

## March/April 2007

March 31, 2007 7PM • Church of the Epiphany  
 April 1, 2007 5PM • Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center

**Kazik** Poem for Orchestra (World Premiere)

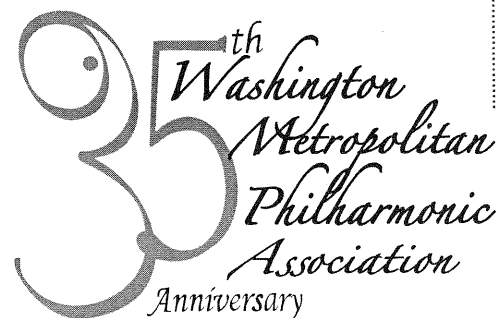
**Britten** Double Concerto in B minor  
 for Violin, Viola and Orchestra  
*Allegro ma non troppo • Rhapsody. Poco Lento •  
 Allegro scherzando – Allegro non troppo*

Mark Ramirez, violin  
 Olivia Hajioff, viola

### INTERMISSION

**Offenbach** Tales of Hoffman  
*Drig, drig, drig • Il etait une fois • Finale: Peuh! Cette Biere •  
 Non, aucun hote, vraiment • Les oiseaux • Finale-Voici les valseurs •  
 Intermezzo and Barcarolle: Belle nuits • Scintille, diamante •  
 Finale: Mon enfant!*

Jennifer Lopez, Soprano  
 Therese LaGoe, Soprano  
 Grace Gori, Alto  
 Jon Lackey, Tenor  
 Aurelius Gori, Baritone/Bass  
 and the NVCC  
 Community Chorus  
 Dr. Mark Whitmire, Director



Ulysses S. James, Music Director

## The Program

**James Kazik**  
Poem for Orchestra

Composed: 2007

Length: 6 minutes

**Orchestration:** 2 flutes, 2 oboes, 2 clarinets, 2 bassoons, 4 horns, 2 trumpets/ cornets, 3 trombones, timpani, percussion, harp, and strings

In April 2005, Kazik's *Apple Tree Fantasy* was premiered by Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic and pre-school students from the Hopkins House in Alexandria, Virginia. This premiere was the culmination of a year-long program, for which a local charity provided funds to hire a music teacher to work with the children who were to perform with WMP. In December 2005, soloist Danny Helseth and WMP premiered Kazik's *Concerto for Euphonium and Orchestra*. Today, Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic premieres yet another exciting work by the composer: *Poem for Orchestra*.

**Benjamin Britten**  
*Double Concerto in B minor for Violin, Viola and Orchestra*

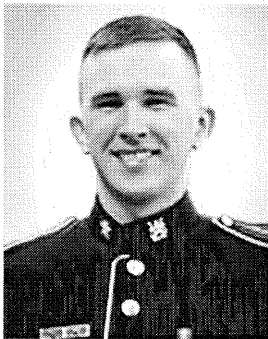
Composed: 1932

Length: 22 minutes

**Orchestration:** 2 flutes, 2 oboes, 2 clarinets, 2 bassoons, 2 horns, 2 trumpets, 3 trombones, timpani, and strings

Benjamin Britten was still a student at the Royal College of Music in London when he composed his *Double Concerto in B minor*. Beginning in May 1932 and finishing that autumn, he interrupted the writing of the concerto for three weeks while he wrote a piece of striking similarity, the *Sinfonietta*. Not unlike Britten's previous compositions, he never created a complete score of the concerto (although he created a very detailed sketch), and he never pursued having the work performed. The *Double Concerto* was first performed at the 1987 Aldeburgh Festival, England.

Since Bach, many *Double Concertos* have been written, but very few have included



### James Kazik

In addition to serving as the Composer in Residence for the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic, James Kazik is also a staff arranger for the U.S. Army Band, Pershing's Own, and a freelance trombonist in northern Virginia.

Kazik holds a Bachelor of Music degree in composition/theory from the University of Minnesota, where he studied composition with Judith Lang Zaimont, arranging with Adi Yeshaya, orchestration with Pulitzer Prize winning composer Dominick Argento, and trombone with Thomas Ashworth. After pursuing a composition degree, Kazik completed a Master of Music degree in trombone, studying his instrument with Vern Kagarice and Tony Baker, and studying composition with Cindy McTee.

