



Chopin Club
Providence, Rhode Island

137th Anniversary Season

Sunday, April 10, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.
Greetings from: Barbara Speer, President

Mary K. Hail Music Mansion
Providence, Rhode Island

Program

Sonata in C minor, K. 303.....Domenico Scarlatti (1685-1757)
Sonata in A major, K. 39.....Domenico Scarlatti
Symphony no. 6 (“Pastoral”).....L. van Beethoven (1770-1827)
Allegro ma non troppo --Arr. by Franz Liszt (1811-1886)
“Awakening of cheerful feelings upon arrival in the country”

Benjamin Nacar, piano

First Concertino for Clarinet and Piano.....Georges Guilhaud (1851-19??)
Moderato
Andante
Allegretto

Three Preludes for Clarinet and Piano.....George Gershwin (1898-1937)
Allegro ben ritmato e deciso
Andante con moto e poco rubato
Allegro ben ritmato e deciso

Stephan Valk, clarinet
Faye Maris, piano

Beguine the Beguine from *Jubilee*.....Cole Porter (1894-1964)
Los pajaros perdidos.....Astor Piazzolla (1929-1992)
Granada.....Austin Lara (1900-1970)
Siboney.....Ernesto Lecuona (1895-1963)
Samba-Classico.....Heitor Villa-Lobos (1878-1965)

René de la Garza, baritone*
Cheryl Casola, piano*

*designates guest

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Program Chair: Emily Anthony *Stage Manager:* Jacky Yang

Hospitality Committee:

Co-Chairpersons: Mimi and Jim DeCesaris

Deborah Concannon, Masako Fidler, Carol Greifer,

Joan Lusk, Jane Rankin, Rebecca Rosier, Lorraine Yaghoobian, Linda Zambrano
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*The Chopin Club wishes to acknowledge the ongoing support of the
Friends of the Mary K. Hail Music Mansion for its programs.*

Next Musicale: Sunday, May 15, 2016, President’s Day, at 2:00 pm • Mary K. Hail Music Mansion

The Chopin Club is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

www.chopinclub.org

ABOUT THE PERFORMERS

Pianist **Benjamin Nacar** is a Rhode Island native and a graduate of Brown University (Class of 2012, Computer Science and Classics). He gives solo recitals around the Providence area and frequently collaborates with Brown string and voice students and with professional musicians. He has played the last three Beethoven sonatas at RISD and at Brown's Cogut Center for the Humanities. In 2014, he appeared with the directors of the Newport String Project in a fundraiser concert featuring Stravinsky and Brahms. One of Benjamin's projects was a March 2014 concert program featuring some of his own compositions for piano and string instruments.

Stephen Valk (Clarinet) is currently the Principal Clarinetist of the American Band, a concert band that performs at venues throughout the state of RI and the surrounding area. He is a former student of Stephen Freeman (NY Philharmonic), Herb Blayman (Metropolitan Opera Orchestra), and Alex Williams (NBC Symphony). He has been a member of various orchestras, wind ensembles, and chamber groups. Steve resides with his wife, clarinetist Charlene (Welch) Valk, and their three musical children. He is employed by Raytheon Company as a system engineering manager and project engineer.

Pianist **Faye Maris**, an active member of the Chopin, Chaminade, Henschel and Schubert Music Clubs, taught piano lessons at her private studio for many years and accompanied soloists and choirs at Providence College and Brown University. She studied music literature, piano performance and piano pedagogy at various institutions and studied privately with Marilyn Neher and Dwight Peltzer. She continues to perform as a chamber musician and a vocal and instrumental accompanist.

Baritone **René de la Garza** has sung with the Rhode Island Philharmonic, The New Haven Symphony, The Albany Symphony and the Schenectady Symphony. His operatic roles include Scarpia in *Tosca*, Germont in *La Traviata*, Figaro in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* and Prince Tarquinius in *The Rape of Lucretia*. In Oratorio, he has sung the title role in Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, the baritone solos in Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Jesus in Bach's *St. John's Passion* with the Providence Singers and the baritone solos in Britten's *War Requiem*. In recital, he has appeared at the Kennedy Center, Bangkok, Thailand and Barcelona, Spain. Most recently he has appeared in a performance of Geoffrey Gibb's opera *Sprague and His Women*. He is on the voice faculty at the University of Rhode Island where he directs the opera program and at Rhode Island College where he co-directs the Opera Workshop and teaches voice. For the past four years, he has been the Artistic Director of Opera Providence. René wishes to thank the Chopin Club for inviting him to perform on today's program and to Cheryl Casola for sharing her considerable talent with him and our audience.

Cheryl Casola, pianist, is the Director of Music at Saint Peter's-by-the-Sea Episcopal Church in Narragansett, RI. She is also on the staff as a pianist at the University of Rhode Island. Her education includes a Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education from the University of Connecticut and a Masters of Music degree from the Hartt School of Music where she later served as an accompanist for vocal and instrumentalists and as a vocal coach. Before moving to Rhode Island, Cheryl enjoyed a career as a church musician and music educator in Connecticut.