



## Viva Viola!

FEATURING RITA PORFIRIS, GUEST VIOLIST

DR. JEFFREY SCHOYEN, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2015 HOLLOWAY HALL AUDITORIUM, 7:30 P.M.

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#### About the Artists

#### Rita Porforis

Always trying to bridge the gap between popular culture and classical music, violist Rita Porfiris has been the subject of articles and interviews in media across the globe including the New York Times, Chamber Music America, International Symphony Musician, the NBC Nightly News, NPR, PBS and the BBC. She has performed in major concert halls and music festivals worldwide and as a soloist has appeared with numerous orchestras including the Orquesta Filarmonica de la Ciudad de Mexico, the New World Symphony and was a featured soloist in the Houston Symphony's Baroque Festival.

Currently the associate professor of viola and director of chamber music at The Hartt School, she has also been on the faculties of New York University, the University of Houston Moores' School of Music, Florida International University and the Harlem School for the Arts in New York. She has given master classes, lectures and clinics across the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, Argentina, Brazil, Iceland and the Dominican Republic.

Porfiris is a member of the Hartt String Quartet and the Miller-Porfiris Duo. As a founding member of the Plymouth Quartet, she was in-residence at the Ojai Festival, Mainly Mozart, Point Counterpoint and the Internationale Quartettakademie Prag-Wien-Budapest. She was the recipient of Austria's prestigious Prix Mercure, a prize winner in the Fischoff Chamber Music Competition and the Primrose International Viola Competition, and a laureate of the Paolo Borciani International Quartet Competition.

In her former 20-year-long career as an orchestral musician, 15 years of which were spent with the Houston Symphony, she worked under some of the most recognized conductors of the 20th-21st centuries, including Leonard Bernstein, Sergiu Celibidache, Kurt Masur, Michael Tilson Thomas and Christoph Eschenbach.

Highlights of recent seasons include chamber concerts with Lynn Harrell, Joseph Kalichstein and Jamie Laredo; sold-out Bartok Concerto appearances at the historic Gewandhaus in Leipzig, Germany; and a performance of the rarely played Romantic Rhapsody for Violin, Viola and Orchestra by Arthur Benjamin with the Concert Artists of Baltimore as part of the Miller-Porfiris Duo.

Porfiris' transcriptions for the viola of both classical music staples and pop favorites have been enjoyed by audiences and performers from the U.S. to China. She received critical acclaim in the May 2014 issue of *Gramophone Magazine* for her transcription of Reinhold Gliere's *Eight Pieces Op. 39*, recorded on the Miller-Porfiris Duo's second CD *Eight Pieces* and released in fall 2013.

Porfiris received both her B.M. and M.M. in viola performance from The Juilliard School, studying with William Lincer. Other teachers and mentors have been Paul Doktor, Norbert Brainin and Harvey Shapiro.

#### Jeffrey Schoyen

Jeffrey Schoyen graduated with distinction from the New England Conservatory of Music where he was a student of Lawrence Lesser. He completed a D.M.A. at Stony Brook as a student of Timothy Eddy. Awards he has received include a National Endowment for the Arts Chamber Music Rural Residency Grant, Tanglewood Festival's Gustav Golden Award and a Frank Huntington Beebe Grant to study with the great cellist William Pleeth in London. Dr. Schoyen has extensive orchestral experience and has been a member of the Opera Orchestra of New York, Pittsburgh Opera Orchestra, Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra and principal cellist of the Filarmonica del Bajio in Mexico.

An active chamber musician and recitalist, Dr. Schoyen has given concerts throughout the United States, Germany, Mexico and Spain. His most recent recital tour included the cities of Cuenca and Guayaquil in Ecuador. Dr. Schoyen has taught at the University of Nebraska at Kearney and at the University of Dayton. He has presented conference lectures on topics ranging from Performance Practice to Kinesiology in String Playing.

His interest in conducting began at Tanglewood, where he was awarded cello fellowships playing under the guidance of conductors such as Bernstein, Ozawa and Masur. Since then he has attended conducting workshops in Madison, Chicago and Toronto. Having been the conductor of the Slidell Community Orchestra and the Kearney Area Symphony Orchestra, he is presently serving his ninth year as the music director of the Salisbury Symphony Orchestra. He has collaborated with artists such as Anton Miller, Charlotte Paulsen, Gary Louie, Dan Kamin, The Capitol Quartet and Dominic Armstrong. He is an associate professor at Salisbury University where he teaches cello and bass, and various other courses. During the summer, he serves on the faculty of Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp in Twin Lake, MI.

