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## MUSIC FROM THE LIBRARY ANNOUNCES 2009 CONCERT SERIES

Question: Where in the Greater Boston area can you find beautiful music performed by world-class artists in a lovely, intimate setting with terrific acoustics followed by delicious refreshments and an opportunity to meet the artists *and* find this all for free?

Answer: Music from the Library at The Concord Free Public Library.

Music from the Library presents its 12<sup>th</sup> season of free concerts in the intimate setting of the rotunda of The Concord Free Public Library at 129 Main Street. Sponsored by the Friends of the Concord Free Public Library, Music from the Library has become one of the true cultural jewels in Concord. The 2009 season includes four Saturday evening concerts which are free to the public. All concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. and due to limited seating all require advance online or telephone reservations. There is ample free parking. The audience is cordially invited to meet the outstanding artists and enjoy refreshments at the reception immediately following each concert.

The 2009 season of Music from the Library opens on Saturday, January 24 with a cutting edge contemporary program devoted to György Kurtág's *Kafka Fragments* performed by Tony Arnold, soprano, and Movses Pogossian, violin. Ms. Arnold is internationally recognized as one of the leading interpreters of contemporary music. In 2006, she was nominated for a Grammy award for her recording of George Crumb's *AncientVoices of Children*. In addition to her collaborations with Movses Pogossian, she has performed with the New York New Music Ensemble, Ensemble 21, eighth blackbird, International Contemporary Ensemble, MusicNOW, the George Crumb Ensemble, Chicago Chamber Musicians, Fulcrum Point, and Present Music. Ms. Arnold teaches at the University at Buffalo, where she is a founding member of the new music ensemble HEARD, and leads Babel, an extended vocal techniques ensemble. Violinist Movses Pogossian is a prizewinner of the 1986 Tchaikovsky International Competition, and the youngest-ever First Prize winner of the 1985 USSR National Violin Competition. He made his American debut performing the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto with the Boston Pops in 1990. An active chamber musician, Mr. Pogossian has performed with members of the Tokyo, Kronos, and Brentano string quartets, and frequently collaborates with the Apple Hill Chamber Players. Arnold and Pogossian's recording of the *Kafka Fragments* will soon be released by Bridge Records.

György Kurtág is Hungary's leading composer of the present day. He studied with Messiaen and Milhaud, among others, and was profoundly influenced by the music of Anton Webern and Bela Bartók. Kurtág composed the *Kafka Fragments* in 1987. With texts taken from Franz Kafka's diaries, letters, and notebooks and lasting approximately an hour in total duration, the *Kafka Fragments* include 40 pieces, ranging from as short as 20 seconds to as long as 4 minutes.. The *Kafka Fragments* received significant press attention last fall when presented at Lincoln Center with a staging by Peter Sellars. In his review of the Sellars production for the Financial Times, Martin Bernheimer commented that "Kurtág's score requires no theatrical gimmickry." For their performance at the Library, Tony Arnold and Movses Pogossian will keep the score as their focus. They describe the work as "a kaleidoscopic web of musical styles representing extreme and disparate moments within a life...Rather than providing a narrative, the *Kafka Fragments* allow us glimpses into unique moments, as if we were listening through a wall or door to private

conversations in the next room. The non-sequential, fragmentary presentation keeps this set from merely becoming the story of any one character; fleeting moments exist side by side with other discrete instants, none owned individually. At the same time, these brief songs (most are under two minutes) are not merely static snapshots, for they capture a sense of motion and direction while leaving us to guess what lies beyond the frame. We peer into worlds already in motion, in which tiny gestures hint at what has transpired and what might materialize. The infinitesimal is magnified, and what seems unremarkable or unmemorable suddenly becomes our sole focus.”

On Saturday, March 7, composer and ‘ud virtuoso Kareem Roustum will be joined by Hanna Khoury, violin, and percussionist Omar Al-Musfi for a program of Art Music from the Arab World. This program will include the world premiere of a new work by Kareem Roustum. Syrian born Kareem Roustum is a Ud (Arabic lute) player and an award-winning composer who has composed and arranged music for film, television, the concert hall and album projects. Steeped in the musical traditions of the Arab Middle East and trained in Western music, Roustum is a musically bi-lingual composer and musician. Roustum has been commissioned by, or had performances with groups such as the Philadelphia Orchestra, The Boston Children's Chorus, the Damascus Festival Chamber Ensemble, the Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Philadelphia Sinfonia, members of the Staatskapelle Berlin Orchestra, cellist Jason Calloway's X-Band, the Firebird Ensemble and others.

The Library's beautiful Steinway concert grand piano will be featured in a special program on Saturday, April 4, devoted to the music of Robert and Clara Schumann, performed by the husband and wife piano duo of Randall Hodgkinson and Leslie Amper. Grand Prize Winner of the International American Music Competition, sponsored by Carnegie Hall and the Rockefeller Foundation, Randall Hodgkinson has performed with orchestras in Atlanta, Philadelphia, Buffalo, Boston, Cleveland and abroad in Italy and Iceland. In addition, he has performed numerous recital programs spanning the repertoire from J.S. Bach to Donald Martino. He is an artist member of the Boston Chamber Music Society, and he performs the four-hand and two-piano repertoire with his wife Leslie Amper. Both Amper and Hodgkinson are faculty members at New England Conservatory.

Horn trios by Johannes Brahms and Pulitzer-Prize winning composer Yehudi Wyner will be featured in the final program of the 2009 season on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. Gus Sebring, horn, and Harumi Rhodes, violin, will join Wyner at the piano. Wyner will be celebrating his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday shortly after this concert.

Because of the anticipated popularity of all of the concerts and the limited seating, advance reservations are required. Beginning two weeks before each concert, reservations can be made online through the Library's website at [www.concordlibrary.org](http://www.concordlibrary.org) or over the telephone at 978-318-3301.

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