

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL USA

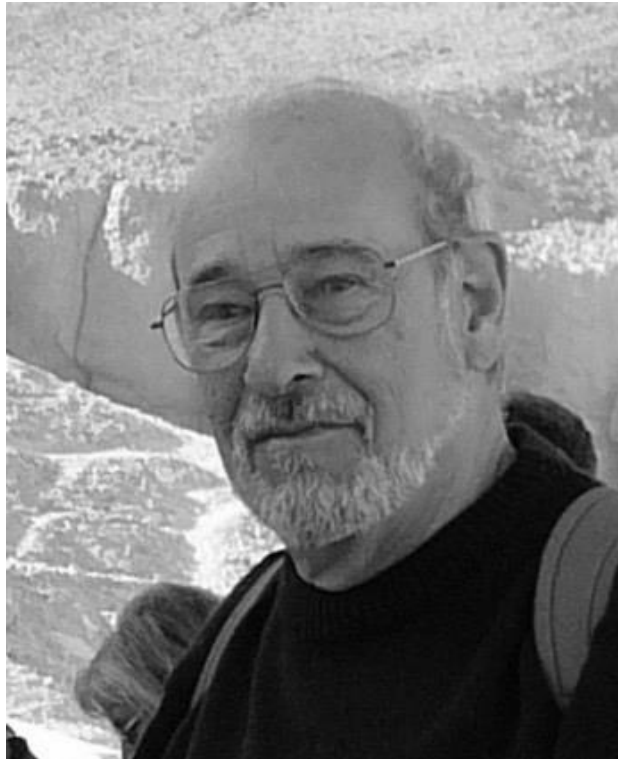
GROUP 11

44th Annual Benefit Concert

Sunday, December 8, 2019 at 3 PM
Christ & St. Stephen's Church
120 West 69th Street, NYC

Marcia Eckert, piano
Jesse Goldberg, piano
Nicholas Kaponyas, piano
Claude Lévy, conductor
Zachary Marzulli, double bass
Alex Morano, clarinet
Riley Palmer, percussion
Michael Raposo, clarinet

CantaNYC
Amnesty Group 11 Singers



Steve Abrams (1928-2019)

Steve joined Amnesty International in 1978 drawn by the organization's positive, effective grassroots approach to human rights and support for prisoners of conscience. Steve's participation in AI was a highlight of his life, giving him the opportunity to contribute both his ethical perspectives and his financial skills in the service of Amnesty's work. For four decades, he was an active member of his beloved, vibrant Group 11, which was one of the first groups in AIUSA.

Steve's enthusiasm for activism was boundless. In fact, only one week before his death, he participated with Group 11 in a demonstration in front of the Iranian UN mission on behalf of a prisoner of conscience. Throughout the years, he joined committees, served on the AIUSA board, and was International Treasurer for six years. In all of these roles, he continually advocated for Amnesty to maintain a focus on its original mandate of service to prisoners of conscience through member activism. He was a full-voiced participant in regional, national and international meetings.

As much as Steve gave, he also got. He heralded Amnesty's accomplishments in conversations with family and friends more than any other topic. In his international role, he traveled around the world, made lifelong friends, and finally succumbed to peer pressure at a gathering in Europe and learned how to dance in public. Steve celebrated, and did his best to nurture, the way Amnesty inspired people to gather, to speak out, to write truth to power, and to effect change nonviolently. Now, we get to celebrate him.

Program

Danzas argentinas -

Alberto Ginastera

- I. Danza del viejo boyero (Dance of the Old Herdsman)
 - II. Danza de la moza donosa (Dance of the Beautiful Maiden)
 - III. Danza del gaucho matrero (Dance of the Outlaw Gaucho)
- Nicholas Kaponyas, piano

Sonate pour deux clarinettes

Francis Poulenc

Presto
Andante
Vif

Michael Raposo, Bb Clarinet
Alex Morano, A Clarinet

Piazone

Alexej Gerassimez

Jesse Goldberg, piano
Riley Palmer, vibraphone

Intermission

Human Rights, (2012)

Antoine Miannay

1. All Human Beings are Equal in Dignity and Rights
2. Everyone has the Right to Life
3. No One Shall be Held in Slavery or Servitude
4. Instrumental
5. Everyone has the Right to Freedom of Thought
6. Everyone has the Right to Enjoy Asylum
7. Instrumental
8. Everyone has the Right to Education
9. Everyone has the Right to Health
10. Instrumental
11. All Human Beings are Equal in Dignity and Rights

CantaNYC and Amnesty Group 11 Singers
Claude Lévy, conductor
Marcia Eckert, piano
Zachary Marzulli, double bass
Riley Palmer, percussion
Michael Raposo, clarinets

