



OLD DOMINION
UNIVERSITY

New Music Ensemble

F. Ludwig Diehn School of Music

Andrey Kasparov, Director

Avery Suhay, Coach

“Decend Into Madness”

Diehn Center for the Performing Arts
Chandler Recital Hall

Thursday, April 20, 2023 7:30 PM

Program

String Quartet No. 3: "Mishima"

Phillip Glass (b. 1937)

- I. *1957: Award Montage*
- II. *November 25 - Ichigaya*
- III. *Grandmother and Kimitake*
- IV. *1962: Body Building*
- V. *Blood Oath*
- VI. *Mishima / Closing*

Alex Mitchell, Violin I
Sarah Benson, Violin II
Sidney James, Viola
Brian Cortes-Bofill, Cello

SEVEN

Andrea Casarrubios (b. 1988)

Brian Cortes-Bofill, Cello Scordatura

"The Black Paintings" for String Sextet

AJ Francisco (b. 2000)

- I. *"La Leocadia"*
- II. *"Witches' Sabbath"*

Alex Mitchell, Violin I
Sarah Benson, Violin II
Spencer Mitchell, Viola I
Sidney James, Viola II
Brian Cortes-Bofill, Cello I
Avery Suhay, Cello II

"great dane" for Piano Trio

Sebastian Suarez-Solis (b. 1999)

Alex Mitchell, Piano
Sarah Benson, Violin
Brian Cortes-Bofill, Cello

AJ Francisco: AJ Francisco is a Filipino-American composer, music instructor, and violinist based in the Hampton Roads area of Virginia. She earned a Bachelor's in Music Composition at Old Dominion University (ODU) in 2022, having studied Music Composition under Adolphus Hailstork and Stephen Coxe. Francisco won the 2021 ODU Young Artists Competition with her string orchestra composition "Matakot". She also received Honorable Mention in the National Association for Music Education's (NAfME) Student Composers Competition in 2022 for her art song "My life closed twice before its close". Francisco has worked and rehearsed closely with several performing groups, including the ODU Symphony Orchestra, the ODU New Music Ensemble, the Governor's School for the Arts Reading Orchestra, and the ODU Madrigals Singers. She also received honors such as the Outstanding Music Graduate Award and Summa Cum Laude. Francisco currently holds membership in NAfME, the Virginia Music Educators Association (VMEA), the Pi Kappa Lambda Music Honor Society, and the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP). You can find Francisco online at <http://ajfrancisco.com>.

Sebastian Suarez-Solis: Sebastian Suarez-Solis (b. 1999) is a Baltimore-based sonic and visual artist whose works range from musical compositions to prints, installations and performances. Their works are varied, their artistic philosophy is singular: they seek to disseminate new modes of thought across many art forms, treating all mediums as one vehicle for expression. As such, while their works are undoubtedly musical in their sound, they are visually more suited to the print, the page, or the gallery. Sebastian is currently at the Peabody Institute of The Johns Hopkins University, where they are the 2022-2023 Richard Dragon, Louis Cheslock, and Philip D. Glass named scholar; in their Masters studies in Music Composition under Sky Macklay and Oscar Bettison, they have worked with ensembles like Parker Quartet, Mivos Quartet, Ensemble Dal Niente, Alexandre Ribeiro, Michael Hernandez of MANA Quartet, Trio Immersio, Estrella Consort, TORCH Collective, among other groups and personal commissions.



Composer Bios

Phillip Glass: Through his operas, his symphonies, his compositions for his own ensemble, and his wide-ranging collaborations with artists ranging from Twyla Tharp to Allen Ginsberg, Leonard Cohen to David Bowie, Philip Glass has had an extraordinary and unprecedented impact upon the musical and intellectual life of his times.

Glass has written music for experimental theater and for Academy Award-winning motion pictures such as “The Hours” and Martin Scorsese’s “Kundun,” while “Koyaanisqatsi,” his initial filmic landscape with Godfrey Reggio and the Philip Glass Ensemble, may be the most radical and influential mating of sound and vision since “Fantasia.”

He was born in 1937 and grew up in Baltimore. He studied at the University of Chicago, the Juilliard School and in Aspen with Darius Milhaud. Finding himself dissatisfied with much of what then passed for modern music, he moved to Europe, where he studied with the legendary pedagogue Nadia Boulanger and worked closely with the sitar virtuoso and composer Ravi Shankar. He returned to New York in 1967 and formed the Philip Glass Ensemble.

The new musical style that Glass was evolving was eventually dubbed “minimalism.” Glass himself never liked the term and preferred to speak of himself as a composer of “music with repetitive structures.” Much of his early work was based on the extended reiteration of brief, elegant melodic fragments that wove in and out of an aural tapestry.

There has been nothing “minimalist” about his output. Glass has composed more than twenty five operas, large and small; fourteen symphonies, thirteen concertos; soundtracks to films; nine string quartets; a growing body of work for solo piano and organ. He has collaborated with Paul Simon, Linda Ronstadt, Yo-Yo Ma, and Doris Lessing, among many others.

