

*Vassilios Miltiades Makavos*

**Composer & Baritone**

ASU School of Music Organ Hall

Recital Series

April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013

**Program**

**I. Prelude**

from *Symphony for Organ No. 1 in F Major*

Vassilios Miltiades Makavos

(b. 1989)

*Jacob Hofeling, Organist*

**Depeche Mode: Songs of Faith & Devotion**

*Arr. By Vassilios Miltiades Makavos*

David Gahan & Martin Gore

(b. 1962/b. 1961)

- I. Condemnation
- II. Judas
- III. One Caress

*Grace Rieck - Violin, Sky Jackson - Violin, Julie Rorrer - Viola, Peter Eom - Cello*

**Intermission**

[12 minutes]

**String Quartet No. 3**

Vassilios Miltiades Makavos

(b. 1989)

- I. Prelude
- II. Fughetta
- III. Scherzo
- IV. Toccata

*Grace Rieck - Violin, Sky Jackson - Violin, Julie Rorrer - Viola, Peter Eom - Cello*

**A SPECIAL PREVIEW OF WHAT'S TO COME**

**String Quartet No. 4 "Chemical Quartet"**

Vassilios Miltiades Makavos

(b. 1989)

- I. Prelude

*Grace Rieck - Violin, Sky Jackson - Violin, Julie Rorrer - Viola, Peter Eom - Cello*

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## Biography

Vassilios Miltiades Makavos was born in Greenfield, Massachusetts on January 18th, 1989. From a very early age he displayed a fascination with music and was always found interacting with music in some way, shape, or form. At the age of 7 he began to sing and formally took vocal lessons at the age of 9. Prior to his vocal lessons at the Pittsfield School of Music, he taught himself how to read music so he could dictate melodies and arrangements. He spent close to three years at the Pittsfield School of Music, where he worked up his sense of rhythm, melody, and vocalization.

In 2001 he moved to Arizona to attend Highland Jr. High School. His parents had carefully looked for a school district that had a strong musical program and a university that he could eventually attend. Vassili joined the 7th grade Boys Chorus, not realizing how wide the music program really was. Not only were there several choirs, but there were orchestras and bands as well. He met with the junior high orchestra teacher and insisted he be given any instrument to play with the strings. The teacher handed him a Bass and Vassili taught himself well enough to be the first chair of the Bass section at the end of the semester. This is where he began to explore his compositional side. Prior to joining orchestra, he only focused on his voice to become an opera singer, but holding another instrument in his hand gave him new directions to move in.

Following junior high, Vassili went on to attend Highland High School, particularly to study under the direction of Rita Scholz, whose name and reputation reached as far as the east coast. She, along with the other music school directors, Bill Bitter, Amy Bennett, and Kevin Bennett helped Vassili work on the development of all his musical skills and interests. By the time he was a sophomore, he was not only enrolled in all the required academic classes, but was able to work his way into having the following music classes added to his schedule: Men's Chorus, Concert Choir, Advanced Vocal Ensemble, Marching Band, Symphonic Band, Strolling Strings Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, and acting as a TA for the Freshman Chorale. He was the only freshman to be accepted in the top choral group of the high school, Concert Choir, and was made Tenor section leader short after.

Vassili was accepted to attend Arizona State University in the Fall Semester of 2007. He has studied composition formally since the Fall of 2007 and privately studied composition with Dr. Jody Rockmaker, Dr. Rodney Rogers, Dr. Roshanne Etezady, Dr. Glenn Hackbarth, and Dr. James DeMars. He has also had private clinician sessions with visiting composers Jonathan Newman and Michael Colgrass.

Vocally, Vassili has been under the care and exquisite guidance of Dr. Jerry Doan, who has helped Vassili broaden and blend the various aspects of his vocal capabilities. While not only covering different degrees of repertoire, Dr. Doan has allowed Vassili to take upper division courses, instructing and teaching about the vocal anatomy and overall sense of the body as a whole instrument in both vocal and operatic performance. Vassili will be graduating on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013 and will be receiving his two diplomas in Vocal Performance and Composition. However; he will be returning in the Fall of 2013 to begin his studies in the Masters Program in Opera Performance.

His most recent performance has been with the ASU Lyric Opera Theatre in their production of *Le Nozze di Figaro* as Antonio. In the previous season he was cast in *Tartuffe* as Damis Pernelle. In the spring of 2010 he performed as Alidoro in Rossini's *La Cenerentola*. Other performances with the Lyric Opera Theatre include *Sweeney Todd*, *Gianni Schicchi*, *Don Pasquale*, and *Giulio Cesare*. In 2008 he sang in the chorus of the world premiere performance of James DeMars' Opera, *Guadalupe Our Lady of the Roses*, and participated in the recording distributed by Canyon Records. He has also performed the National Anthem for the Arizona Cardinals on a yearly basis from 2003 to 2011.

Compositionally he has composed and performed in his Requiem, written five film scores, and crafted various other projects. Current projects that are coming up are the premiere of his Ave Maria, which he composed for the ASU Women's Chorus accompanied by Organ, and will take place Monday April 22<sup>nd</sup>. On Wednesday April 17<sup>th</sup>, he will be singing with the ASU String Orchestra in a reading of one of his arias from his opera, *The Tell-Tale Heart*, and on April 27<sup>th</sup>, Tammy Holland will be premiering his Concerto for Clarinet in G Major, which he specially composed for her brilliance and fiery passion.

