

Cello is the closest to the human voice music instrument. For almost 400 hundred years people worldwide were entertained by its sound. The greatest cellists were welcomed at the palaces of monarchs; dictators and presidents...Just remember the names of Rostropovich, Casals, Yo Yo Ma... What is it there in the sound of cello that attracts so many for so long?... The program "Ruslan Biryukov & friends" presents pieces composed by some of the most successful cellists and composers of different eras and styles for cello ensembles. Just imagine two cellos singing together...

When: January 10, 2010 @ 4pm

What: West Covina Symphony Chamber Music Concert Series "Artist Series ~ Sonic Tapestries", cello chamber music concert "Ruslan Biryukov & friends"

Who: Ruslan Biryukov, cello
Maksim Velichkin, cello
Hope Easton, cello
August Lee, cello
Patricia Ryan, cello
Mary Au, piano

Where: West Covina United Methodist Church
718 S. Azusa Ave, West Covina, CA 91791

Program: George Frideric Handel (1685-1759) – Sonata in G minor for Two Cellos and Continuo (Trio Sonata No.16)
Jean Barriere (1705-1747) – Sonata in G Major for Two Cellos
Luigi Boccherini (1743- 1805) - Sonata in C Major for Two Cellos
Alfredo Piatti (1822-1901) – Serenade in D Major for Two Cellos and Piano (1890)
David Popper (1843-1913) – Suite for Two Cellos, Op. 16
Carol Worthey – Suite for Two Cellos "Russian Scenes" (World Premier)

Tickets: <http://www.panoramaticket.com/ruslanbiryukov.aspx>
General \$25, Students/Senior \$15



Ruslan Biryukov

Cellist Ruslan Biryukov (Руслан Бирюков), known for his "superb artistry, passion and individuality," represents a new generation of creative professional musicians whose artistic level is recognized not only by awards, but also by a worldwide audience. Mr. Biryukov has performed throughout the world, including countries in the former USSR, in Europe, and in the United States. Memorable chamber music experience includes performances with world renowned violinist Midori at the Disney Hall in Los Angeles, cellist Kirill Rodin, and members of the Ysaye Quartet.

RUSLAN BIRYUKOV

- "Ruslan is an extraordinary; one of a kind performer. He has everything: technique, virtuosity, personality, communication, attractive and articulate presence, a great human story and background!" "He will be a big WINNER!" -- *Peter Mark, Artistic Director, Virginia Opera*
- "Ruslan is a charismatic performer who brings the audiences to their feet. His artistry is both sensitive and passionate and his technical command of the instrument is stunning." -- *Eleonore Schoenfeld, Piatigorsky Chair, Thornton School of Music*

Cellist Ruslan Biryukov (Руслан Бирюков), known for his "superb artistry, passion and individuality," represents a new generation of creative professional musicians whose artistic level is recognized not only by awards, but also by a worldwide audience. Mr. Biryukov has performed throughout the world, including countries in the former USSR, in Europe, and in the United States. Memorable chamber music experience includes performances with world renowned violinist Midori at the Disney Hall in Los Angeles, cellist Kirill Rodin, and members of the Ysaye Quartet.

Ruslan Biryukov has been a master teacher in music festivals in Europe and Russia. He has held teaching positions at the Ippolitov-Ivanov State Institute of Music in Moscow, Russia and the Music Academy in Lovran, Croatia. His creative artistic ideas are based upon the tradition he learned from esteemed artists such as Kirill Rodin, Mstislav Rostropovich, Daniil Shafran, Natalia Gutman, Janos Starker, Steven Isserlis, and Eleonore Schoenfeld.

Mr. Biryukov received his formal music education at Baku Music Academy in Azerbaijan, Tchaikovsky Moscow Conservatory in Russia, and the USC Thornton School of Music. He first earned international recognition by winning major awards in Azerbaijan and by the inclusion of his name in the Gold Book of Russia's international program "New Names". Biryukov has gone on to win numerous other awards worldwide, including the 17th Mu Phi Epsilon International Competition.