Chorus

Sopranos

Alice Bednarchik
Ulrike Klopfer
Monica Kuth
Carol Flamm Reingold
Judy Sterio

Tenors

Ginny Abrams
Conor Cashel
Ross French
Tom Haller
Kim Parker

Altos

DeeAnne Gorman
Peg Haller
Virginia Kaycoff
Anne Kostick
Christie Robbins
Deborah Spencer
Holly Weiss

Basses

Richard Haas
Dean Rainey
Tom Reingold
Sig Rosen
Henry Yen

Human Rights

Text: Excerpts from the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights

1. All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.
2. Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.
3. No one shall be held in slavery or servitude.
5. Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.
6. Everyone has the right to enjoy asylum.
8. Everyone has the right to education. Everyone has the right to enjoy the arts.
9. Everyone has the right to health. Everyone has the right to social security.
11. All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.

CantaNYC was founded in 2018 by Claude Lévy, to participate in David Lang's world premiere of Mile-Long Opera on the High Line in New York City. Since their first appearance, CantaNYC has sought to perform progressive and eclectic music, both contemporary and classic. They performed the U.S. premiere of Antoine Miannay's *Human Rights* in June 2019, which they are delighted to reprise for you today.

The **Amnesty Group 11 Singers** are a dedicated group of experienced choristers who have come together for this performance.

Marcia Eckert is active as a collaborative artist and has appeared in the Mostly Mozart Festival, as well as at Merkin, Alice Tully, and Weill concert halls, and London's Leighton House. She has recorded for the Cambria, Leonarda and Ravello labels. Ms Eckert has partnered with Cori Ellison, Lucy Shelton, Daniel Sommer, Timothy Merton and Ruth Ehrlich and performs regularly with Trio della Luna and the Eckert/Gilwood (piano) Duo. Ms. Eckert has been referred to as "a pianist of impressive skill and sensitivity, the sort of keyboard collaborator that every instrumentalist dreams of" (Scott Cantrell, *Albany Times-Union*). She has taught at Mannes since 1983 and is the founder/director of Pianophoria!, a summer piano intensive in New York City. Ms. Eckert holds degrees in Piano Performance from Indiana University School of Music and SUNY StonyBrook. Her teachers have included Jorge Bolet, Gilbert Kalish, Claude Frank, William Masselos and Seymour Bernstein. This is her fourth year producing the Amnesty International USA Group 11 benefit concert.

Jesse Goldberg is a passionate collaborative pianist, educator, and administrator based in NYC. Jesse received a BA from Bard College in 2015, completed an Artists Certificate in Collaborative Piano at Bard's Conservatory in 2017, and received her Masters in Collaborative Piano from Mannes School of Music in 2019. Jesse accompanies both singers and instrumentalists, and also enjoys working with composers in the new music scene. In this capacity she has premiered several song cycles at festivals such as Fordham Lincoln Center's Voices Up Festival and the Mannes Sounds Festival. She was a founding member of a New Music Collective at Bard College and premiered instrumental works at SUNY Purchase, Bard College, and other such venues in the Hudson Valley region. Jesse has performed collaboratively at venues such as the German Consulate, the Czech Cultural Center, the Roxbury Arts Group, Carnegie Hall, the Fisher Center, and in theaters around Italy and Greece. She is the Assistant Director of Mannes Prep.

Nicholas Alexander Kaponyas is a Polish-American pianist born in 1999. He began his piano studies at age four, and studied with Bozena Konkiel, Richard Shirk, Golda Tatz, Martin Labazevitch and Marcia Eckert. He won the Mannes Prep concerto competition in 2016 and has also won prizes in a competition in Naleczow, Poland. Kaponyas has participated in masterclasses with Seymour Bernstein, Andrzej Jasinski, Ewa Poblocka, Anna Gorecka, Wojciech Switala, Jerzy Sterczynski, Anna Malikova, Victor Rosenbaum, and Sofya Gulyak. Nicholas has performed as soloist and collaborative pianist in venues such as the Polish Consulate of New York, Kosciuszko Foundation, Tenri Cultural Institute, the New School, the Polish and Slavic Center, and Steinway Hall, as well as in Puerto Rico and Poland. Kaponyas also takes great pride in being involved with the Polish-American community and performs at many of their events. Currently he studies piano performance with Eteri Andjaparidze at the Mannes School of Music.