I would like to thank each and everyone one you for attending this very important event in my musical career! I would also like to thank all of my teachers and professors throughout all my life and up to this point, and give a very special, warm, and loving thanks to Dr. Jody Rockmaker; who has not beaten me to death for the shortage of hair that I have caused him these past 6 years... BUT also for being a supportive and instructive backbone to my dreams and desires to become the musician I wish to be. A very special Thanks to my dear and darling string quartet, whom without, this recital would not have been possible! I thank all of my friends and those who have always supported me, and; I want to specially thank my Mom and Dad who have gone above and beyond, and have strived leaps and bounds full of unconditional love and sacrifice for both me and my brother, Dimitri whom I also love and would not be here tonight without!! Above all I thank my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who has been my shepherd and rock, both when I was unaware and aware; I stand before you as I am today because of his Grace and Mercy and Endless Love!! GOD BLESS YOU ALL, THANK YOU ALL, AND FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART, I LOVE YOU ALL!! - Vassili <3

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*About the Performers*

**Jacob Hofeling** happily married to his beautiful wife Celeste for a little over a month. He is an undergraduate Organ performance major at ASU and aspires someday to be an organist for the Mormon tabernacle choir. Jacob was a missionary for two years in Ukraine and speaks Ukrainian and Russian fluently. In his freetime he enjoys cooking and eating delicious food.

**Grace Rieck** began studying violin in Tempe, Arizona at age 5. Her musical education continued in Salt Lake City, Utah, where she learned to play several other instruments, including guitar, electric bass, piano, and trumpet. At age 15, Grace started teaching private violin lessons and began teaching guitar shortly thereafter. She is currently a Music Therapy student at ASU and hopes to someday work with adults with psychiatric disorders. When she is not toiling away in the practice room, Grace enjoys bicycling. Currently, she is working on a solo hip-hop project.

**Sky Jackson** is hopelessly addicted to the violin. Sky's parents knew he was susceptible to violin addiction when he asked to start playing at the age of 3 in his hometown of Prescott, Arizona, but they knew they couldn't control it. When Sky outgrew his teacher in Prescott at 8 years old and asked to be driven an hour and a half away just for better quality lessons, his parents saw that he had fallen off the deep end. At the age of 14, Sky was practicing for 4 hours each day, and his addiction drove him to drop out of high school so he could practice more (and become homeschooled). At 15, after playing numerous solos with his local orchestras and taking lessons from the concertmaster of the Phoenix Symphony, he finally got the better of the addiction and started taking classes at his local community college. Now, at the age of 20, he has stayed mostly clean – he is a senior chemical engineering student at Arizona State University, has done solar cell research at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, and is the president of a 130-member chemical engineering organization on campus. However, long-term side effects from his dark past remain, including perfect pitch and an insatiable thirst for music.

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**Julie Rorrer** is currently a junior studying Chemical Engineering at Arizona State University. She was born in Corvallis, Oregon and has one older sibling, Chris, who plays the cello. She began playing the violin when she was four years old, and has played the viola for the last seven years. Julie has performed with the ASU Symphony and Sinfonietta orchestras, the Oregon All-State Orchestra, the All-Northwest Symphony Orchestra, the Corvallis Youth Symphony, and the Corvallis Camerata String Ensemble. She has collaborated with Vassilios in several music score projects, and is now a proud member of the Makavos String Quartet. In her spare time, Julie performs alternative energy research in the Materials Science and Engineering Department at ASU. She is also involved with the American Institute of Chemical Engineers at ASU and is the newly elected president for the Spring 2013 – Fall 2014 academic year. She will be spending the summer performing research at the National Renewable Energy Laboratories (NREL) in Colorado working on sustainable bio-fuel production. Julie hopes to attend graduate school after graduating in the Spring of 2014, and she hopes to continue to make music a part of her life.

**Peter Eom**, heralded as a performer “with energy and enthusiasm” and “inspiring to hear” by the Arizona Republic, 17-year old cellist Peter Eom has spread through the walls of practice rooms and cheap one-night motels his profound love for sharing music with audiences. Making his solo debut at the age of 10, Eom has performed Dvořák’s Cello Concerto, Haydn’s D Major Cello Concerto, Rachmaninoff/Cohen’s Sinfonia Concertante, and Hugh Downs’ Windows Concerto, among others, with orchestras including the Phoenix Symphony and the MusicaNova Orchestra. Eom has also made his Carnegie Hall debut at the age of 16. A winner of the prestigious YoungArts Foundation, Eom has recently been nominated as a candidate for the U.S. Presidential Scholarship in both the arts and academics. He is the founder of Melodic Minors, an outreach organization that plays benefit concerts in Arizona. Promoting everything from building of a cancer research center to helping a local family in need, Melodic Minors brings happiness to Haiti earthquake victims and nursing homes alike. Eom currently studies with Arizona State University Professor Thomas Landschoot, and plans to continue his passions for music, physics, and creative writing at Harvard University and New England Conservatory.



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