

"I was visiting from New York and I marveled at this intimate evening of well-programmed, beautifully played music in an appealing performance space in LA."

Sara Fishko, Producer/Host, WNYC New York Public Radio

February 4 Concert Set by Classic Chamber Music Series

Music and Conversations to Present Eclectic Program Ranging from Bach and Mozart to New Duo Premiere and Middle Eastern Sacred Music

The critically acclaimed "true" chamber music series, Music and Conversations, will present the second concert in its popular 2011-2012 series at 8 pm on Saturday, February 4, in the GAM Arts Center at 4975 West Pico Blvd. Consistent with its promise of featuring artists of international stature, M&C will present violinist Ida Levin, a star performer in Europe and on both US coasts, cellist Alexander Sulieman from South Africa and Russia, pianist Delores Stevens, Artistic Director of chamber music series in Massachusetts and California, and world-music artist Yuval Ron with Middle Eastern percussionist Jamie Papish.

Preceded by an informal social hour of wine, hors d'oeuvres and conversation with performers, the evening's program will begin with J.S. Bach's Violin Sonata in E Major followed by W.A. Mozart's Piano Trio in C Major. A New Work for Cello and Piano by Jane Brockman will be premiered and, in keeping with the series tradition of closing with either world music or jazz improvisation, the music will close with Sacred Music of the Middle East.

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Violinist **Ida Levin** has established an international reputation as soloist, recitalist and chamber musician. She began her violin studies at age three in her native Santa Monica and made her professional debut at age ten with the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra. The recipient of both the Leventritt Award and the Avery Fisher Career Grant, she was invited by Rudolf Serkin to appear with him in a joint recital for President and Mrs. Reagan in the White House. She has performed as soloist at Carnegie Hall and with the orchestras of Toulouse, Kammerphilharmonie Berlin, Prague, Edinburgh Chamber, St. Louis and Utah among others. Ms. Levin is a Senior Artist at the annual Marlboro Festival and is a member of the Boston Chamber Music Society, the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society Players and is a frequent guest with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center.

Composer **Jane Brockman** is the first woman to have earned a Doctorate in Music Composition at the University of Michigan. She also studied in Paris with Max Deutsch on a Fulbright, in Vienna with a Rackham Prize fellowship and in the U.S. with three MacDowell Colony residencies. She has served on the faculties of the Hartt School of Music, the universities of Rhode Island and Michigan and for nearly a decade she was a tenured professor at the University of Connecticut. Leaving academia, she relocated to Los Angeles to write concert music and scores for film and television. Her focus today is exclusively on concert music.

Cellist **Alexander Suleiman** began his musical career as an award winning pianist before falling in love with the cello at age 17. Mr. Suleiman was awarded first prize in the International Johannes Brahms Competition and has since concertized worldwide. Last season he performed with the Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra, the KZN Philharmonic Orchestra Durban, the Caucasian Chamber Music Orchestra, the Novosibirsk Academic Symphony

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Orchestra and the World Chamber Orchestra. He frequently performs and holds master classes at international music festivals in Finland, Germany, Israel, Russia, Italy, Poland, Alaska, Latvia,

Lebanon, Canada and the US. In 2010 Mr. Suleiman became the director of the newly established Arts Academy in the state of Bremen. Mr. Suleiman is professor of Cello at the Thornton School of Music at the University of Southern California.

Pianist **Delores Stevens'** recent career engagements have taken her from her Los Angeles base to Argentina, Australia, The Czech Republic, Japan, China, Spain, Argentina, England and Scandinavia as well as across the U.S. Acclaimed as a soloist and chamber musician, she has performed on the Los Angeles Philharmonic/Green Umbrella Series, the Ojai Festival, Monday Evening Concerts, Chamber Music in Historic Sites, The Coleman Chamber Concerts and The Athenaeum Chamber Concerts, among others. She is a six-term Director/Trustee of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, is the Chamber Music Director of the Young Musicians Foundation, is a Founder and Artistic Director of Chamber Music Palisades now in its 15th season and is the Founder/Artistic Director of the Martha's Vineyard Chamber Music Society now in its 41st season.

World-music artist, composer, producer, educator and peace activist, **Yuval Ron**, works internationally in film, television, dance and theater. Among his many honors, he was invited to perform for the Dalai Lama, for Pir Zia Iniyat Khan (Head of the Sufi International Order), and has produced albums of Turkish master-musician Omar Faruk Tekbilek. In 2004 he received the

Los Angeles Treasures Award and in 2006 he won an Oscar for the musical film, West Bank Story. He is the recipient of prestigious grants from the National Endowment for the Arts,

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American Composers Forum, California Council for the Humanities and the Rockefeller Foundation, among more. Independently and through his work as musical director for the Yuval Ron Ensemble he actively promotes peace and goodwill.

Jamie Papish is a multi-percussionist specializing in ethnic hand drum styles of the Middle East, Eastern Europe, Africa, Central Asia & the Balkans. He maintains an active performance and recording schedule as a member of the critically acclaimed Yuval Ron Ensemble as well as other Los Angeles based world music ensembles and has recently recorded with the Kronos Quartet. Jamie has performed at such notable venues as the Ford Amphitheater, the Skirball Cultural Center, the Getty Museum, the Hammer Museum, The Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, St. Marks Cathedral-Seattle, Yale University, Museum of Jewish Heritage-NYC and Symphony Hall-Seattle and has performed internationally in Poland; South Korea; Israel; Jordan; Mexico, Morocco and Spain. Jamie has numerous recording credits including 'Floodplain' by The Kronos Quartet.

Advance tickets at \$35 are available at the website www.musicandconversations.org or may be purchased at the door at \$40. Students with ID may attend for \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. Seating is extremely limited.

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