

Hommage à Kurtág
Movses Pogossian, violon



“Hommage à Kurtág”

“Music for Food” Faculty recital and CD release by Movses Pogossian




The UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music
Department of Music presents

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by Movses Pogossian



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Monday, October 24, 7:30 PM
Schoenberg Hall



Being called by György Kurtág a member of his extended family is one of the most special honors of my life. I entered the wondrous universe of his music while learning the *Kafka Fragments* with soprano Tony Arnold and later workshoping it in Budapest with György and Márta - a fortuitous occurrence that forever changed us as musicians and humans. While working on *Signs, Games, and Messages* for the recording, I was once again struck by how connected many of them are to the *Kafka Fragments*, instantly transporting me to that unique world of naked nerves, symphonies that last one to two minutes, but also - and always - the ever-present heart.

I am very thankful to the four brilliant composers who join me in paying this tribute to Kurtág. I loved every moment of working with Gabriela Lena Frank, Jungyoon Wie, Kay Rhie, and Aida Shirazi - from "assigning" the miniatures via a fun raffle of sorts, to fine-tuning the interpretations of their wonderful pieces. A special gesture of gratitude goes to my dear friends **Elizabeth and Justus Schlichting**, who not only commissioned these tributes, but also lovingly contributed their stunning photo art, both to the CD booklet, and also for tonight's concert.

Sharing the stage with our fine Music Education students **Raina Markham, Kayla Lee, Emily Taylor, Yidan Sun, Yoosung Lee, Kayla Phan** as well as a distinguished alumnus

Sam Lorenzini, is a true joy. The noble cause of music education was at the core of the Hungarian music tradition, to which Bartók, Kodály, and Kurtág contributed tirelessly throughout their lives. I am also very grateful to the fabulous Scottish cellist **Neill Brown** for joining me in the Kodaly Duo, a piece that is a feast of music-making.

Music for Food is a concept and a project that is dear to my heart, because of its purity of intent, and a very direct way of addressing a very real problem of food insecurity in the richest country in the world. Please consider donating whatever you can, in order to support the food services of two vitally important Skid Row-based organizations: **Midnight Mission and Downtown Women's Center**. All the proceeds from "pay what you can" CD sales will benefit the cause.

Last, but not least, my sincere thanks go to everyone who was helpful with making the CD and this concert possible: **Luis Henao and Jose Carillo** (UCLA Theaters and Recording Studio), **Andrew McIntosh** (Producer), **Sergey Parfenov** (Recording Engineer), **Dan Lippel** (New Focus Recordings), **Marc Wolf** (designer), **Dan Krisher** (staff), Dean **Eileen Strempel** and the Herb Alpert School of Music **Faculty Opportunity Fund**.

- *Movses Pogossian*

PROGRAM

Béla Bartók (1881-1945)

Lakodalmas (Wedding Song)*

Béla Bartók

Mese (Fairy Tale)

György Kurtág (b. 1926)

Panaszos nóta**

Aida Shirazi (b. 1987)

Sign (World Premiere)***

György Kurtág

...féerie d'automne...

Béla Bartók

Párosító (Teasing Song)

Béla Bartók

Rutén kolomejka (Ruthenian Kolomejka)

Béla Bartók

Burleszk (Burlesque)

Béla Bartók

Menuetto

György Kurtág

Perpetuum Mobile

Kay Rhie (b. 1971)

Game (World Premiere)***

György Kurtág

The Carezza Jig

Béla Bartók

Pizzicato

Béla Bartók

Scherzo

Béla Bartók

Újévköszöntő (New Year's Song 3)

Béla Bartók

Rutén nóta (Ruthenian Song)

György Kurtág

Doloroso

Jungyoon Wie (b. 1990)

Message (World Premiere)***

György Kurtág

Kromatikus feleselős

Béla Bartók

Gyermekrengetéskor (Cradle Song)

Béla Bartók

Oláh tánc (Walachian Dance)

Béla Bartók

“Erdélyi” tánc (Transylvanian Dance)

Béla Bartók

Újévköszöntő (New Years Song 1)

György Kurtág

In memoriam Blum Tamás

Gabriela Lena Frank (b. 1972)

Melodia para Movses (World Premiere)***

György Kurtág In Nomine – all'ongharese

*Movses Pogossian, Raina Markham, Kayla Lee, Emily Taylor, Yidan Sun, Yoosung Lee, Sam Lorenzini, Kayla Phan, violins (in order of appearance)
William Schuman*

INTERMISSION

Zoltán Kodály (1882 - 1967)

Duo for Violin and Cello, Op. 7

1. Allegro serioso, non troppo
2. Adagio - Andante - Tempo I
3. Maestoso e largamente ma non troppo lento - Presto

Movses Pogossian, violin, Niall Brown, cello

Béla Bartók

Máramarosi tánc (Dance from Máramaros)**

Béla Bartók

Bánkódás (Sorrow)

