



Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra

William Whitson founder



Benjamin Simon music director

Kris Yenney director of SuperStrings and Preparatory Orchestras

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PALO ALTO CHAMBER ORCHESTRA 44th SEASON FINAL CONCERT
Made in the Americas: Chris Froh, marimba & Tom Yaron, violin
Benjamin Simon, Conductor

DATE/TIME: Saturday, June 5, 2010, 8:00 p.m.

PLACE: Los Altos High School - Eagle Theater
201 Almond Avenue
Los Altos, CA 94022

PROGRAM: **William Grant Still** Danzas de Panama
Gabriella Smith: Lights, Fog, Winds, Grasses
[World Premiere: 2010 Youth for Youth Project commission]
Ney Rosauero Marimba Concerto
Chris Froh, marimba soloist
Astor Piazzolla "Autumn" and "Spring" from The Four Seasons of
Buenos Aires
Tom Yaron, violin soloist

TICKETS: \$15/general, \$5/senior and student

CONTACT: (650) 856-3848
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<http://www.pacomusic.org>

PALO ALTO, Calif., April 19, 2010 – From the sunny shores of the Caribbean to the dark alleys and tango joints of Argentina, our musical journey travels through the Americas, south and north. Our program features virtuoso percussionist Chris Froh performing the sizzling marimba concerto by Brazilian composer Ney Rosauero, dances from Panama and Astor Piazzolla's "Nuevo Tango" masterpiece. PACO will also be presenting the world premiere of our fifth annual Youth-for-Youth commission, a new work for string orchestra by Berkeley native Gabriella Smith. The concert, to be conducted by PACO Music Director Benjamin Simon, will take place on Saturday, June 5 at 8:00 p.m. at Eagle Theater of Los Altos High School, 201 Almond Avenue, Los Altos.

About the Artist



Allegra GABRIELLA Smith is a prolific young composer from the San Francisco Bay area of California who is now studying composition with David Ludwig at The Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia . She began composing on her own when she was 8. When she was 11, she began studying composition with pianist/composer Arkadi Serper of the Crowden School in Berkeley . Before



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beginning her studies at Curtis, she also studied with composer Yiorgos Vassiladonakis and had several lessons with composer John Adams.

Her first orchestra piece, *Dances of the Isuan Interval*, was performed by Kent Nagano, George Thomson, and the Berkeley Symphony in an Under Construction concert in December 2006. In the fall of 2008, her *Somniballare* for cello, piano, and percussion was selected via competition by the San Francisco new music ensemble ADORNO for performance on their ScoreXchange program for the 2008-2009 season.

Since the beginning of 2009, Gabriella has been named a winner in the 2009 ASCAP/Morton Gould Young Composer Competition, has received the First Place Prize in the 2009 Pacific Musical Society Composition Competition, and received Honorable Mention two years in a row (2009, 2010) in the New York Art Ensemble Young Composers' Competition. In addition to the wonderful opportunity to write a piece for the Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra and music director Benjamin Simon provided by their Youth-For-Youth commission, Gabriella also received a commission from Monadnock Music to write a new piece for the summer 2010 Monadnock Music Festival in New Hampshire. During the summer of 2009, she took part in the Young Artists Program at the Yellow Barn Music School and Festival where she studied with composer Stephen Coxe and guest composers Christopher Theofanidis and Melinda Wagner. During the summer of 2010, she will again be taking part in the Young Artists Program at the Yellow Barn Music School and Festival, and also in the Mondadnock Music Festival, the Aspen Music Festival, and the Lake Champlain Chamber Music Festival.

Gabriella has quite a long list of compositions to her credit, and her compositions have been performed in concert numerous times. (See her website at www.GabriellaSmith.com.) She is a member of American Composers Forum (ACF), Society of Composers Incorporated (SCI), National Association of Composers/USA (NACUSA), and ASCAP.

About the Soloists

Tom Yaron is a violinist and co-concertmaster of the Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra. He studied violin since age eight with Ms. Jenny Rudin and in 2009, began studying with Mr. Li Lin. In 2004, Tom joined the PACO's Debut Ensemble and has since won PACO's concerto competition in 2005 and 2009 and has also soloed with PACO's Sinfonia and Senior ensembles. As a member of PACO's upper orchestras, he has participated in PACO's annual summer chamber music workshop held in Aptos, CA. He also toured with the group annually to Ashland's Shakespeare festival in Oregon and in 2009 to the



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East Coast of the United States. In March 2010, Mr. Yaron was featured with the group on NPR's radio show "From the Top". Tom is currently a senior at Mountain View High School and will be attending the University of California at Santa Barbara in the fall of 2010 to study violin with Professor Yuval Yaron. When he's not rigorously practicing violin, Tom can be found at his computer, on a plane, or at the cinema.



Chris Froh is a member of the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players, the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra, and the Empyrean Ensemble at UC Davis. Known for energized performances hailed by the *San Francisco Chronicle* as "tremendous" and *San Francisco Classical Voice* as "mesmerizing," his solo appearances stretch from Rome to Tokyo to San Francisco. His critically acclaimed solo recordings can be heard on the Albany, Bridge, Equilibrium, and Innova labels.

A frequent collaborator with leading composers from across the globe, Froh has premiered works by dozens of composers, including John Adams, Chaya Czernowin, Liza Lim, David Lang, Keiko Abe, and Francois Paris. He tours Japan with marimbist Mayumi Hama and with his former teacher, marimba pioneer Keiko Abe. Solo festival appearances include the Festival Nuovi Spazi Musicali (Rome), the Festival of New American Music, Pacific Rim, and Other Minds. Active in music for theatre and dance, Froh has recorded scores for American Conservatory Theater, performed as a soloist with the Berkeley Repertory Theater, and composed original music for Oakland-based Dance Elixir. His score for the Harvard Museum of Natural History's exhibition of *Thoreau's Walden: A Journey in Photography* currently is touring the United States.

Equally committed to pedagogy, Froh mentors percussionists through UC Berkeley's *Young Musicians Program*. He is also a faculty member at UC Davis, where he directs the Samba School and Percussion Group Davis.

About PACO

Founded in 1966, the Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra is composed of the Bay Area's most talented musicians chosen by competitive auditions. The young musicians typically enter the PACO organization at the "Superstrings" level, moving up through the Preparatory, Debut, Sinfonia and Senior PACO orchestras. As being one of the few youth orchestras in the nation devoted



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exclusively to chamber music, PACO performs adventurous repertoires, features first class soloists, tours internationally and accomplishes frequent recordings. Appointed music director in 2002, violist Benjamin Simon has brought with him a new level of energy and creativity in directing PACO programs, while continuing its tradition of excellence in performance. For more information call 650-856-3848 or visit <http://www.pacomusic.org>.

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Public Service Announcement

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