As a trombonist, Kazik was a finalist in the 2000 Minnesota Orchestra's Zellmer Competition. As a composer, his works for trombone continue to win attention here and abroad. His quartet, 2002: Three Movements for Four Trombones, was the required piece for the 2002 International Trombone Association quartet competition. In addition, he has written for many collegiate trombone ensembles including the University of North Texas Trombone Ensemble and the Juilliard Trombone Ensemble.

the viola as a solo instrument. Several theories exist as to why -- one being that the viola's middle register could get "lost" in the orchestra. Most likely, the absence of viola in Double Concertos is a result of a negative attitude towards the instrument that has been passed down from generation to generation. Because Britten was himself an accomplished violinist, he was able to compose his Double Concerto to expose the range and contrasts available by combining it with the violin.

## Jacques Offenbach

### Tales of Hoffman

**Composed:** 1880

**Length:** 50 minutes (abbreviated version)

**Orchestration:** 2 flutes, 2 oboes, 2 clarinets, 2 bassoons, 4 horns, 2 trumpets/ cornets, 3 trombones, timpani, percussion, harp, and strings

Unlike the light-hearted nature of his many operettas, Offenbach's final work, *Tales of Hoffman*, takes a serious tone. Stricken with illness and pain while composing his final

work, Offenbach has been said to have made a "Pact with Death" -- that if he would live long enough to finish the opera, he would gladly die upon completion. Offenbach lived long enough to complete the piano score and to orchestrate the prologue and first act. He died just four months before the opera premiered in Paris in 1881. Two excerpts from the opera were performed at his funeral.

The libretto for the opera was written by Jules Barbier and is comprised of three stories by German writer E.T.A. Hoffman, who himself is a character in the opera. The story begins at the intermission of Mozart's *Don Giovanni* where Hoffman is waiting to meet Stella, a diva in the show. Hoffman begins to entertain the crowd with one of his songs, and eventually begins to tell three stories -- each describing a complex love story and how his heart was broken by each story's lady: Olympia, Antonia, and Giulietta.

As a result of Offenbach's passing before the opera had been orchestrated by him, many variations of the opera have emerged.



## Benjamin Britten

**Born:** November 22, 1913, Lowestoft, England

**Died:** December 4, 1976, Aldeburgh, England

"It is cruel, you know, that music should be so beautiful. It has the beauty of loneliness and of pain: of strength and freedom. The beauty of disappointment and never-satisfied love. The cruel beauty of nature, and everlasting beauty of monotony."

One of Britain's greatest composers, Benjamin Britten began composing by the age of five. When he was fourteen, he studied privately with Frank Bridge, and later he studied at the Royal College of Music in London under John Ireland. Britten was such a prolific composer, especially during his younger years, that often a completed work would be left unrevised as he rushed on to another project. While he is mostly known for his operas and vocal works, Britten also composed ballets and numerous solo and orchestral pieces.

Changes include adding music not written by Offenbach, changing the order of the acts, and changing the number of singers. The abbreviated version you will hear tonight features selected arias and choruses from the opera.

## The Artists



### **marcolivia**

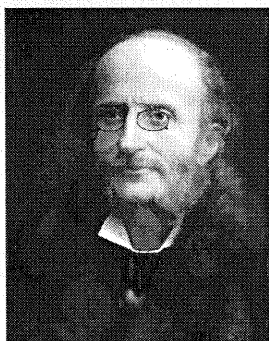
Violinists Marc Ramirez and Olivia Hajioff, who together form the violin and violin/viola duo **marcolivia**, have concertized extensively throughout the United States, Russia, France, Germany, Austria, Switzerland,

Monaco, Italy, England, Canada, Mexico and Japan. They have performed in many of the world's cultural centers, including New York, Boston, Chicago, Washington, Los Angeles,

Moscow, London, Tokyo, and Mexico City. Their performances have been featured on radio and television broadcasts, and seen and heard throughout North America, Europe and Asia. They have performed chamber music at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, the Ravinia Festival in Chicago, the Weill Recital Hall in Carnegie Hall, and with chamber music notables including Leon Fleisher, Awadagin Pratt and Edgar Meyer.

Ramirez and Hajioff have been recipients of a Fulbright fellowship, and prizes from competitions including the BBC Young Musician of the Year, the European Violin Competition, and the Henryk Szeryng Violin Competition, among others. In addition, they were the only chamber music finalists in the Concert Artists Guild International Competition, 2000.