Heralded as a charismatic performer who captivates the attention of his audiences, Ruslan Biryukov is a much sought-after young musician who is committed to a lifetime of music making by sharing the art of music with worldwide audiences from all walks of life in recital halls, schools and other unconventional settings through regularly scheduled performances, outreach recitals and community service concerts

MAKSIM VELICHKIN



Maksim Velichkin enjoys a broad musical life of a cellist, collaborative pianist, and harpsichordist both locally and throughout the world. He has appeared as a soloist with Uzbekistan National Symphony, Duquesne Contemporary Ensemble, Verbier Festival Symphony Orchestra AYS, Torrance, Westchester, Southeast and Bellflower symphony orchestras. He has extensively toured Europe, Asia, both Americas and Australia with the prestigious Verbier Chamber and Symphony Orchestras as a principal cellist. He has collaborated with a number of prominent conductors and instrumentalists: James Levine, Kurt Masur, Charles Dutoit, Yuri Temirkanov, Wolfgang Sawallish, Herbert Blomstedt, Christoph von Dohnanyi, Neemi and Paavo Yarvi, Sarah Chang, Maxim Vengerov (EMI recording project), Yuri Bashmet, Joshua Bell and others. Recent highlights of Maksim's concert life include performances with singer Bobby Mc Ferrin in Switzerland (Vivaldi Double Concerto), pianist Gabriela Montero in Mexico (Dvorak Piano Quintet), performances in Carnegie

Hall in Pittsburgh (J.S.Bach Concerto for Two Pianos) and appearances on the prestigious Miyazaki Music Festival in Japan (Mendelssohn Octet). In addition, he has been active in the popular music scene performing and recording with Bitter:Sweet, Stevie Wonder, Josh Groban, John Legend, Red Elvises, Bernadette Peters and many others. Maksim's improvised harpsichord & cello music was included into the soundtrack of the film "Through The Air To Calais Or The Wonderful Cruise Of Blanchard's Balloon" (2009). Mr.Velichkin has begun his music education at the Special Music School for Gifted Children in his native Tashkent, Uzbekistan. In 1996 he was awarded a full scholarship to pursue Bachelor of Music degree in cello performance at the Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, US. In 2000 he graduated with honors, Magna cum Laude. He continued his education at the University of Southern California at the studio of the renowned professor E. Schoenfeld. In 2006 Maksim earned his Master's Degree. Mr. Maksim Velichkin is the music director of the Classical Underground concert series where he regularly performs.

HOPE EASTON



Hope Easton attended The Cleveland Institute of Music as a preparatory student. She went on to New England Conservatory and received her Bachelors of Music. Further continuing her education by being awarded the Fulbright Scholarship, she went to England studying at the Royal Northern College of Music with Ralph Kirshbaum, performing at various festivals in America and England. Since then she decided to make a turn from classical music and branch out. Finding her own voice while touring with a Hollywood artist, Hope started to develop a style of writing and singing expressing her emotional life and the perceptions of those lives around her. She has performed at the Gibson Amphitheatre and Walt Disney Hall with the band Bitter:sweet, as well as performed and recorded with the famous English rocker Al Stewart. Hope has four cds, House of Hope, S.O.S. and One To One of her own original music, and the most recent, Begging Me is a live session with her band, "Hope Easton and The Adam Kadmon Band". The band is comprised of musicians; Leo Chelyapov, Maksim Velichkin and Frank Musarra. All cds are available on itunes and cdbaby. To listen go to www.hopeeaston.com/beggingme, www.myspace.com/hopeeaston, www.Hopeeaston.com.

AUGUST LEE

August Lee (어거스트 이) was born into a family of prominent Korean musicians. For over a hundred years, his ancestors played a major role in influencing the music of South Korea. His great-grandfather Sun Yu Lee (이선유), the legendary singer, was the Founder of the Eastern Style of Traditional Korean Singing; his grandfather Jae Ho Lee (이재호) was a celebrated folk music composer, and his father Beom Seung (이범승) is a successful Vienna educated conductor and composer.



Mr. Lee started his professional musical education at the age of 5 studying piano. When he was 8, he saw Janos Starker playing the cello and fell in love with the instrument. The “cellistic” demands of the child found support from his parents, and August began studying with the Principal cellist of Kyung Sang Symphony Orchestra, Ms. Noh Sunhee, at the PENIEL School of the Arts. At the same time, he was taking lessons with the prominent Polish cellist Professor Kazimierz Michalik of the Warsaw Chopin Conservatory. At the age of 18, Mr. Lee played for Kirill Rodin, the international Tchaikovsky Competition Gold Medal winner and received an invitation to continue his education at the Tchaikovsky Moscow Conservatory. Mr. Lee graduated from the Moscow Conservatory in 2008 and received a Master of Music degree with the qualification as cello soloist and teacher. Among his teachers in Moscow were legendary musicians Tatiana Gaidamovich, Dimitri Shebalin and Alexander Bonduriansky. *His primary cello teacher has been Professor Kirill Rodin. Currently he is a student in the studio of Ruslan Biryukov.*

Winner of multiple first prizes in national music competitions and the International Sergei Taneyev Chamber Music Competition (2008), August Lee has performed as a soloist and chamber musician in Asia, Europe and North America. Highlights of his performance career include concerts for Ambassadors and diplomatic missions of nearly three-dozen countries, appearances in all concert halls at the Moscow Conservatory, and major venues in South Korea. His luscious tone, profound musicality and impeccable virtuosity, combined with his charming personality gain him immense appreciation from audiences worldwide.

