



Music Director: Abel Pereira

## Season Opening

Concert / Fundraiser

Sunday, October 29, 2023, 7:30, St. Mark's Capitol Hill

**R. Strauss - Horn Concerto No. 1 in Eb Major**

*III - Allegro*

*\* Soloist, Christian León*

**J. Haydn - Cello Concerto No. 2 in D Major**

*I - Allegro Moderato*

*II - Adagio*

*III - Rondo*

*\*Soloist, Piper Suk*

**W. A. Mozart - Symphony No. 25 in G minor**

*I - Allegro con brio*

*II - Andante*

*III - Menuetto & Trio*

*IV - Allegro*

**Music Dir. Abel Pereira**

**Fundraiser Reception**

*Afterwards*

## History

In 1992, conductor and horn player Sylvia Alimena, together with several of her National Symphony Orchestra colleagues, founded Eclipse Chamber Orchestra. Now one of the nation's premier chamber ensembles, the group presents exceptional performances of diverse repertoire. Throughout its history, ECO has proudly premiered works by Mark Adamo, Thomas Myron, David Teie, and Truman Harris. The group's enthusiastically reviewed recordings include a collaboration with organist William Neil and two CDs on Naxos: Late Victorians, featuring the music of Mark Adamo, and a collection of Florian Gassmann's opera overtures, featured regularly on WETA-FM. Reviews in the Washington Post and Fanfare magazine praise the group for its "extraordinary precision and cohesion," calling its performances "top-notch," "exemplary," "superlative," and "beautifully nuanced."

ECO takes great pride in spotlighting its members as soloists on every concert; our audiences enjoy hearing up close the artists they see only from afar at venues like the Kennedy Center. The orchestra also showcases its musicians in a series of intimate chamber music concerts at The Lyceum in Alexandria.

Conductor Leonard Slatkin and violinist Joseph Silverstein (former Boston Symphony concertmaster) have each made guest appearances with ECO. Our second music director, David Teie (2013-2016), premiered his own orchestration of Brahms' C minor piano quartet, as well as his flute concerto and a musical setting of Walt Whitman poems. Through world-class performances, live and in recordings, the musicians of Eclipse Chamber Orchestra share their celebration of classical music with music lovers everywhere. Members of major symphony orchestras, the virtuoso professional ensemble embraces a vision to reach diverse audiences who would otherwise encounter the typical barriers of attending classical performances. Informative pre-concert talks, a close setting of musicians to the audience, engaging performances which feature Eclipse members as soloists, and community performances along with school events, all help make Eclipse an accessible ensemble. The mission of the Eclipse Chamber Orchestra is to bring the area's finest musicians out of the downtown arts center and into the community to share classical music as engaging and relatable to all.

Eclipse has embraced the dual mission of providing the highest artistic classical performances presented in a meaningful way along with a long-term goal of venturing further into the community to enable all to attend.

At the start of our 25th season, we welcomed Abel Pereira as ECO's third music director.

## **R. Strauss - Horn Concerto No. 1 in Eb Major**

At the age of 18 whilst a philosophy student at Munich University, having recently completed his Violin Concerto and Cello Sonata, Strauss wrote his first horn concerto. His father Franz Strauss was one of the leading horn players of his day, and the fact that Richard grew up with the sound of the horn in his house led to his exploration of the great potential of the horn as both a solo and orchestral instrument. The version with orchestral accompaniment is entitled "Waldhornkonzert", indicating that the concerto was to be played on the natural valveless horn (Waldhorn), which was the horn of preference played by his father (although Franz also played the valved F horn). Strauss's sister Johanna wrote to the British horn player Dennis Brain that she "vividly remembered her father struggling with the solo part, which he found very tiring, even using the high B-flat crook. In particular, he seems to have found the high B-flats too daring and dangerous for performance in the concert hall". The early public performances would have been made using the valved F single horn, which was indicated in the score in later editions (although the orchestral horns were still specified as E-flat natural horns). In practice, all of the modern performances and recordings are played on the valved F double-horn which was developed at the end of the 19th century. Strauss himself went on to fully exploit the possibilities of the valved horn in his tone poems starting with Don Juan, written just a few years later. The concerto is in three movements (Allegro, Andante, Allegro) which are played continuously (except very rarely) and lasts about 15–18 minutes. The composition is typical of Strauss' music at this time in being Romantic in style, showing the influence of Mendelssohn. The orchestral version uses a classical orchestra: 2 flutes, 2 oboes, 2 clarinets, 2 bassoons, 2 horns, 2 trumpets, timpani, and strings.

