



LOOKING FORWARD
MUSIC SEASON PREVIEW 2011-2012

SEPTEMBER 2011

ANDA UNION

SEPTEMBER 17-18

PEAK PERFORMANCES, ALEXANDER KASSER THEATER, MONTCLAIR, NJ

“From the Steppes to the City: A Celebration of Music from Inner Mongolia”

Times: 8pm (September 17); 3pm (September 18)

The mysterious history and bejeweled riches of Mongolian culture will be revealed and vividly celebrated through the haunting and joyous music of the nation that has been a crossroads of commercial and cultural exchange since the beginning of recorded time. AnDa Union, created to ensure the preservation and share the wealth of this artistic treasure trove, will present an evening of instrumental and vocal music, which includes the sounds of the *morin huur* (horse-headed fiddle), the double-sided Mongolian drum, Mongolian lute and power of *hoomai* (throat singing). A 2010 documentary that embodies the visual power and dramatic sweep of the Mongolian landscape and culture will be interwoven throughout the performance.

OCTOBER 2011

PIANO CIRCUS

OCTOBER 1

PEAK PERFORMANCES, ALEXANDER KASSER THEATER, MONTCLAIR, NJ

“Trilogies” (*Squiggle Zipper, Ebb Cast* and *Double Trio* by Colin Riley/Long, *Line, Loud* by Graham Fitkin)

Time: 8pm

Piano Circus, a sextet of pianists dedicated to new music, obviously cannot avoid a challenge. For its Peak Performances debut, the band of music adventurers will present the witty and provocative “Trilogies,” three pieces of music by Colin Riley and three by Graham Fitkin, which use six keyboards and two baby grands, visual art by William Simpson and Simon McCorry. The six cameras suspended from the ceiling, which project onto a giant screen, create “a choreography of hands.” Piano Circus began life 22 years ago when the musicians joined together to play Steve Reich’s “Six Pianos.”

MORE

NATIONAL CHAMBER CHOIR OF IRELAND

OCTOBER 16

PEAK PERFORMANCES, ALEXANDER KASSER THEATER, MONTCLAIR, NJ

Paul Hillier (Artistic Director and Conductor): Tarik O'Reagan's *Acallam na Senórach: An Irish Colloquy*

Time: 3pm

The 17-member National Chamber Choir of Ireland, under the direction of conductor Paul Hillier, will present the regional premiere of "Acallam na Senórach: An Irish Colloquy," an English language work by Tarik O'Regan that combines ancient lore and contemporary religion. The hour-long epic tale tells us of St. Patrick's encounter with Caílte and Oisín, the last of Fionn mac Cumhaill's legendary band of warriors.

DECEMBER 2011

SHANGHAI QUARTET

DECEMBER 17

PEAK PERFORMANCES, ALEXANDER KASSER THEATER, MONTCLAIR, NJ

Selections from "Porgy and Bess" featuring guest artist clarinetist Michel Lethiec

Time: 8pm

What would inspire the Shanghai Quartet to take on Gershwin's 1935 classic opera "Porgy and Bess," is less a question than a tribute to the imagination and wide-ranging musical interests of the group. The program includes "Summertime," "It Ain't Necessarily So," and "I Got Plenty of Nuthin'." Clarinetist Michel Lethiec will join violinists Weigang Li and Yi-Wen Jiang, violist Honggang Li and cellist Nicholas Tzavaras as guest artist for the evening performance.

FEBRUARY 2012

MIGUEL ZENÓN

FEBRUARY 4

PEAK PERFORMANCES, ALEXANDER KASSER THEATER, MONTCLAIR, NJ

"Puerto Rico Nació en Mi: Tales from the Diaspora"

Time: 8pm

MacArthur Fellow saxophonist Miguel Zenón, renowned for his fusion of Puerto Rican "plena" music with traditional jazz, will present the world premiere of "Puerto Rico Nació en Mi: Tales from the Diaspora," a song cycle that celebrates the myriad ways in which Puerto Ricans claim their singular identities. In addition to Zenón on alto saxophone, the musicians include Luis Peromo, piano; Hans Glawischnig, bass; Henry Cole, drums, and Big Band.

MORE

ELLEN HARGIS (soprano) and PAUL O'DETTE (lute/theorbo)
FEBRUARY 5
PEAK PERFORMANCES, ALEXANDER KASSER THEATER, MONTCLAIR, NJ
"The Power of Love"

Time: 3pm

Soprano Ellen Hargis and lute/theorbo player Paul O'Dette will celebrate the "Power of Love" in a program comprised of 17th century English love songs by Nicholas Lanier, Henry Lawes, and John Wilson. The songs tell tales of heroes and lovers tangling with the vagaries, trials and tribulations of love, proving that nothing has changed in Cupid's capers.

MAY 2012

SHANGHAI QUARTET
MAY 5
PEAK PERFORMANCES, ALEXANDER KASSER THEATER, MONTCLAIR, NJ
"The Complete Bartók String Quartets"

Times: May 5 at 4pm & 8pm

Never a group to resist a challenge, the Shanghai Quartet will perform the complete Bartók string quartets--six in all--in a double concert at Peak Performances on May 5. The quartets, written over a 30-year span and filled with humor, a sense of desolation and fierce beauty, are renowned for challenging the traditions of the quartet form.

WHERE TO GO:

PEAK PERFORMANCES PERFORMANCES ARE IN THE ALEXANDER KASSER THEATER AT MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY, LOCATED AT 1 NORMAL AVENUE, MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY 07043. ALL TICKETS ARE \$15, AND ARE AVAILABLE AT THE BOX OFFICE, WWW.PEAKPERFS.ORG OR BY CALLING 973-655-5112.

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