Claude Lévy, choral conductor and former music teacher, founded La Cantarela, an award-winning chorus, in his hometown of Béziers, France. He has conducted very diverse repertoire ranging from Renaissance chanson to 21st century premieres, focusing on major oratorio works. Based in New York since 2013, Mr Lévy has sung with, conducted, or accompanied the Canby Singers Essential Voices USA, the Cecilia Chorus of New York, the Friday Night Sight Singing Group, Barnard-Columbia Chorus, and Renaissance Street Singers. He is currently the Artistic Director of the Renaissance Chorus Association, for which he will conduct A Tudor's Christmas. His interest in 21st century music has resulted in his conducting premieres by David Lang and John Luther Adams at the Mostly Mozart Festival and for the High-Line Mile Long Opera. Mr Lévy was initially trained as a pianist by a former student of Alfred Cortot, and also enjoys playing recorder and the cello. He is proud of having been Antoine Miannay's mentor, and commissioned him with *Human Rights*, which he premiered in France in 2012 and in New York in June, 2019, with CantaNYC.

Zachary Marzulli is a bassist in the studio of Timothy Cobb at the Juilliard School. He graduated from the Juilliard Pre College Division in 2017 under the guidance of Eugene Levinson, and was accepted into the class of 2021. Mr. Marzulli is a recipient of the Homer & Constance Mensch

Scholarship in Double Bass and the Fred Zimmerman Memorial Scholarship. As a champion of new music, Mr. Marzulli regularly performs new works with Juilliard's AXIOM ensemble as well as the New Juilliard Ensemble. In May of 2019, Mr. Marzulli was accepted to Juilliard's Gluck Community Service Fellowship, which brings interactive performances to healthcare facilities and other community based organizations in New York City. In July 2019, Mr. Marzulli traveled to London as part of the Juilliard Orchestra and performed with musicians from the Royal Academy of Music at Snape Malting Concert Hall and the prestigious BBC Proms at Royal Albert Hall.

Alex Morano is a clarinetist born and raised in New York City. He is an avid orchestral musician and is involved in a variety of additional musical endeavors including studio work, chamber and contemporary music, and popular music. He plays regularly with the NYC chamber collective Canta Libre, and he is a founding member of the New Orleans based contemporary group Versipel New Music. Other notable appearances include French Quarter Festival, the Zodiac Music Academy and Festival, and the National Opera Association Annual Festival/Convention. Alex earned his Bachelor's degree in clarinet performance from Loyola University New Orleans and a Master's degree in clarinet performance from New York University. He is an active educator and maintains a studio of private students in the NYC area.

Riley Palmer is a percussionist and drummer based in New York City. As a passionate creator and collaborator, Riley performs actively as a chamber musician, dance accompanist, orchestral percussionist, and as a drummer in musical theater pits. As a percussionist he has premiered numerous works by his colleagues in New York in venues around the city, and at festivals such as Bang On A Can and Atlantic Music Festival. He has performed with orchestras in Alice Tully Hall, Washington D.C.'s Constitution Hall, and Detroit's Orchestra Hall. Riley's dance collaborations have included working with Martha Graham Dance Company at City Center, Mark Morris Dance, and the University of Michigan Dance Dept, and he is a faculty accompanist at Ballet Hispanico. Riley maintains a private teaching studio in New York, and holds degrees from Eastman School of Music, University of Michigan, and Mannes School of Music.

Michael Raposo is a multiple-woodwind instrumentalist and educator. He leads a diverse musical life and performs regularly in a wide variety of genres, including commercial music, chamber music, and concert settings. Raposo has held woodwind chairs at various regional theaters and he also had the privilege of playing the low reed chair in concert with Aretha Franklin. He frequently subs with the Swingadelic Big Band at Swing 46. Raposo holds the baritone saxophone chair with the award winning Resurgam Quartet (www.resurgamquartet.com). He has performed concerts across the U.S. and has been featured as a concerto soloist with the Tri-County Symphonic Band and the Hartt Wind Ensemble. Raposo is excited to be joining the Hartford Symphony on their 2020 season for a performance of Philip Glass' Concerto for Saxophone quartet and Orchestra. Raposo serves on the faculty of University of Hartford's Hartt School of Music and Grace Church School. He co-curates the Variousound Sessions, a forward thinking chamber music series in Brooklyn, NY.

Formed in 2018, the **Zaffre Duo** was created by **Collaborative Pianist Jesse Goldberg** and **Percussionist/Drummer Riley Palmer** while they completed their Masters Degrees at Mannes School of Music. The duo, named after the oldest shade of blue known to man, focuses on balancing new music with more familiar repertoire to engage a wide range of audiences. They have commissioned many new works for their group, and are excited to perform many premieres in 2020. Programming new works juxtaposed with more familiar and popular rhythms and styles gives the Zaffre Duo a unique place in the current New Music Scene, and they strive to familiarize today's audiences with the wealth of repertoire being produced by talented living composers.