## **J. Haydn - Cello Concerto No. 2 in D Major**

Concerto No. 2, Hob. VIIb/2, Op. 101, was for many years thought to have been composed in 1783 for Antonín Kraft, a cellist of Prince Nikolaus's Esterházy Orchestra. New research,[1] published in 2019 by Thomas Tolley and building on discoveries of Simon McVeigh, shows it was neither written for nor debuted by Kraft, an assertion that was made by Kraft's son to musicologist Gustav Schilling, and later repeated in Schilling's influential musical encyclopedias. However, original advertisements in the London press announced that 'A new Concerto, Violoncello, Mr Cervetto, composed by Haydn' had its premier on March 24, 1784 at Hannover Square. A second performance was advertised a week later as being a 'Concerto Violoncello, Mr Cervetto, composed by Haydn'. The C major concerto, Haydn's only other cello concerto, was, at this point, more than twenty years old. The soloist of the premiere was James Cervetto. It is regarded as one of the greatest works for cello of the classical era. The piece's authenticity was doubted for some time, and at one stage it was suggested that Kraft himself had written it,[2] but most experts now believe that the work is indeed authentic after Haydn's autograph score was discovered in 1951.

## **W. A. Mozart - Symphony No. 25 in G minor**

The Symphony No. 25 in G minor, K. 183/173dB, was written by the then 17-year-old Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart in October 1773,[1] shortly after the success of his opera seria *Lucio Silla*. It was supposedly completed in Salzburg on October 5, a mere two days after the completion of his Symphony No. 24, although this remains unsubstantiated. Its first movement was used as the opening music in Miloš Forman's film biographical *Amadeus*. This is one of two symphonies Mozart composed in G minor, sometimes referred to as the "little G minor symphony". The other is the Symphony No. 40; see also Mozart and G minor.

## **Winner of 2023 ECO Young Artists Competition (High School Division)**



### ***Christian León - French Horn***

Freshman at the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University and currently studies with William Vermeulen. Before being at Rice, he studied under James Nickel through the National Symphony Orchestra (NSO) Youth Fellowship program, which granted him lessons from his junior to senior year of high school. Christian has been playing horn since fifth grade and was self-taught up until he joined the Fellowship his junior year. Along with the NSO Youth Fellowship, Christian is an alumnus of Brass of Peace and the American Youth Philharmonic Orchestras.

## Winner of 2023 ECO Young Artists Competition (College Division)



### ***Piper Suk - Cello***

Performance major at the Cleveland Institute of Music, studying under Sharon Robinson. She has performed in venues such as the Kennedy Center, the United States Capitol, Severance Hall, and Carnegie Hall. Over her summers, she has attended the Aspen Music Festival and School, Berlin Opera Academy, National Symphony Orchestra Summer Music Institute, the Boston University Tanglewood Institute, and Domaine Forget. She has played in masterclasses for Yo-Yo Ma, Philippe Muller, Johannes Moser, Alban Gerhardt, Desmond Hoebig, among others. In 2019, Piper performed the Schumann Cello Concerto at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall. Passionate about chamber music, Piper has frequently participated in CIM's Advanced String Quartet Seminar, Advanced Piano Trio Program, and Intensive Duo Program. Her coaches have consisted of Si-Yan Darren Li, Philip Setzer, Todd Phillips, Sharon Robinson, and Anita Pontremoli. In her free time, Piper enjoys reading and spending time with her family. Piper Suk is a cello

performance major at the Cleveland Institute of Music, studying under Sharon Robinson. She has performed in venues such as the Kennedy Center, the United States Capitol, Severance Hall, and Carnegie Hall. Over her summers, she has attended the Aspen Music Festival and School, Berlin Opera Academy, National Symphony Orchestra Summer Music Institute, the Boston University Tanglewood Institute, and Domaine Forget. She has played in masterclasses for Yo-Yo Ma, Philippe Muller, Johannes Moser, Alban Gerhardt, Desmond Hoebig, among others. In 2019, Piper performed the Schumann Cello Concerto at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall. Passionate about chamber music, Piper has frequently participated in CIM's Advanced String Quartet Seminar, Advanced Piano Trio Program, and Intensive Duo Program. Her coaches have consisted of Si-Yan Darren Li, Philip Setzer, Todd Phillips, Sharon Robinson, and Anita Pontremoli. In her free time, Piper enjoys reading and spending time with her family.

## Music Director



Abel Pereira was appointed principal horn of the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington DC in 2014 by Christoph Eschenbach. Abel was born in Porto, Portugal and since his first solo appearance at the age of 11, has developed an intense career of concert and masterclass activities in many international music festivals around the world. After graduating from Porto University, he continued his studies in Germany with Marie-Luise Neunecker before receiving his PhD in coaching/performance in 2012 also from Porto University.

