



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Chelsea Music Festival Announces Its Inaugural Album “Dancing with J.S. Bach”

New York City, June 2019— Chelsea Music Festival Records just released its inaugural album titled, “Eric Nathan: Dancing with J.S. Bach,” which showcases two newly created dance suites, comprised of various J.S. Bach keyboard works orchestrated by Eric Nathan (b.1983). The Chelsea Music Festival gave the first suite, commissioned by A Far Cry and composed in 2012, its New York Premiere; the second suite was commissioned by the Festival and its world premiere performance took place in June 2018 at the Festival. The commissioning of both suites was generously supported by Dr. Michael B. Sporn in memory of his wife, Kitte Sporn. Featured artists include oboist Amanda Hardy and Festival strings conducted by Ken-David Masur.

The first suite is scored for string soloists with string orchestra, and the second suite is for solo oboe and string orchestra. Nathan says, “I worked to imbue these orchestrations with a similar vibrancy that a pianist might bring to a solo performance of this repertoire.” He adds, “these suites celebrate Bach’s keyboard music from an orchestral vantage point and illuminate connections between movements Bach composed years apart. I have tried to honor Bach’s music while also realizing my own interpretations of his works. You may hear my own compositional voice come through subtly at times. You might think of it as a tip of the hat to Bach, from who I have learned so much as a composer.”



Composer **Eric Nathan** is a 2013 Rome Prize Fellow and 2014 Guggenheim Fellow, and has garnered acclaim internationally through performances by Andris Nelsons and the Boston Symphony Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra, Berlin Philharmonic’s Scharoun Ensemble, soprano Dawn Upshaw, violinist Jennifer Koh, at the New York Philharmonic’s 2014 and 2016 Biennials, and at the Tanglewood, Aspen, Aldeburgh, Cabrillo, Yellow Barn and MATA festivals. Nathan serves as Assistant Professor of Music in Composition-Theory at the Brown University Department of Music. He was Composer-in-Residence at the Chelsea Music Festival in 2013. www.ericnathanmusic.com



Amanda Hardy joined the Portland (ME) Symphony Orchestra as principal oboe in November 2013. She is principal oboe of the Boston Philharmonic and on the faculty of the Boston Conservatory at Berklee, the New England Conservatory (NEC) Preparatory School, and the University of Connecticut. As a recipient of the Gillet Scholarship and Tourjée Alumni Scholarship Award, Amanda studied with BSO principal oboist John Ferrillo at NEC, where she was winner of the 2010 Borromeo String Quartet Guest Artist Award Competition and soloed with the Boston Pops in Symphony Hall (2009). Her other teachers include Marilyn Zupnik and Jay Light. www.amandahardyoboe.com

Conductor and Grammy-nominated producer **Ken-David Masur** has been hailed as “fearless” [*SD Union Tribune*] and “a brilliant and commanding conductor” [*Leipziger Volkszeitung*]. Named the new Music Director of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Masur conducts at Verbier summer 2019 and returns to Tanglewood to lead events as part of Tanglewood Learning Institute’s opening season, as well as a program with the Boston Symphony and Joshua Bell. 2018/19 engagements included concerts with the National Philharmonic of Russia, Collegium Musicum Basel, Stavanger Symphony, and the Mulhouse Symphony Orchestra in France, Detroit Symphony and Chicago Civic Orchestra, where he led a Cerrone world premiere featuring Third Coast Percussion. WQXR named Masur’s recording of Gisle Kverndokk’s *Symphonic Dances* one of “The Best New Classical Releases of July 2018.” Masur graduated from Columbia University, where he served as first Music Director of the Bach Society Orchestra, building on his education as boy soprano in the Gewandhaus Children’s Chorus. www.ken-davidmasur.com

FESTIVAL STRINGS

Violin I | Nicholas DiEugenio, Jocelyn Zhu, Jonathan Ong, Nigel Armstrong, Soo Yeon Kim
Violin II | Dorothy Ro, Evelyn Petcher, Elizabeth Beck, Jeremy Kienbaum
Viola | William Frampton, Abigail Rojansky, Jesus Rodolfo Rodriguez
Cello | Joseph Lee, Angela Lee, Jonathan Dormand
Double Bass | Kaden Henderson, Mariya Andonova

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ABOUT THE CHELSEA MUSIC FESTIVAL

Hailed by *The New York Times* as a “gem of a series,” the Chelsea Music Festival exists to celebrate great music by bringing together world-leading musicians and exciting newcomers to the international stage. Inspired by its Chelsea roots, the Festival seeks to reflect the creativity gathered in one of New York City’s most dynamic neighborhoods by presenting site-specific programs that span musical genres ranging from classical to contemporary to jazz. With an emphasis on Festival-commissioned works, community outreach, and education, the Festival also exists to create a gateway to music through the exploration and interplay of art forms - specifically the musical, visual and culinary - alongside an intimate and thrilling Festival experience shared by artists and concert-goers alike.

The Chelsea Music Festival Artistic Directors are **Melinda Lee Masur** and **Ken-David Masur**.

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