Andrea Casarrubios: Praised by *The New York Times* for having "traversed the palette of emotions" with "gorgeous tone and an edge of-seat intensity" and described by *Diario de Menorca* as an "ideal performer" that offers "elegance, displayed virtuosity, and great expressive power," Spanish-born cellist and composer Andrea Casarrubios has played as a soloist and chamber musician throughout Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas. First Prize winner of numerous international competitions and awards, Casarrubios has appeared at Carnegie Hall, Walt Disney Concert Hall, Lincoln Center, and the Piatigorsky, Ravinia, and Verbier Festivals.

Casarrubios' album, *Caminante*, presents some of her own original music. Her solo cello work *SEVEN* (2020) "a searching, intense, and elegiac tribute to the essential workers during the pandemic" (*The New York Times*) was commissioned by Tommy Mesa, and performed at Carnegie's Stern Auditorium in 2021 among other venues.

Solo appearances as a cellist include performances of F. Schubert's *Arpeggione* Sonata in A minor arranged for cello and orchestra by Casarrubios herself, as well as a collaboration with composer Leticia Armijo performing a new version of *Nan lu'um K'inal* for cello and strings.

A dedicated mentor, she has taught masterclasses at The Juilliard School, University of Southern California, Eastman School of Music, City University of New York, Missouri State University, as well as at numerous festivals and insitutions on tour. Her cello teachers have included Maria de Macedo, Lluis Claret, Amit Peled, Marcy Rosen, and Ralph Kirshbaum.

About the Director

Andrey Kasparov was born in the former Soviet Union to a family of Armenian descent. At fifteen, he moved to Moscow, where he later entered the Moscow State Conservatory, graduating with honors in Music Composition and Piano. He also holds a Doctor of Music degree in Music Composition from the Indiana University School of Music. Presently, Kasparov is Professor of Music at Old Dominion University. He is also Artistic Co-Director of the Norfolk Chamber Consort (nconsort.org) together with Oksana Lutsyshyn, a founding member of the award-winning Invenca Piano Duo (inveniaduo.wordpress.com). At Old Dominion University, Kasparov directs the New Music Ensemble, and teaches undergraduate and graduate Music Composition, Piano and Music Theory.

Kasparov has appeared in concerts as a recitalist, soloist with orchestras and chamber musician throughout the Americas, Europe and the former Soviet Union. He was the soloist with the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic in the world premiere of the newly discovered edition of Béla Bartók's Piano Concerto No. 3.

He is a prolific recording artist with more than hundred forty commercially released tracks to his credit. Kasparov's and Lutsyshyn's CD with piano music by Adolphus Hailstork on Albany Records was recognized as "a significant release." As the Invenca Piano Duo, Kasparov and Lutsyshyn have brought rediscovered masterpieces of the piano duo repertoire to listeners around the world. Released by Naxos Records in 2012-2013 were Invenca's recordings of the complete oeuvre of Florent Schmitt for piano duo. The albums were greeted with more than thirty laudatory reviews in six languages and were later reissued as a box set. Following their success with Schmitt, the two pianists released two CDs of the complete works by Paul Bowles for piano solo and duo on Naxos American Classics.

Kasparov's compositions have been performed at Moscow Autumn; International Forum of Composers in Kiev, Ukraine; Internationale Ferienkurse für Neue Musik in Darmstadt, Germany; the Encuentros festival in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and many other festivals and venues in Moscow, New York, Paris, and other cities around the world.

Kasparov has won prizes at numerous composition and piano competitions such as the Second Prize at the Sergei Prokofiev International Composition Competition in Moscow and the Albert Roussel Prize at the Orléans International Piano Competition. He has been a recipient of various awards, including ASCAP, the Indiana Arts Commission Fellowship and a grant from the Yvar Mikhashoff Trust for New Music.

In addition to Naxos and Albany Records, Kasparov's music and performances are featured on labels such as Atlantic Music Artist Agency in Ukraine, Vienna Modern Masters, and Contemporary Record Society. His compositions and articles have been published by the Kompozitor Publishing House in Moscow, Russia and Hungarian Music Quarterly in Budapest, Hungary, among others.

About the Coach

Avery Suhay is a collegiate cellist with a Bachelor of Music, Performance degree soon to complete a Masters in Music Education with a concentration in performance from the F. Ludwig Diehn School of Music at Old Dominion University. A cellist since 2009, he has been chasing better performance since beginning lessons in 2016. Now he is a teacher at Angelico Violins since 2020. Mr. Suhay has been part of the Russell Stanger quartet, Col Vita, ODU cello choir, started his own chamber music group, and now coaches the New Music Ensemble. As a new coach for the NME he has brought a variety of student, alumni, and contemporary composers' works together to push students into all new territories. Playing in these various groups has led to exposure to all eras of music and the different challenges they present. As an undergraduate, Mr. Suhay managed the ODU Symphony Orchestra; now he is the current Graduate Administrative Assistant for String Activities.