**marcolivia** presents master classes worldwide and are artists-in-residence at the Tokyo College of Music. The duo is on the faculty of Shenandoah University, Las Vegas Summer Music Festival and Dartington International Summer Festival, and is on the roster of the Millennium Stage at the Kennedy Center and



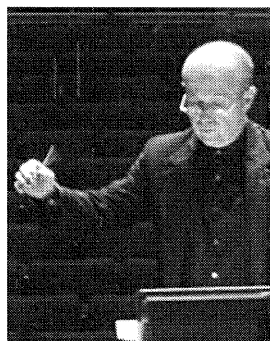
### **Jacques Offenbach**

**Born:** June 20, 1819, Cologne, Germany

**Died:** October 5, 1880, Paris, France

Jacques Offenbach (born Jakob Eberst), though German by birth, is most strongly identified with French comic opera. Offenbach's father, a Jewish Cantor, changed his name to Offenbach, the name of his hometown. Offenbach's career began as a successful cellist, although he wanted to compose. He started his own theater and caught the public's attention with his *Orpheus in the Underworld*. This exciting work was the beginning of numerous operettas that were highly successful in major cities on both sides of the Atlantic. His success can be attributed to the lively, witty, and melodious nature of his music.

the touring Artists for the Virginia Commission for the Arts.



### **Dr. Mark Whitmire**

Director of the NOVA Community Chorus and Professor of Music at Northern Virginia Community College (Alexandria), he holds degrees from Abilene Christian University, the University of Texas, and the University of Maryland, where he received the

Doctor of Musical Arts degree. Further studies include Dartmouth College and the Britten-Pears School in Aldeburgh, England, where he studied with Sir Peter Pears. Whitmire has received numerous grants and awards including a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for research and writing on the music of Benjamin Britten. He was named Outstanding Faculty of the Year by the College in 1990. Whitmire has been a regular guest conductor of Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic (then named Mount Vernon Orchestra) since 1991, and is the music faculty liaison in the partnership that has been established between the college and Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic.



### **Jennifer Lopez**

Soprano Jennifer Lopez received her Bachelor of Music Degree in Voice Performance from the University of Texas where she studied with Professor Herald Stark. She continued her studies at the University of

Maryland where she earned a Master of Music Performance degree. A frequent performer in the Washington area, she has appeared as soloist with the Fairfax Symphony, the Smithsonian Chamber Players, the Strathmore Recital Series, the Montpelier Recital Series, the Alexandria Performing Arts Association, the Washington Savoyards,

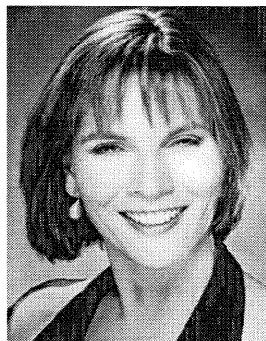
Yehudi Menuhin's Live Music Now and the Nevilla Ottley Singers. She spent two years as Artist-in-Residence at the National Portrait Gallery, performing the music of George Gershwin, Cole Porter and Irving Berlin. Internationally, Ms. Lopez has performed in Italy and Austria, where she appeared as Susanna in *The Marriage of Figaro* and as the First Lady in *The Magic Flute*. In addition to her performing engagements, Ms. Lopez is presently a member of the voice faculty of Northern Virginia Community College (Alexandria Campus), Frederick Community College in Frederick, Maryland and Montgomery County Community College.



### **Therese LaGoe**

Soprano Therese LaGoe, a long-term member of the NOVA Community Chorus, received her vocal training at Northern Virginia Community College. She has frequently performed as a soloist with the

Chorus, including recent joint performances with the WMPO of Brahms' *German Requiem*, Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass* and Vivaldi's *Gloria*, among others. She also performs regularly as a member of Philomela, a 13-voice women's chamber ensemble, and as soprano soloist/section leader at Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill in Alexandria.

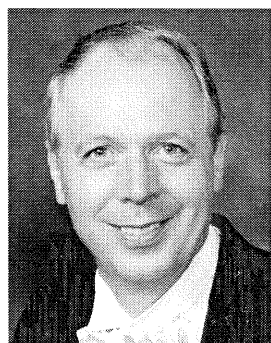


### **Grace Gori**

Mezzo-soprano Grace Gori, is an acclaimed performer in both the concert and operatic repertoire. Her opera credits include Carmen with the Eldbrooke Artists Series, Cherubino in Annapolis Opera's *The Marriage*

*of Figaro*, Tessa in *The Gondoliers* with the Washington Savoyards, and Dorabella in *Così fan tutte goes Hollywood* and the Third Lady in a lively, updated production of Mozart's

