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Concert: Tashi

Ida Kavafian

Richard Stoltzman

Fred Sherry

Peter Serkin

Tashi

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ITHACA COLLEGE

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

ITHACA COLLEGE CONCERTS 2007-8

TASHI

Ida Kavafian, violin
Fred Sherry, violoncello
Richard Stoltzman, clarinet
Peter Serkin, piano

Ford Hall
Wednesday, April 23, 2008
8:15 p.m.

ITHACA

PROGRAM

Ave Maria...Virgo Serena of Josquin des Pre.
recomposed for Tashi (2007)

Charles Wuorinen
(b. 1938)

Christes Crosse of Thomas Morley
recomposed for Tashi (2007)

Charles Wuorinen

Quatrain II (1977)
(written for Tashi)

Toru Takemitsu
(1930-1996)

INTERMISSION

Quartet for the End of Time

Olivier Messiaen
(1908-1992)

- I. *Liturgie de cristal*
- II. *Vocalise, pour l'Ange qui annonce
la fin du Temps*
- III. *Abîme des oiseaux*
- IV. *Intermède*
- V. *Louange à l'Éternité de Jésus*
- VI. *Danse de la fureur, pour les sept trompettes*
- VII. *Fouillis d'arcs-en-ciel,
pour l'Ange qui annonce la fin du Temps*
- VIII. *Louange à l'immortalité de Jésus*

Tashi appears by arrangement with Frank Salomon Associates.
Peter Serkin appears by arrangement with C/M Artists New York.
FRANK SALOMON ASSOCIATES 201 West 54 Street, Suite 1C, New York, NY 10019
212-581-5197; fax 212-581-4029; e-mail info@franksalomon.com;
<http://www.franksalomon.com>

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PROGRAM NOTES

Pianist Peter Serkin, clarinetist Richard Stoltzman, violinist Ida Kavafian, violoncellist Fred Sherry made musical history in the 1970's with their legendary ensemble, TASHI. Now, 30 years later, they are reuniting for special concerts in 2008 to celebrate the centenary of the composer (and the work) that originally brought them together - France's Olivier Messiaen, and his *Quartet for the End of Time*. Within a few days of what would have been Messiaen's centennial, another legendary composer, Elliott Carter, will turn 100. He too will be honored in many of the ensemble's programs.

Tashi, Tibetan for 'good fortune' and the name of one of Peter Serkin's dogs, was formed because the four musicians were so incredibly moved by the work that they wanted to share it with others. Their New York debut in March 1973 for The Schneider Concerts at The New School and subsequent performances; alongside their RCA recording were catalysts in establishing the *Quartet for the End of Time* as a beloved chamber music masterpiece.

When Tashi came on the scene in 1973, the four artists with impressive solo credentials brought a fresh new approach to the concert stage in the music they played, with their long hair and informal dress. Their focus was not on traditional chamber music repertoire but on presenting the music of living composers in a dynamic and informal way - Takemitsu, Foss and Wuorinen were just a few of the composers who wrote works for them. They helped change the formality of concert dress from tails and tuxedo to flowing shirt and trousers but more importantly, they led the way towards more varied programs that reflected the music of their time. They were the first classical ensemble to play in a nightclub when they performed the Messiaen at The Bottom Line in New York.

IDA KAVAFIAN, violin/viola

Ida Kavafian enjoys an international reputation as one of the most versatile and active musicians performing today. With a repertoire as diverse as her talents, Ms. Kavafian has electrified recital and orchestral stages nationally and internationally and her commitment to contemporary music has led to many world premieres by composers as varied as Toru Takemitsu and Michael Daugherty, who both wrote concertos for her, and jazz greats Chick Corea and Wynton Marsalis, both of whom with which she has toured and recorded. Her television credits include a solo feature on "CBS Sunday Morning". Since her founding membership in the innovative group TASHI over thirty years ago, Ms. Kavafian's chamber music appearances have included many renowned festivals and series throughout the world. She has toured and recorded with the Guarneri, Orion and American Quartets as well as the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, of which she is an Artist Member. She and her sister, Ani continue to perform together regularly in recital and with major orchestras. Their television credits together include features on "CBS Sunday Morning" and NBC's "Today Show," and they have recorded for Nonesuch.