MARY AU



Pianist MARY AU received critical acclaim from the legendary Brooks Smith and Mme. Rosina Lhevinne for her "clean clear touch, sensitivity and superb artistry".

A much sought-after collaborative artist, Mary has concertized on three continents as a keyboard collaborative artist, chamber musician and solo pianist, appearing in recitals, recordings, on television and radio. Her recital work included appearances in the Community Concert Series, sponsored by Columbia Artists Management Inc. Mary has also been collaborative artist at the international Gregor Piatigorsky Seminar for Cellists, The Quartet Program, The National Cello Institute, the Colburn School of Performing Arts, the University of Southern California, the Ambassador College, and the John F. Kennedy Center/Rockefeller Foundation International Competition for Excellence in the performance of American Music. Live televised appearances include performances on the internationally televised program, the Hour of Power, and the Nanning Music Festival in front of thirty-thousand audiences in China.

Heralded as one of the Outstanding Young Women of America, Mary has performed in the presence of such esteemed artists Boris Pergamenschikow, Janos Starker, Steven Isserlis, Mstislav Rostropovich, Zara Nelsova, Lynn Harrell, Ruggereo Ricci, Myung Whun Chung and Elly Ameling. In addition to being a performing artist, Mary is known for her work as a coach for young artists. She has accompanied them in numerous International, national, statewide and local youth competitions, including auditions for the New York Philharmonic Young Peoples' Concert and the Los Angeles Philharmonic "Symphonies for Youth" Series. Many of the people she had coached and accompanied are currently working as soloists, orchestral & chamber musician and music teachers. Some of them are recipients of major international competitions and awards. Others are represented by concert management and record companies.

Born in Hong Kong, China, Mary received her formal music education at the Royal Academy of Music with Gordon Green in England, and at the Thornton School of Music at the University of Southern California with Kevin Fitz-Gerald and Daniel Pollack in the United States. She has also worked with Dr. Alan Smith, Kirill Gliadkovsky, Alice Schoenfeld, Eleonore Schoenfeld, Ronald Leonard, Timothy Lindberg and Hans Beer. Her playing has left a lasting impression on many music lovers throughout the world.

For more information on Mary Au, visit her website at www.aumary.com.

PATRICIA RYAN



Patricia Ryan has been principal cellist in San Diego's foremost youth orchestras: the San Diego Youth Symphony, the Mt. Carmel High School Orchestra and various chamber ensembles within both organizations. Patricia won First Prize in both the MTAC-San Diego Branch Concerto Competition and the MTAC-San Diego Branch VOCE Competition. She was also chosen to study chamber music with the internationally celebrated violin and cello duo Alice and Eleonore Schoenfeld under the Young Musicians' Foundation Chamber Music Program on full scholarship. Her teachers include world renowned Tchaikovsky Competition Laureate Nathaniel Rosen, Ruslan Biryukov, Alexander Suleiman, Thomas Stauffer (San Diego State University), Viola Brown, and Catherine Godden.

Patricia has performed chamber music on Sundays Live, the longest running live classical music radio program in Los Angeles, broadcast live on K-Mozart and streamed live worldwide. She has soloed with the San Diego Civic Youth Orchestra and with the

Mt. Carmel High School Orchestra. She has also performed internationally in Portugal and has also attended the Viana de Castelo International Music Festival in the summer of 2008. She has most recently attended Alaska's Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival on full scholarship, working closely with University of Northern Colorado faculty David Chew and Dr. Russell Guyver.

A native San Diegan, Patricia has also volunteered as a music therapist at the UCSD Medical Center where she enjoys bringing the joy of music to the ill and recovering patients.

Patricia is currently majoring in Cello Performance at the University of Southern California, Thornton School of Music in the studio of Professor Alexander Suleiman on full scholarship. As an undergraduate student at Thornton, Patricia has had the pleasure of working with acclaimed musicians Michael Tilson Thomas, John Williams, Larry Livingston, Carl St. Clair, Daniel Rothmuller, and Time for Three. She has also had the privilege of working with the Guarneri Quartet, Rio Trio, Takács Quartet, and the Aviv String Quartet under the instruction of Professor Peter Marsh. She has also been involved with the Grammy Foundation, performing with rock legends Jeff Beck and Sir Tom Jones in honor of Sir George Martin.

Patricia is currently performing on a Lucci bow provided by the Maestro Foundation.