



ASU Chamber Orchestra

Joel Smirnoff, guest conductor
Catalin Rotaru, double bass

School of Music
Herberger College of Fine Arts
Arizona State University

Tuesday, February 20, 2007
7:30 p.m.
ASU Gammage

MUSIC

 **Herberger College**
of Fine Arts

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

Program

String Symphony No. 12 in G minor.....Felix Mendelssohn
Fuga: Grave – Allegro
Andante
Allegro molto

Concerto No. 2 in B minor for Double Bass.....Giovanni Bottesini
Allegro moderato
Andante
Allegro

Catalin Rotaru, double bass

Intermission

Symphony No. 39 in E-flat major, K.543.....Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Adagio – Allegro
Andante con moto
Menuetto: Trio
Allegro

*Out of respect for the performers and those audience members around you,
please turn all pagers, cell phones, and watches to silent mode. Thank you.*

Biographies

Encouraged by Seiji Ozawa to “take up the baton,” eminent violinist **Joel Smirnoff** has developed into a highly acclaimed conductor with an impressive and wide-ranging repertoire. He is consistently cited for his high energy and special attention to the stylistic demands of each work.

In 2000, Mr. Smirnoff made his official American conducting debut with the San Francisco Symphony, conducting an all-Tchaikovsky program. His guest conducting engagements include the Amarillo Symphony, Chicago Philharmonic, Juilliard Orchestra, Louisiana Philharmonic, New World Symphony, Norwegian Chamber Orchestra, Phoenix Symphony, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra, Western New York Chamber Orchestra, and a European tour with the Basel Sinfonietta and Charles Rosen as soloist in the Elliott Carter Piano Concerto.

In addition to his activities as a conductor, Joel Smirnoff is first violinist of the Juilliard String Quartet and Chairman of the Violin Department at The Juilliard School. In 1997, he was featured violin soloist at Tanglewood in a concert dedicated to the memory of violinist Louis Krasner, performing the Berg Violin Concerto under the direction of Bernard Haitink. In 1983, as second-prize winner of the International American Music Competition for Violin, he was awarded debuts at Carnegie Hall on its Emerging Artists series and at Town Hall on its Midtown Masters series.

Mr. Smirnoff also plays jazz, performing frequently as improvising soloist with Tony Bennett. His solos were featured on the Grammy award-winning CD Tony Bennett Sings Ellington Hot and Cool. He has also been guest soloist with Gunther Schuller and the American Jazz Orchestra, and the Billy Taylor Trio.

Catalin Rotaru, double bass, joined the School of Music at Arizona State University, in 2005. Mr. Rotaru is in demand as a performer and clinician throughout the world. He is a licentiate of the National University of Music from Bucharest, Romania and holds a Master’s degree in music performance from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Previously he was Associate Professor of Double Bass and Jazz Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, taught at Millikin University, and at the University of Illinois.

He has performed both solo classical and jazz bass throughout Europe, the United States, South America and Japan. He served as associate principal bass in the Romanian National Radio Orchestra, principal bass in the Sibiu Philharmonic Orchestra, Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra of Bucharest, Danville Symphony Orchestra, Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra, associate principal and principal bass in Sinfonia Da Camera, and principal bass of the Orchestra Sinfonica Europea. Mr. Rotaru collaborates frequently with the Phoenix Symphony Orchestra and Arizona Opera and performs extensively as soloist in recitals or with symphony orchestras throughout the United States and abroad, giving numerous clinics and master classes.

He received the second prize at the 1997 International Society of Bassists Solo Division Competition and the Jury’s Special Award for the best performance of the required piece at that competition. He was the winner of the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts Debut Recital Award in 1997, and received the Central Illinois Chapter of the National Society of Arts and Letters Award in 1996.

Mr. Rotaru recently completed recording his debut solo CD, entitled *Bass*ic Cello Notes* released by Summit Records. For the last several years, Professor Rotaru has been a frequent solo performer at the International Chamber Music Festival of Pernambuco in Brazil. Mr. Rotaru performs on a double bass made in Italy by Luciano Golia and a bow made by Marco Pasquino.

Chamber Orchestra

Timothy Russell, Director of Orchestras

Violin I

Angela Cassette**
Christian Simmelink
Tamara Freida
Ricardo Elias-Rodriguez
Heide Hille

Violin II

Eliza Hesse*
Molly McCarthy
Gina Dyches
Bonnie Teplik
Kate Bivona

Viola

Matthew W. Gordon*
Jenwei Yu
Eva Lundell
Allison Kellis
Mary Harrah
Nancy Buck

Cello

Nelly Rocha*
Adele Stein
Vanessa Belknap
Derek Stein

Bass

Lucian Manolache*
T. J. Maliszewski

Flute

Angela Rich

Clarinet

Josh Gardner*
Natalie Lehr

Bassoon

John Veloz*
Kristilyn Woods

Horn

Rose Marie French*
Felipe Vera

Trumpet

J. David Hunsicker*
Ryan Lehr

Timpani

Matthew Holm

** Concertmaster

* Principal

Orchestra Assistants

Jacob Harrison
Brandon S. Matthews
Jana Minov

Orchestra Librarians

Jacob Harrison
Jan Matthews

Orchestra Manager

Rossine Parucci

Orchestra Office Specialist

Linda Bennett

Events Information Call 480-965-TUNE (480-965-8863)