Ms. Kavafian was the violinist of the legendary Beaux Arts Trio for six years. Some of their honors during her tenure included being named "Ensemble of the Year" by Musical America in 1997 and a 1998 Grammy nomination. More recently, she co-founded an exciting piano quartet ensemble, called

OPUS ONE, along with pianist Anne-Marie McDermott, violist Steven Tenenbom and cellist Peter Wiley. OPUS ONE has recently recorded the piano quartets of Dvorak, released in 2007. For twenty-four years, Ida Kavafian has been the Artistic Director of the highly successful festival, Music from Angel Fire in New Mexico. She also founded and guided Bravo! Colorado in Vail as Music Director for ten years, building it into one of the leading festivals in the country. As an educator, she is on the faculty of the Curtis Institute and the new Conservatory of Music at Bard College, and has served on numerous competition juries and boards, including Chamber Music America. In recent seasons, Ms. Kavafian presented the World Premiere of Michael Daugherty's concerto, *Fire and Blood*, with the Detroit Symphony under the direction of Neeme Jarvi, and also performed the work at Carnegie Hall with the America Composers Orchestra as well as with the National Symphony of Mexico in Mexico City. She created and performed a recital series at Lincoln Center (and on tour) featuring the complete Violin and Piano music of Stravinsky, alongside Sonatas of Bach and contemporary premieres. Other highlights included a return to her musical youth at the Interlochen Center for the Arts (and with them on tour in Chicago, Cleveland and Detroit), where she was featured as soloist in *Fire and Blood*. She also opened the Puerto Rico Symphony Orchestra season with a performance of Prokofiev's First Concerto, opened the New Mexico Symphony season with *Fire and Blood*, and presented the World Premiere of another work by Michael Daugherty for solo violin and winds at Lincoln Center as well as a World Premiere of a work written for OPUS ONE by George Tsontakis.

Born in Istanbul, Turkey of Armenian descent, Ms. Kavafian's family immigrated to the United States when she was three, settling in Detroit. She began her studies at age six with Ara Zerounian, continuing with Mischa Mischakoff, and ultimately earned her Master of Music degree with honors from the Juilliard School, where she was a student of Oscar Shumsky. Ms. Kavafian made her New York debut at the 92nd Street Y with pianist Peter Serkin as a winner of the Young Concert Artists International Auditions. She was a recipient of the coveted Avery Fisher Career Grant in 1988. Her violin is a J.B. Guadagnini, made in Milan in 1751, and her viola was made in 1987 by Peter and Wendela Moes. Ms. Kavafian resides in Connecticut and Philadelphia, where she and her husband, violist Steven Tenenbom can be found passionately pursuing their hobby of breeding, training and showing prize winning champion Hungarian Vizsla dogs under the kennel name, "Opus One Vizslas". Even in this field, Ms. Kavafian has enjoyed great success, having bred, trained and owned the Number One Vizsla All Systems in the US for the year 2003 and the National Champion of 2007.

FRED SHERRY, violoncello

A pioneer and a visionary in the music world, cellist Fred Sherry has introduced audiences on five continents and all fifty United States to the music of our time through his close association with such composers as Babbitt, Berio, Carter, Davidovsky, Foss, Knussen, Lieberson, Mackey, Takemitsu, Wuorinen and Zorn. Mario Davidovsky, Steven Mackey, Somei Satoh and Charles Wuorinen, who have written concertos for Mr. Sherry. He gave the European premiere of the Elliott Carter Cello Concerto, which is dedicated to Fred Sherry, with Oliver Knussen and the BBC Symphony Orchestra at the 2002 Aldeburgh Festival; the subsequent recording was released on the Bridge label. He has been a member of the Group for

Contemporary Music, Berio's Juilliard Ensemble, the Galimir String Quartet and a close collaborator with jazz pianist and composer Chick Corea. Mr. Sherry was a founding member of Speculum Musicae and Tashi. His work with Tashi includes a number of premieres and performances with the Cleveland Orchestra, Boston Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, New Japan Philharmonic, Montreal Symphony and L'Orchestra de la Suisse Romande. Mr. Sherry has been an active performer with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center since the 1970's, an Artist Member since 1984 and was the Artistic Director from 1988 to 1992. He has been a guest at festivals including the Aldeburgh Festival, Casals Festival, Tanglewood, Spoleto, Scotia Festival of Music, Toru Takemitsu's Music Today, Chamber Music Northwest, OK Mozart and the Mostly Mozart Festival. He is a member of the cello faculty of the Juilliard School, The Manhattan School of Music and the Mannes College of Music. Mr. Sherry created the series "Bach Cantata Sundays" at St. Ann's Church and conceived and directed the acclaimed "Arnold Schoenberg: Conservative Radical" series at Merkin Concert Hall. He was the creator and director of "A Great Day in New York," the groundbreaking festival featuring 52 living composers presented by the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and Merkin Concert Hall. In the vast scope of his recording career, Fred Sherry has been a soloist and "sideman" on hundreds of commercial and esoteric recordings on RCA, Columbia, Vanguard, CRI, Albany, Bridge, ECM, New World, Arabesque, Delos, Vox, Koch and Naxos. Mr. Sherry's longstanding collaboration with Robert Craft has produced recordings of the Schoenberg Cello Concerto and String Quartet Concerto and other major works by Schoenberg, Stravinsky and Webern. Fred Sherry considers himself to be a tree-hugger.

