

9-13-2012

Guest Artist Recital: Alessandro Cervo and Nyela Basney

Alessandro Cervo, Violin

Nyela Basney, Piano

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Nyela Basney, best known as a conductor, earned her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in piano performance, with highest distinction, from the Eastman School of Music. She is currently founder and director of the international chamber music festival in Italy, Orvieto Musica, and Artistic Director of Opera at North Park University in Chicago.

This past season Miss Basney went to Bosnia to conduct the Sarajevo Philharmonic in Zeniça and led Opera Tascabile's performances of Mozart's *Don Giovanni* in Italy. After her recent debut with Chicago's Light Opera Works, Chris Jones of the Chicago Tribune mentioned ". . . the striking and lively baton of Nyela Basney, who shapes this orchestra rather more theatrically and zestfully than has recently been the case . . ." In the Fall of 2010 she led a performance of Beethoven's 9th Symphony with the Allegro Chorale and Orchestra in Texas and conducted the world premiere of the opera *Persuasion* with Chamber Opera Chicago in September, 2011.

Miss Basney was Music Director of the Midland-Odessa Orchestra and Chorale in the early 2000's with whom she led Masterworks, Pops, Tiny Tots, headliner, run-out and educational concerts. Before that she was Associate Conductor of the Shreveport Symphony Orchestra where she conducted over 60 performances a season. As a guest conductor she has led concerts with the Virginia Symphony, the Toledo Symphony, the Great Falls Symphony, and the Springfield (MA) Symphony. She conducted a gala benefit concert with soprano Renée Fleming and members of the Rochester Philharmonic and has covered concerts for John Nelson with the National Symphony, and Andrew Litton with the Dallas Symphony at Carnegie Hall. She was Assistant Conductor with the American Symphony Concert for three years where she led concerts at Lincoln Center featuring Peter Schickele. She has also conducted Voices of Change in Dallas, and served as Principal Conductor of the Massapequa Philharmonic.

Nyela was Associate Conductor of El Paso Opera from 2001-2008 and guest conducted Benjamin Britten's *The Rape of Lucretia* at Colorado State University in the Fall of 2007. She began her conducting studies with Vincent La Selva, "the best Verdi and Puccini conductor living today" (*Opera Magazine*) when she was a staff pianist at the Juilliard School. He appointed her Assistant Conductor and Chorus Master of the New York Grand Opera with whom she participated in 18 productions.

**Illinois State University
College of Fine Arts
School of Music**

Guest Artist Series

Alessandro Cervo, Violin
Nyela Basney, Piano

**Kemp Recital Hall
September 13, 2012
Thursday Evening
8:00 p.m.**

This is the sixth program of the 2012-2013 season.

Program

Please turn off cell phones and pagers for the duration of the concert. Thank you.

Sonata in E Minor, K. 304 Allegro Tempo di Minuetto	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)
Sonata in A Major, Op. 100 Allegro amabile Andante tranquillo – Vivace Allegretto grazioso (quasi Andante)	Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)
from <i>Thaïs</i> Meditation	Jules Massenet (1842-1912)
Praeludium and Allegro in the style of Pugnani	Fritz Kreisler (1875-1962)

About the Artists



Alessandro Cervo is well known as a soloist, concertmaster, chamber musician and recording artist throughout Italy, across Europe and in 11 other countries in Asia, and in North and South America.

Born in Naples in 1974 he graduated with highest honors from the Conservatory “L. Refice” of Forsinone, where he studied with Giulio Franzetti (former concertmaster of the orchestra of Teatro alla Scala and former first violinist with the Quartetto di Milano), Giusto Cappone (former principal violist with the Berlin Philharmonic),

Gabriele Pieranunzi and Leon Spierer (former concertmaster of the Berlin Philharmonic). Mr. Cervo has served as concertmaster of several orchestras, among them the “Orchestra Sinfonica di Roma” of the Cassa di Risparmio Foundation (from 2003-2006); the “Haydn Symphony” of Bolzano and Trento, the “Orchestra del Teatro Lirico” of Cagliari, the “International Orchestra of Italy” and the “New Scarlatti Orchestra” of Naples, with whom he has also often performed as a concerto soloist.

In his capacity as concertmaster Mr. Cervo has been heard as a soloist in much of the standard repertoire, including in performances of the Strauss tone poems: “Ein Heldenleben”, “Also Sprach Zarathustra” and “Don Quixote”. He has also served as concertmaster of the orchestra of the “Teatro Marrucino” in Chieti and, since 2010, as the concertmaster of the “Philharmonic Orchestra Marchigiana.” For the 2007-2008 season, he was an invited member of the first violin section of the “Orchestra del Teatro Massimo” of Palermo.

Mr. Cervo is a violinist with the “Filarmonici di Roma” (the resident chamber orchestra of the Conservatory of Santa Cecilia) with whom he has appeared as a soloist in well-known venues such as the “Sala Tchaikovsky” in Moscow and the “Opera Theatre of Rome”. He has performed across Europe, China, Malaysia, Korea, Thailand, Russia, the United States, Cuba, Brazil, Ecuador, Venezuela and Jordan. He was the founder and first concertmaster of the chamber orchestra “XXI secolo” in Viterbo from 1996 to 2001.

As a soloist, Mr. Cervo has given the world premieres of works by Aldo Clementi, Sylvano Bussotti, Francesco Pennisi, Luis de Pablo, Fabrizio Festa and Raffaele Bellafronte. Fabrizio Bastianini dedicated his concerto for violin, piano and orchestra to Mr. Cervo who premiered it with the Orchestra Sinfonica of Rome.

As a recording artist, Mr. Cervo has made recordings for Ricordi, Universal, Amadeus, Sheva, Egea and Dinamic. He has led postgraduate courses in violin performance, as a master teacher for Spazio Musica of Orvieto, for the Conservatory in Fermo and for the performer’s certificate program in Saluzzo. He has also given master classes in Brasilia, for Orvieto Musica and at Roosevelt University in Chicago. Active also as a chamber musician in various groups and principally with the Bottesini Quintet, he has performed live on euroRai at the Quirinale, and in prestigious venues like the Parco della Musica di Roma, and at the Art Institute in Chicago. In Washington, D.C. he performed at the invitation of Italian President Giorgio Napolitano.

In concert Mr. Cervo alternates the instruments he plays, among them a “Stefano Scarampella” of 1904, an “Antonio Gragnani” of 1776 and a “Bernardo Calcanius” of 1737.

(Continued on the back of the program)