#### **Program Notes**

Suite for Viola and Small Orchestra, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) Vaughan Williams, who was very fond of the talented violist, Lionel Tertis, was led to write the Suite for viola and orchestra in 1934. The suite is comprised of eight short pieces. The first one is a calm Prelude in neo-Bachian style. The second, a Carol, is a folksy melody sweetly accompanied by the orchestra. The third is a rustic Christmas Dance and is followed by a Ballad that has an almost Finziesque lyricism that for moments brings to mind The Lark Ascending. The fifth piece is a Moto Perpetuo and the sixth is a Mussette, a languid dance punctuated in the background by a metallophone. The seventh is a Polka Mélancholique, and the eighth, an extraverted Gallop.

#### Irish Rhapsody, Victor Herbert (1859-1924)

Written in 1892, and commissioned by the Gaelic Society of America, Victor Herbert debuted his *Irish Rhapsody* on April 20, 1892. Upon hearing this piece, J.G. Huneker referred to Herbert as the "Irish Wagner." Its skillfully constructed and colorfully orchestrated medley of traditional airs alternates lyrical melodies and lively dances. The themes quoted include *All Those Endearing Young Charms*; *To Sadie's Eyes; Come O'er the Sea; Rich and Rare Were the Gems She Wore; Erin, Oh, Erin;* and *Gary Owen*. Toward the end, Herbert combines several themes together in an impressive demonstration of "learned" counterpoint.

This piece became so popular across the country that it literally was played to death, falling so far from favor that it disappeared for decades.

#### Music from Abdelazar, Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

Although opera made slow progress in 17th century England, music played an important part in the theatre. Plays invariably included not only songs, but also short orchestral pieces to call the audiences' attention to the start of the entertainment. It was a genre Purcell turned to only during the last five years of his life. Abdelazar (or The Moors Revenge) was one of the last plays for which Purcell composed incidental music. First staged in 1695, the year of Purcell's tragically early death at the age of 36, it was the work of Aphra Behn, one of several prominent women playwrights who contributed to the vital and frequently bawdy theatrical scene in Restoration England. The music Purcell composed for Abdelazar consists of nine pieces scored for strings and it is the Rondeau that has ensured enduring fame for an otherwise forgotten play and its largely neglected music, for this is the movement taken by Benjamin Britten as the theme on which he based his famous Variations and Fugue on a Theme of Purcell, more popularly known as The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra.

Molly On The Shore & Shepherd's Hey, Percy Grainger (1882-1961)

Molly on the Shore is based on two Cork Reel tunes, "Temple Hill" and "Molly on the Shore," respectively Nos. 901 and 902, of *The Complete Petrie Collection of Ancient Irish Music* edited by Sir Charles Villiers Stanford, by whose permission they are used. Composed originally for string quartet and presented as a birthday present to his mother in 1907, Grainger also made arrangements of Molly on the Shore, at various times, for orchestra, wind band, pit band, violin and piano, and so on, called into existence less by the piece's immense popularity than by his democratic practice of "elastic scoring," which sought to make his music available to almost any instrument or combination of instruments. The upshot, in any version, is a miniature tone poem bristling with charm and animated by keen delight in physical movement.

Shepherd's Hey is one of the best known and most often performed of the early folk songs of which Grainger was preoccupied between the turn of the century and the beginning of World War I, as he pursued dual careers as concert pianist and composer in London. He was a meticulous collector of folk song in the field, not only in England but in Denmark and Norway as well – during the same years, incidentally, that Bartók and Kodály were scouring the Transylvanian wilds for folk melody. The tune of Shepherd's Hey had already been collected by Cecil Sharp, dean of the English folk song movement, which Grainger graciously acknowledges. The word "Hey" denotes a particular "step" while dancing. As was his practice, Grainger worked sporadically at the piano solo and full orchestra versions of Shepherd's Hey between 1908 and 1913. Shepherd's Hey is dedicated to the memory of Edvard Grieg, Grainger's friend and mentor, who died in 1907.