RICHARD STOLTZMAN, clarinet

Richard Stoltzman's virtuosity, musicianship and sheer personal magnetism have made him one of today's most sought-after concert artists. As soloist with more than a hundred orchestras, as a captivating recitalist and chamber music performer, as an innovative jazz artist, and as a prolific recording artist, two-time Grammy Award winner Stoltzman has defied categorization, dazzling critics and audiences alike throughout many musical genres. Stoltzman is a graduate of Ohio State University. He earned his Master of Music degree at Yale University and later worked toward a doctoral degree at Columbia University. As a ten-year participant in the Marlboro Music Festival, Stoltzman gained extensive chamber music experience, and subsequently became a founding member of the noted ensemble Tashi, which made its debut in 1973. Since then, Stoltzman's unique style of playing the clarinet has earned him an international reputation as he has opened up possibilities for the instrument that no one could have predicted. He gave the first clarinet recitals in the histories of both the Hollywood Bowl and Carnegie Hall, and became the first wind player to be awarded the Avery Fisher Prize. He has performed or recorded with such jazz and pop greats as Gary Burton, Chick Corea, Judy Collins, Eddie Gomez, Keith Jarrett, the King's Singers, George Shearing, Wayne Shorter, Mel Tormé, and Spyro Gyra founder Jeremy Wall. His commitment to new music has resulted in the commissioning and premiere of numerous new works, including the recent "Landscapes with Blues" by Stephen Hartke, and a concerto by Einojuhani Rautavaara. Richard Stoltzman has a discography numbering over 50 releases on BMG/RCA, SONY, MMC, BIS, Albany and other labels, including the Grammy-winning recordings of Brahms Sonatas with Richard Goode and the Trios of Beethoven, Brahms

and Mozart with Emanuel Ax and Yo-Yo Ma. Recent releases include the acclaimed recordings of Hartke's "Landscapes with Blues" (Naxos), a *New York Times* "Best of 2003", and Rautavaara's *Clarinet Concerto (Ondine)*.

During the 2007-08 season Stoltzman's performances include a 30th reunion tour with the legendary group Tashi to celebrate the forthcoming Messiaen and Carter centennials, jazz/classical recitals with his son, pianist Peter Stoltzman, as well as chamber concerts with the American Quartet and a tour of Japan. Concerto appearances include Finzi and Bernstein in Boston, a McKinley world premiere at New York's Carnegie Hall, and Corigliano in Dallas with conductor Peter Oundjian. Extended residencies take Stoltzman to numerous universities, where he will perform the music of Benny Goodman with big band and jazz combo, among other activities. Past seasons' highlights have featured Stoltzman with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at Ravinia and at New York's Mostly Mozart Festival, marking Stoltzman's 25th appearance at the Lincoln Center festival as well as performances throughout the US, Canada and Europe of Einojuhani Rautavaara's Clarinet Concerto and 75th birthday memorial tributes to composer Toru Takemitsu at Tokyo and Milan, as well as in San Francisco with Michael Tilson Thomas. Duo recitals with pianist Emanuel Ax and guitarist Eliot Fisk, in addition to performances and tours with the American, Emerson, Orion, Prazak, Takacs, and Tokyo String Quartets have also featured prominently in recent seasons. Stoltzman with his son, pianist Peter John Stoltzman, have performed concerts of jazz and classics together around the globe and were have been featured on NPR's "Performance Today" and "Weekend Edition" as well as "Voice of America" radio. Richard Stoltzman, resides in Massachusetts and is a passionate Boston Red Sox baseball fan. He is also a Cordon Bleu trained pastry chef.

PETER SERKIN, piano

Recognized as an artist of passion and integrity, American pianist Peter Serkin is one of the most thoughtful and individualistic musicians appearing before the public today. Throughout his career he has successfully conveyed the essence of five centuries of repertoire and his performances with symphony orchestras, recital appearances, chamber music collaborations and recordings are respected worldwide.

