

# GEORGIAN CHAMBER PLAYERS

present

## *"An American in Paris"*



Monday, February 22, 2016 at 8 p.m.  
Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center  
Morgan Hall  
Eighty-first Concert of the 2015-16 Concert Season



## program

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART (1756-1791)

### **Piano Quartet in E-flat major, K. 493**

- I. Allegro
- II. Larghetto
- III. Allegretto

David Coucheron, violin  
Reid Harris, viola  
Christopher Rex, cello  
Elizabeth Pridgen, piano

THERE WILL BE A **15 MINUTE** INTERMISSION

CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS (1835-1921)

### **Sonata for Violin and Piano**

David Coucheron, violin  
Julie Coucheron, piano

GEORGE GERSHWIN (1898-1937)

### **Rhapsody in Blue**

Elizabeth Pridgen and Julie Coucheron, pianos

## meet the artists

### David Coucheron, violin

**D**avid Coucheron, Concertmaster of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, is originally from Oslo, Norway, where he began playing violin at age three. He earned his Bachelor of Music from the Curtis Institute of Music, his Master of Music from the Juilliard School, and his Master of Musical Performance from London's Guildhall School of Music and Drama, studying with teachers including Igor Ozim, Aaron Rosand, Lewis Kaplan and David Takeno. Mr. Coucheron has worked with conductors including Robert Spano, Alan Gilbert, Michael Tilson Thomas, Sir Simon Rattle, Ms-tislav Rostropovich, David Zinman, Sir Roger Norrington, Simone Young and Charles Dutoit, and he has performed as a soloist with orchestras including the BBC Symphony Orchestra, Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra (Maxim Vengerov conducting), Sendai Symphony Orchestra, Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra and Trondheim Symphony Orchestra.



Photo Credit J D Scott

In recent seasons with the ASO, he has performed the *Violin Concerto* by Samuel Barber, *The Lark Ascending* by Ralph Vaughan Williams (also recorded for a Grammy-winning ASO Media CD) and the Bruch *Violin Concerto No. 1*. Mr. Coucheron has played solo recitals at the Oslo Chamber Music Festival, Carnegie Hall, Wigmore Hall (London), the Kennedy Center and the Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City, as well as in Beograd, Serbia, and Shanghai, China. His chamber music performances include appearances at Suntory Hall, Wigmore Hall, the Oslo Chamber Music Festival, and Alice Tully Hall.

He serves as the artistic director of the Kon-Tiki Classical Music Fest in Oslo. Among Mr. Coucheron's awards and recognitions are first prize at the Concorso Internazionale di Musica "Città di Pinerolo" competition in 2009 (Turin, Italy), first prize at the Princess Astrid Competition in 2002 (Trondheim, Norway), and third prize at the Manchester International Violin Competition in 2005 (Manchester, U.K.). His instrument is a 1725 Stradivarius.

## Julie Coucheron, piano

**J**ulie Coucheron has established an international career, winning prizes in Italy, Germany, and the United States. She has worked with musicians such as Lazar Berman, Claude Frank, Emanuel Ax, Vladimir Feltsman, John O'Connor and Christopher O'Riley, and has toured Europe, America, South America and Asia, playing in great halls like Verizon Hall in Philadelphia, Wigmore Hall in London, the Kennedy Center in Washington and New York's Carnegie Hall.

Born in Oslo, Norway, Ms. Coucheron started playing the piano at age four.

She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees with honors from Academy of Music in London, studying with Christopher Elton and Michael Dussek while also gaining her LRAM teaching diploma at the same institution. Ms. Coucheron regularly performs at festivals such as the Oslo Chamber Music Festival, Bergen International Music Festival and La Jolla SummerFest. She is artistic director of the Fjord Cadenza festival in Skodie, Norway, and the Kon-Tiki Classic Music Fest in Oslo.

She enjoys a close collaboration with her brother, David Coucheron, who is Concertmaster of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. In 2002 the pair released their first recording, *Debut*, on the Naxos label, containing lyrical and virtuoso music from the classical repertoire. Their second recording, *David and Julie*, appeared in 2008 on the Mudi/Naxos label, containing sonatas by Grieg and Brahms. In 2009 they shared first prize at the Pinerolo International Chamber Music Competition in Italy. With cellist Christopher Rex, they perform trios regularly in various concert halls around the world.

A member of the Georgian Chamber Players, Ms. Coucheron most recently performed the Franck Piano Quintet with them last April. In August 2014, she was appointed Assistant Professor at Kennesaw State University. Ms. Coucheron enjoys a various and wide range of styles and repertoire deriving from her highly trained classical background to the more contemporary and popular music. Recent collaborations include performances with artists such as the Steve Miller Band and Elton John.