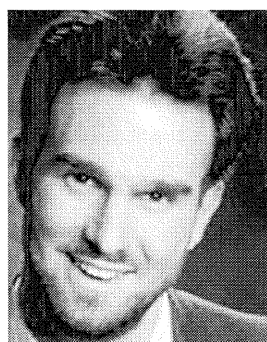
*The Magic Flute* with the In Series. A 1994 graduate of the University of Maryland's Maryland Opera Studio, Ms. Gori earned her Bachelor's degree at the Indiana University School of Music in Bloomington, Indiana, and was a student at the Munich, Germany, Hochschule für Musik during 1990 and 1991. Ms. Gori has been a featured soloist with the Cathedral Choral Society, the New Dominion Chorale, the Washington Bach Consort Noon Cantata Series, the McLean Choral Society and the Washington Women's Chorus. In 1999-2000, she made her solo debut at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall with the Master Chorale of Washington and, in 2004, Ms. Gori sang her first role with the Washington National Opera as the Third Madrigale in Puccini's *Manon Lescaut*. Last December, she returned to the Kennedy Center Concert Hall as the mezzo soloist in the Holiday Celebration *Messiah* Sing-Along concert. Last season, Ms. Gori appeared in the InSeries' production Mozart's *Leading Ladies* and as La Ciesca in the American Center for Puccini Studies' concert production of *Gianni Schicchi*. In addition to her performing career, she is on faculty at the Washington Conservatory of Music and maintains an active private voice studio in Kensington, Maryland.



### Jon Lackey

Tenor Jon Lackey's extensive music career has included a full-time position as tenor soloist with the United States Air Force Band and Singing Sergeants in Washington, D.C., and positions as resident tenor soloist for prominent church congregations in Seattle, Washington, D.C., and Paris, France. He has appeared as a guest artist with numerous symphony orchestras including L'Orchestre de Bordeaux, the Seattle Symphony, the Tacoma Symphony, the Arlington Symphony, and the Williamsburg Symphony. In addition to performing, Mr. Lackey is active as a voice teacher and guest lecturer.

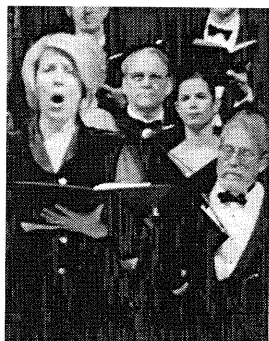
He is currently teaching on the voice faculty of Northern Virginia Community College, and serves as Minister of Music and Organist at Graham Road UMC in Falls Church, Virginia. He was formerly on the music faculty of Pacific Lutheran University and taught music courses as a guest lecturer at the American College in Paris.



### Aurelius Gori

Baritone Aurelius Gori is an acclaimed soloist and recitalist based in Washington, D.C., whose singing has been hailed as "splendidly lyrical" by the Washington Post. A 1990-91 Fulbright scholar, he studied at

the Hochschule für Musik in Munich and was a 1991 semifinalist in the International Belvedere Competition in Vienna shortly before returning to the University of Maryland to complete his Doctorate. Dr. Gori has appeared as a soloist with the National Symphony Orchestra, the Fairfax Symphony, the Amherst (New York) Symphony and the North York Symphony in Toronto, Canada. He has performed with numerous local choral societies including many performances with the NOVA Community Chorus, including the baritone solos in a gala performance of Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* at the dedication of the Rachel Schlesinger Performing Arts Center in Alexandria, Virginia. Although he has sung many concert and operatic roles, his deepest musical love is for the art song, and in this medium he premiered several compositions by his friend American composer, Marshall Ocker (1926-2004) including *Trilogy for Baritone* on the Vienna Modern Masters label (VMM 2030). He maintains a large voice studio, and is currently on the faculties of Frederick Community College, Northern Virginia Community College-Alexandria and Washington Bible College in Lanham, Maryland. He feels especially privileged when granted the opportunity to perform with his wife, mezzo-soprano Grace Gori.



## The NOVA Community Chorus

The NOVA Community Chorus, an 80-voice ensemble directed by Dr. Mark Whitmire, combines singers from the NVCC Music Program and the surrounding community. The chorus has distin-

guished itself both locally and internationally. It performs regularly at the Schlesinger

Center with the Alexandria Campus Band, the Alexandria Symphony, and the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic.

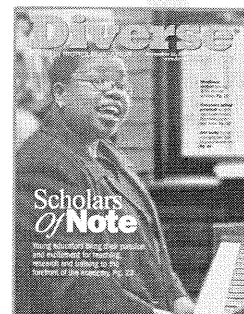
Special engagements in recent years have included Carnegie Hall, the Lincoln Center, and the National Theater. The chorus toured Spain and performed at the 1992 World's Fair in Seville. Invited to perform at Gloucester Cathedral's Evensong Services, the chorus traveled to England in 2003. (information taken from <http://www.nvcc.edu/novachorus>)

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