Béla Bartók

Forgatós (Romanian Whirling Dance)

Violin 1: Movses Pogossian, Kayla Lee, Raina Markham, Emily Taylor,

Violin 2: Sam Lorenzini, Yoosung Lee, Kayla Phan, Yidan Sun

* all György Kurtág selections are from **Signs, Games, and Messages for solo violin**

** all Béla Bartók selections are from **44 Duos for Two Violins, Sz. 98, BB 104**

*** Generously commissioned by Elizabeth and Justus Schlichting

Music for Food is a musician-led initiative for local hunger relief. All concerts raise resources and awareness in the fight against hunger, empowering any musicians who wish to use their artistry to further social justice. Founded in 2010 by Grammy award-winning violist Kim Kashkashian, Music for Food has sent funds for over 1.8 million meals to hunger-relief organizations nationwide, with the volunteer participation of more than 160 artists and ensembles.

MUSIC for *Food*

ARTIST BIOS

Movses Pogossian (violin) made his American debut performing the Tchaikovsky Concerto with the Boston Pops at Symphony Hall in 1990, about which Richard Dyer of the Boston Globe wrote: "There is freedom in his playing, but also taste and discipline. It was a fiery, centered, and highly musical performance..." Movses Pogossian has since performed with orchestras such as the Brandenburger Symphoniker and the Halle Philharmonic in Germany, the Sudety Philharmonic in Poland, the Tucson Symphony, the El Paso Symphony, the Scandinavian Chamber Orchestra of New York, and the Toronto Sinfonia. His recent and upcoming performances include recitals in New York, Boston, Ann Arbor, and concerts in Korea, Japan, Germany, Canada, and Armenia. Pogossian was one of the 2016/17 Artist-in-Residence of the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, performing the Mansurian Concerto No. 2 at their season-opening concerts, conducted by Jeffrey Kahane. He is a Prizewinner of the 1986 Tchaikovsky International Competition, and the youngest-ever First Prize winner of the 1985 USSR National Violin Competition, previous winners of which included David Oistrakh and Gidon Kremer. A devoted chamber musician, Pogossian has performed with members of the Tokyo, Kronos, and Brentano string quartets, and with such artists as Kim Kashkashian, Jeremy Denk, Lynn Harrell, Ani and Ida Kavafian, and Rohan de Saram. He frequently collaborates with the Apple Hill Chamber Players, teaching annually at their summer music festival in New Hampshire. Movses Pogossian is the Artistic Director of the critically acclaimed Dilijan Chamber Music Series since 2005. A committed champion of new music, Pogossian has premiered over 100 works, and works closely with composers such as G. Kurtág, K. Saariaho, T. Mansurian, A. R. Thomas, P. Chihara, and Gabriela Lena Frank. His recently formed Duo with remarkable Japanese percussionist Kuniko Kato has commissioned several works for this unusual medium. In Los Angeles, Pogossian frequently performs on Monday Evening Concerts, and is the recipient of the 2011 Forte Award from Jacaranda, given for outstanding contributions to the promotion of new music and modern music. Pogossian's discography includes the Complete Sonatas and Partitas by J. S. Bach, solo violin CDs "Inspired by Bach", "Blooming Sounds", "In Nomine", and, most recently, "Homage à Kurtág" (2022). The Bridge Records CD of Complete Violin Works of Stefan Wolpe made the 2015 Top Ten list in Sunday Times (UK), and the 2020 releases of Armenian contemporary music: "Modulation Necklace" (New Focus Recordings) and "Con Anima" (ECM) have garnered critical acclaim. Upcoming releases include a Schoenberg/Webern DVD, recorded at Arnold Schoenberg's Brentwood home (with Kim Kashkashian, Rohan de Saram, and Judith Gordon), and a sequel to "Modulation Necklace". In his review of Kurtág's "Kafka Fragments" (with soprano Tony Arnold) Paul Griffiths

writes: "...remarkable is Pogossian's contribution, which is always beautiful, across a great range of colors and gestures, and always seems on the edge of speaking—or beyond." Since earning his advanced degrees from the Komitas Conservatory in Armenia and the Tchaikovsky Conservatory of Music in Moscow, Pogossian has held teaching positions at Bowling Green, Wayne State, SUNY Buffalo Universities, and is currently Professor of Violin at the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music and also Founding Director of the UCLA Armenian Music Program (schoolofmusic.ucla.edu/resources/armenian-music-program). His principal teachers were L. Zorian, V. Mokatsian, V. Klimov, and the legendary Louis Krasner. As Head of the Los Angeles Chapter, he actively participates in the Music for Food project (musicforfood.net) which raises awareness of the hunger problem and gives the opportunity to experience the powerful role music can play as a catalyst for change.