## Reid Harris, viola

**R**eid Harris, described by Lawrence A. Johnson in the Miami Herald as possessing a “lovely burnished tone...with seamless legato and just the right poetic touch,” maintains an active solo and chamber music performance schedule while serving as Principal Violist of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. With the ASO, he has performed as soloist in works by Berlioz, Strauss, Mozart, Walton, Gubaidulina, Telemann and Dittersdorf.

A graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Music, where his principal mentor was Abraham Skernick, Mr. Harris undertook additional studies with William Primrose and Joseph de Pasquale. While at the Music Academy of the West, he was chosen by Primrose to receive the Outstanding Achievement Award for a violist.

Mr. Harris has performed with the Georgian Chamber Players at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall and participated with Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Ensemble. His summer activities include the Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival and the Grand Teton Music Festival, where he is principal violist. Prior to his ASO appointment, he served as Assistant Principal with the Baltimore Symphony from 1975 to 1979. Ranging beyond the classical realm, he has taken part in recordings by REM and Stone Temple Pilots.



Photo Credit J D Scott

## Elizabeth Pridgen, piano

**E**lizabeth Pridgen, pianist, enjoys a distinguished career as both a soloist and chamber musician. In 2014 she was appointed Artistic Director of the forty year old Atlanta Chamber Players, one of the leading chamber ensembles in the United States.

Ms. Pridgen has appeared in concerts at Carnegie's Zankel Hall and Weill Recital Hall, Spivey Hall in Atlanta, "Rising Stars Series" at the Ravinia Festival in Chicago, and in recitals in London, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Washington D.C., Miami, San Francisco and throughout the Southeast. She performs regularly at

festivals including the Rome Chamber Music Festival in Rome, Italy, the Kon-Tiki Chamber Music Festival in Oslo, Norway, The Aspen Music Festival, the Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival, Madison Chamber Music Festival and the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival. Ms. Pridgen has collaborated with such artists as Elmar Oliveira, Robert McDuffie, Anne Akiko Meyers, Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, Lynn Harrell, the Diaz String Trio, Cuarteto Latinoamericano and the American String Quartet. Ms. Pridgen is a member of the Cortona Trio with violinist Amy Schwartz Moretti and cellist Julie Albers and the Georgian Chamber Players.



Ms. Pridgen is currently a Distinguished Artist and Piano Chair at the McDuffie Center for Strings and holds the G. Leslie Fabian Piano Chair at the Townsend School of Music at Mercer University. Her recordings include the Liszt transcription of Berlioz's *Harold in Italy* released in 2014 on Orchid Classics. Soon to be released by Artek is Chausson's *Concert for Violin and Piano* with violinist Andres Cardenes.

Ms. Pridgen began her piano studies at age five and her first concert appearances were with her grandfather, violinist Martin Sauser, former Concertmaster of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. She received her Master of Music degree from the Juilliard School where she studied with Joseph Kalichstein and her bachelor's degree from the Peabody Conservatory of Music as a student of Ann Schein.

### **Christopher Rex, cello**

**C**hristopher Rex joined the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra as Principal Cello in 1979, the same year in which he became the first cellist ever to win the string prize in the biennial Young Artists Competition of the National Federation of Music Clubs. Since then he has appeared as recitalist and chamber musician across the nation. Following his studies at the Curtis Institute of Music with Orlando Cole and at the Juilliard School with Leonard

Rose, he was a member of the Philadelphia Orchestra under Eugene Ormandy for seven seasons. He has taught at Gettysburg College, the New School of Music in Philadelphia, Georgia State University and the Eastern Music Festival in Greensboro, North Carolina. He shared Acting Principal duties for the New York Philharmonic's European tour in 1988, replacing Lorne Munrow.

Solo performances by Mr. Rex with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra have included works by Brahms, Beethoven, Strauss, Tchaikovsky, Shostakovich, Bloch, Elgar, Schumann, Dvořák, Saint-Saëns, Haydn, Herbert, Hindemith, Prokofiev, Barber, Golijov and the late Stephen Paulus. Last season, with violinists Anne Akiko Meyers and David Coucheron and the Amernet Quartet, he performed in three concerts at the Amelia Island Winterfest.



Photo Credit J D Scott

He and David Coucheron also appeared as soloists in the Brahms Double Concerto with the DeKalb Symphony Orchestra.

Mr. Rex directs the Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival in Florida, which he founded, and the Madison Chamber Music Festival in Georgia. A regular performer at the Highlands Chamber Music Festival in North Carolina, he has been principal cellist of the orchestras at the Colorado Music Festival in Boulder and the Grand Teton Music Festival in Wyoming. He has performed as a soloist at the Montreal Chamber Music Festival, Brevard and Eastern Music Festival in North Carolina and the Chautauqua Festival in New York. He served on the board of directors of Chamber Music America for six years, is head of the Cello Department of Georgia State University School of Music, and is on the chamber music faculty of the of the McDuffie Center for Strings at Mercer University in Macon.

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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen W. Plate".


Stephen W. Plate, DMA  
Director, School of Music  
Kennesaw State University

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