In addition to his career as a horn player, he studied choral conducting with Gunter Argleb, orchestral conducting with Alvaro Salazar at Porto University, and attended post-graduate master classes with Professor Colin Matters, Jorma Panula and Sir Colin Davis at the Royal Academy of Music in London.

Pereira has won awards in competitions such as Leeuwarden International Horn Competition (Holland), Internationaler Instrumentalwettbewerb Markneukirchen (Germany), Concertino Praga (Czech Republic), National Wind Competition (Portugal), Conservatory Souza Lima (Brazil), Arouca's City Hall (Portugal), National Radio Competition (Portugal) and European Master-Prize (England). He was a founding member of the ARZTIZ Woodwind Quintet, Porto Brass Quintet and Music Director of the Portuguese Horn Ensemble.

He has been invited to play, teach and conduct in some of the most prestigious International Music Festivals and Music Schools around the world, such as Miami Summer Music Festival, HALCYON New Hampshire, Stellenbosch Chamber Music Festival, Festival de Musique de Besançon, Ossiach Austria Festspiel, Salzburg Festival, BBC Proms, Diaghilev Festival Perm, Athens Music Fest, Baden-Baden Festspiel, Berlin Festspiel, Aspen Festival, Manly Mozart Festival (San Diego), Indiana University, Lynn University, Memphis University, Miami University, Curtis Institute, Berlin University, Kansas City University and Schleswig Holstein.

His solo discography includes: complete Mozart Horn Concerti, URTEXT version of Mozart's fourth Concerto, Romantic Repertoire for Horn and Piano, R. Strauss 1st Horn Concerto and Mozart Sinfonia Concertante. In 2001 he recorded Mozart second Horn Concerto for the BBC TV Show "Mozart for Children".

As a soloist he has played more than 60 solo concerts with many world class orchestras. He was a professor at ANSO (Lisbon University), ESMAE (Porto University), Royal College of Music (London) Guildhall School of Music (London) and Peabody Conservatory (Baltimore). During his career he held principal positions and has been guest principal with the Porto Symphony, Barcelona Symphony, Chamber Orchestra of

Europe, Frankfurt Radio Symphony, London Philharmonic, Dallas Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, Chicago Symphony and Berlin Philharmonic.

Pereira was in the jury for the European Union Youth Orchestra for 10 years. He did coaching and assistant conducting with the Ossiach Youth Orchestra in Austria, US National Orchestra Institute, US National Youth Orchestra and Schleswig Holstein Orchestra, German and European Youth Orchestras.

Was from 2017 to 2021 Principal Conductor of the Kennedy Center Youth Orchestra NSO/Summer Music Institute Orchestra. His conducting experience also includes performances with the Portuguese Philharmonic (Portugal), Porto Chamber Orchestra (Portugal), Lisbon Philharmonic (Portugal), Madrid Chamber Orchestra (Spain), Barcelona Classic Orchestra (Spain), Noya Symphony Orchestra (Spain), Vigo Philharmonic (Spain), Orchestra Sinfonica da Riminni (Italy), Vilnius Chamber Orchestra (Lithuania), Zadar Symphony (Croatia), Rio de Janeiro Orchestra (Brazil), San Jose Symphony (Costa Rica), Washington Philharmonic Orchestra and the National Symphony Orchestra (Washington DC).

He was appointed Music Director of the Eclipse Chamber Orchestra in 2016.

## **ECO**

### **First Violins**

Malorie Blake Shin  
Angelia Cho  
Jing Qiao  
Hanna Lee  
Mae Lin  
Jennifer Rickard

### **Second Violins**

Benjamin Scott  
Ikuko Takahashi  
Ryo Usami  
Sally McLain  
Joanna Owen

### **Violas**

Mahoko Eguchi  
Chiara Dieguez  
Ruth Wicker  
Andrew Eng

### **Cellos**

Eugena Chang  
Britton Riley  
Mark Evans

### **Basses**

Richard Barber  
Paul DeNola

**Flutes**

Alice Weinreb  
Carole Bean

**Oboes**

Jamie Roberts  
Harrison Linsey

**Clarinets**

Theresa Cigan  
Paul Cigan

**Bassoons**

Erich Heckscher  
Elizabeth Roberts

**French Horns**

Laurel Ohlson  
Scott Fearing  
James Nickel  
Shona Goldberg-Leopold

**Trumpets**

Michael Harper  
Tim McCarthy

**Timpani**

Jason Niehoff

**Stage Manager**

Craig B. Teer

**Library**

Laurel Ohlson

**Personnel Manager**

Carole Bean

**Orchestra Manager**

Terri Cigan

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