiah* on period instruments. Recent projects include recording Rossini's *Petite Messe Solonelle* with The King's Consort, performances of *Le Marteau sans Maître* with Boulez at the Lucerne Festival, her début with the Opera de Paris (Mother Goose) and performances of George Benjamin's new opera, *Into the Little Hill* in Europe and the United States.

Dietmar Wiesner, flute

Dietmar Wiesner lives and works in Frankfurt. He is a founding member of the Ensemble Modern and works regularly as a composer for installations and music theatre productions. In 1994, together with Hermann Kretzschmar and Cathy Milliken, he founded the composer formation HCD-Productions which issued a CD with chamber music by the American writer and composer Paul Bowles. The formation was awarded the Prix Italia for its Hessischer Rundfunk (Hessian Broadcasting) radio production of *Denotation Babel* based on a text by Helmut Krausser and received the Prize of the Expert Jury of the Literature Bureau North-Rhine Westphalia for the best direction of *Cosmic Memos*. Together with the musician and composer Rainer Römer and the visual artist Ottmar Hörl, Mr. Wiesner was awarded the Prize of Intermedium II for the HR production of *Staubmarsch*.

In November 2007, Mr. Wiesner premiered the chamber opera *Haus der Stimmen*, a joint composition and production work with composer Cathy Milliken, based on a libretto by Silke Scheuermann. In 2009, the radio production of *Haus der Stimmen* received the German Critics' Prize.

Ueli Wiget, piano

Born in Winterthur in 1957, Ueli Wiget received first piano lessons from Klaus Wolters at the age of 10. From 1978 to 1983 he studied piano and harp at the University of Music and Drama, Hannover, under Hans Leygraf and Ruth Konhäuser. He gained further experience at the Budapest Liszt Academy, where he studied with György Kurtág and

Zoltàn Kocsis. Mr. Wiget won the first Swiss Young Musicians Contest and is the recipient of several international prizes, including contests in Sydney, Monza, and Leipzig.

Since 1986. Mr. Wiget has been a pianist for the Ensemble Modern. His solo career has included performances at music festivals across Europe, including Berlin, Vienna, Salzburg, Venice, Rome, London, and Paris. Mr. Wiget has collaborated with several orchestras, the Munich Philharmonic, BBC London, and Philharmonique Radio France, As a chamber musician he performs on a regular basis with the Vermeer and the Carmina Quartets.

Wildcat Viols

Joanna Blendulf, treble viol

Julie Jeffrey, tenor viol

Elisabeth Reed, bass viol

With guest artist, Annalisa Pappano, bass viol

Wildcat Viols was formed in 2003, bringing together three of the San Francisco Bay Area's most beloved early string specialists, Joanna Blendulf, Julie Jeffrey and Elisabeth Reed. Praised for their musical rapport and the shared enjoyment that radiates from their performances, they have been hailed as "refreshing", "sensuous", "gutsy", "splendid", "incredible artists", and as a "breathtaking ensemble." Early Music America magazine called their debut concert at the 2004 Berkeley Early Music Festival a "wonderful offering ... beautifully played." They have recently made their first recording, of music by Purcell, Locke and Hingeston, which will soon be released on the Magnatune label.