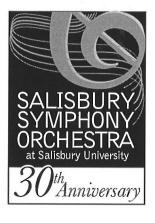
#### Romance for Viola and Orchestra, Max Bruch (1838-1920)

In his later life, Max Bruch focused on a project of writing for the lesser celebrated instruments, including the viola. One of his very last works was a compact musical gem, the *Romance for Viola and Orchestra*. Written in 1912, when composers around the world were taking music off in many strange new directions, this brief masterpiece remains true to Bruch's Romantic-era heritage. It is lyrical and reserved in style, but with a very intense expressiveness. This almost-unknown treasure remains true to Bruch's belief that the composer's primary goal should be to create beauty, for the audience to experience for itself.

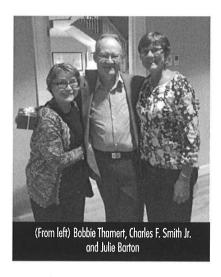
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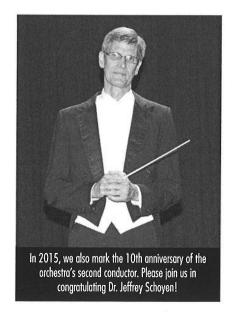
#### SALISBURY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AT SALISBURY UNIVERSITY

### 30th Anniversary



The 2015-16 SSO season is a monumental year for the Salisbury Symphony Orchestra in reaching the 30th anniversary of its existence and in celebrating the time and talents of our valued community players. The SSO has three veteran players (all with 30 years service) who have each helped in the artistic development of the orchestra over this entire lifespan. Recently honored at a reception, Julie Barton (oboe), Charles F. Smith Jr. (percussion) and Bobbie Thamert (violin) are pictured below. Other notable years of service to the SSO include: Debra Scott (clarinet) – 28 years, Ron Davis (trumpet) – 26 years and Susan Zimmer (flute and keyboard) – 26 years.





## Salisbury Symphony Orchestra **2015-2016 Concert Season**

### Mark Your Calendars!

- Home for the Holidays Annual Holiday Concert Dominic Armstrong, Tenor Saturday, December 12, 2015
  Holloway Hall Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
- American Celebration
  Capital Quartet
  Saturday, May 14, 2015
  Holloway Hall Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.



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### Dr. Jeffrey Schoyen, conductor

#### Violin I

Sachiho Murasugi\*
Concertmaster
Salvatore Amadeo
Jennifer Bertrand
Yijie Cheng
Kathleen Hogan
Victor Hsia
Haein Jung
Karen Niedfeldt
Annie Swigart
Bobbie Thamert

#### Violin II

Grace McKinnon\*
Paul Bagley
Kristin Bakkegard
Alaina Gostomski
Meri Holden
Sarah Mahmoud
Perri Smith
Erin Whitt

#### Viola

Karin Kilper\* Garnette Lang Trent McIntosh Jenel Waters

#### Cello

Martha Mancuso\*
Annelise Beer
Heather Butts
Jihea Choi
Kathy Ditlow
Kristilyn Friese
Sarabeth Taber-Miller

#### **Bass**

Ray Irving\* Adriane Irving Kyle Rollyson

#### Flute

Sally Hendon\* Ashley Palmer

#### Piccolo

Ashley Palmer

#### Oboe

Julie Barton\* Kellie Johnson

#### Clarinet

Debbie Scott\*
Scott Bunting

#### Bassoon

Paul Scott\* Ken Farley

#### Horn

Seth Friese\* Ken Dasher Meghan Rice Norm Smith

#### **Trumpet**

Ron Davis\*
William Williams

#### **Trombone**

Michael Devine\* Rob Beckey Kurt Ludwick

#### Tuba

John F. Scott\*

#### Percussion

Charles F. Smith Jr.\* Jeanne Feltes Michael Fitzgerald Cody Rausch

#### Harp

Zoe Coppola

#### Keyboard

Susan Zimmer

\*Principal

SSO Acting Librarian: Annie Swigart SSO Manager: Tammy Kilgore

#### **PROGRAM**

Overture Rondeau Prelude Christmas Dance Moto Perpetuo Musette Polka Melancolique Galop Rita Porfiris, viola Intermission Shepherd's Hey .......Percy Grainger Rita Porfiris, viola 

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### The following students received SSO Scholarship funds for the fall 2015 semester:

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