Peter Serkin's rich musical heritage extends back several generations: his grandfather was violinist and composer Adolf Busch and his father pianist Rudolf Serkin. In 1958, at age eleven, he entered the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia where he was a student of Lee Luvisi, Mieczyslaw Horszowski and Rudolf Serkin. He later continued his studies with Ernst Oster, Marcel Moyse and Karl Ulrich Schnabel. In 1959, Mr. Serkin made his Marlboro Music Festival and New York City debuts with conductor Alexander Schneider and invitations to perform with the Cleveland Orchestra and George Szell in Cleveland and Carnegie Hall and with the Philadelphia Orchestra and Eugene Ormandy in Philadelphia and Carnegie Hall soon followed. He has since performed with the world's major symphony orchestras with such eminent conductors as Seiji Ozawa, Pierre Boulez, Daniel Barenboim, Claudio Abbado, Simon Rattle, James Levine, Herbert Blomstedt and Christoph Eschenbach. Also a dedicated chamber musician, Mr. Serkin has collaborated with Alexander Schneider, Pamela Frank, Yo-Yo Ma, and the Budapest, Guarneri and Orion string quartets and Tashi, of which he was a founding member.

An avid proponent of the music of many of the 20th and 21st century's most distinguished composers, Mr. Serkin has been instrumental in bringing the music of Schoenberg, Webern, Berg, Stravinsky, Wolpe, Messiaen, Takemitsu, Henze, Berio, Wuorinen, Goehr, Knussen and Lieberson, among others, to audiences around the world. He has performed many important world premieres, in particular numerous works by Toru Takemitsu, Peter Lieberson, Oliver Knussen and Alexander Goehr, all of which were written for him. Most recently, Mr. Serkin played the world premieres of Charles Wuorinen's Piano Concerto No. 4 with the Boston Symphony under the baton of James Levine in Boston, at Carnegie Hall and at Tanglewood; a solo work by Elliot Carter commissioned by Carnegie Hall and the Gilmore International Keyboard Festival; and another work by Charles Wuorinen for piano and orchestra with the Orchestra of St. Luke's, also commissioned by Carnegie Hall.

Highlights of Peter Serkin's recent and upcoming concert appearances include performances with the New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia and Minnesota Orchestras, and the Boston, San Francisco, Detroit, St. Louis, Toronto and Atlanta symphonies; recitals in Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, Orchestra Hall in Chicago and New York's 92nd Street Y; performances with the original members of Tashi in Boston, Portland, Oregon, Princeton and Town Hall in New York City; and summer festival appearances at Ravinia, Aspen, Ojai, Caramoor, Tanglewood, Blossom, Saratoga and the Mann Center with the Philadelphia Orchestra. Internationally, Mr. Serkin returned to Japan in September 2007 to play recitals featuring the works of Toru Takemitsu and Bach in honor of the 10th anniversary of Takemitsu's death and during the 07/08 season appears with the Berlin Philharmonic, Deutsches Symphonie Orchestra and the Bamberg Symphony.

Peter Serkin's recordings also reflect his distinctive musical vision. *The Ocean that has no West and no East*, released by Koch Records in 2000, features compositions by Webern, Wolpe, Messiaen, Takemitsu, Knussen, Lieberson and Wuorinen. That same year, BMG released his recording of three Beethoven sonatas. Additional recordings include the Brahms violin sonatas with Pamela Frank, Dvorak's Piano Quintet with the Orion String Quartet, quintets by Henze and Brahms with the Guarneri String Quartet, the Bach double and triple concerti with Andras Schiff and Bruno Canino and Takemitsu's *Quotation of Dream* with Oliver Knussen and the London Sinfonietta. His most recent recording is the complete works for solo piano by Arnold Schoenberg for Arcana.

Mr. Serkin's recording of the six Mozart concerti composed in 1784 with Alexander Schneider and the English Chamber Orchestra was nominated for a Grammy and received the prestigious Deutsche Schallplatten as well as "Best Recording of the Year" by *Stereo Review* magazine. Other Grammy nominated recordings include Olivier Messiaen's *Vingt Regards sur l'Enfant Jesus* and *Quartet for the End of Time* on BMG and a solo recording of works by Stravinsky, Wolpe and Lieberson for New World Records. In May 2001, Peter Serkin was the recipient of an Honorary Doctoral Degree from the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. He was also the first pianist to receive the Premio Internazionale Musicale Chigiana in recognition of his outstanding artistic achievement. Mr. Serkin resides in Massachusetts with his wife, Regina, and is the father of five children.