Completing his studies under the guidance of Maurice Gendron, William Pleeth, Ralph Kirshbaum, Radu Aldulescu, Robert Masters, Alberto Lysy and Nadia Boulanger, **cellist Niall Brown** has over the past 4 decades established himself as an internationally renowned cellist, chamber musician and pedagogue. As cellist of the prestigious Australian String Quartet, principal cellist of the Camerata Bern and the Scottish Ensemble, Niall toured the world performing in some of the most prestigious venues and festivals including the Wigmore Hall and Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, Carnegie Hall and Avery Fischer Centre, New York, Théâtre des Champs Elysées and Théâtre du Chatelet, Paris, Konzerthaus and Philharmonie, Berlin, Sydney Recital Hall and Melbourne Concert Hall, Australia, Teatro Colon, Buenos Aires, Argentina, Menuhin Festival, Gstaad and Semaine Internationale de Piano, Blonay, Switzerland, Sydney and Adelaide Festivals of the Arts, Australia, Festival Lysy, Buenos Aires, Argentina, Haydn Festival in Eisenstadt, Austria and Incontri in Terra di Siena in Italy collaborating with such artists as Lord Yehudi Menuhin, Nikita Magaloff, Janos Starker, Bruno Giuranna, Stephen Kovacevich, Paul Coker, Melvyn Tan, Edith Fischer, Alberto Lysy, Antonio Lysy, Prazac Quartet, Sine Nomine Quartet, Jesus Lopez Cobos, Thomas Furi and Milan Horvat. Since 1990, Niall partnered by pianist Isabelle Trüb has performed widely across the globe to enraptured audiences. Their recordings include the complete cello and piano works by Fauré and Schumann, the Sonatas of Brahms and collected works of Hindemith. In 2009 Niall founded the "Automne Musical d'Ollon" in Switzerland where Niall's passion for chamber music is evident in the programming of great masterpieces new and old. A committed pedagogue, Niall has been professor of cello and chamber music at the Elder Conservatorium of Music in Adelaide, Australia and the International Menuhin Music Academy in Switzerland as well as professor of chamber music

at the Conservatoire du Nord in Luxembourg and is regularly invited to give master classes in Europe, Asia, Australia, South America and the United States. In 2015 and again in 2022 he is invited as Visiting Professor at the UCLA in Los Angeles and has given classes in cello and chamber music at Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, Singapore, Elder Conservatorium of Music, Australia, National Chiao-Tung University, Taiwan and Utrecht Conservatory of Music, Holland. He also organizes the Internationale Meisterakademie für Kammermusik held annually in Germany. Living in Luxembourg, Niall combines the position of co-principal cellist of the Luxembourg Philharmonic Orchestra with his many chamber music and teaching commitments.

Kayla Lee, violin, is a Music Education Freshman studying with Margaret Lysy and Ji Young An.

Yoosung Lee, violin, is a Music Education Senior who studied with Margaret Lysy.

Violinist/Violist Sam Lorenzini, a native of Seal Beach, California, began studying violin at eight years old with Marcy Sudock. He has been the concertmaster of Musique Sur La Mer Youth Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra and has been a featured soloist both locally and abroad performing in numerous international venues, including the Wiener Musikverein in Vienna, the Mozarteum in Salzburg, the Sydney Opera House, and the Teatro Nacional in San Jose, Costa Rica. Sam received his Bachelor of Arts with an emphasis in Music Education from UCLA where he studied violin with Margaret Lysy. He then continued his education with a Master of Music degree in violin performance at the Bob Cole Conservatory at CSULB where he studied with Henry Gronnier. While pursuing this degree, Sam served violist in the University String Quartet where he had the opportunity to participate in an intensive chamber music project with Midori Goto during the winter and spring of 2016. The group had a series of outreach performances with Ms. Goto, performing Britten's 2nd String Quartet. In 2019, Sam returned to UCLA to serve as violist for the VEM String Quartet as part of the Armenian music program, while completing a second master's degree in viola performance under the tutelage of Che-Yen Chen. Currently, Sam is the Director of Orchestras at Lincoln Middle School in Santa Monica. Having spent the last decade as a performer and teacher in the area, Sam has a deep admiration for the musical community that exists on the west side and looks to inspire and enrich the musical lives of his students and audiences for years to come.

Raina Markham, violin, is a Music Education Junior studying with Margaret Lysy and Ji Young An.

Kayla Phan, age 21, is a violinist from Oakland, CA. She first started learning the violin at the age of 10 and is currently in her fourth year studying Violin Performance and Music Education at the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music with Varty Manouelian and Ji Young An. As a musician, she has played in numerous ensembles in Los Angeles and the Bay Area including community outreach groups through the UCLA Gluck Fellowship Program. She also works as a music educator teaching private lessons and coaching strings at summer music camps.

Yidan Sun, violin, is a Music Education and Music Performance Senior, studying with Varty Manouelian and Ji Young An.

Emily Taylor, violin, is a Music Education Sophomore studying with Margaret Lysy and Ji Young An.

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