

MUSIC AT ST. PHILIP  2018-2019 SEASON

PRESENTS
ÆLIA DUO

Ana María Otamendi AND **Elena Lacheva**



Steinway Piano Dedication

SUNDAY | SEPTEMBER 23, 2018 | 2:00 p.m.

St. Philip Presbyterian Church ♦ 4807 San Felipe Street ♦ Houston, Texas

About the Ælia Duo

Ælia Duo members Ana María Otamendi and Elena Lacheva met at the University of Michigan, and have been a piano duo since 2013. Among their performances are the University of Houston Faculty Recital Series, soloists with the Louisiana State University Symphony Orchestra, and residencies at Bemidji State University, Shattuck-St. Mary's School, and appearances at the Collaborative Piano Institute — a summer program for current and potential collaborative pianists — featuring world-renowned faculty. The duo often utilizes multimedia and lecture elements in their performances, which audiences have received with great enthusiasm. Ælia performs their own arrangements of major orchestral works, and often collaborates with other instrumentalists. Most notable are their arrangements of Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* and Bernstein's *West Side Story* for two pianists and two percussionists. Together, they are one half of the Octave Illusion Ensemble, a Houston-based two-pianists and two-percussionists quartet encompassing three continents and four countries. The ensemble is devoted to arranging, performing and promoting repertoire usually reserved for large orchestral settings, in an effort to bring contemporary music to a wider audience.



Since her orchestral début at age twelve, **Ana María Otamendi** has performed as a soloist, collaborative pianist, and conductor at important venues such as Chicago Symphony Hall, Spivey Hall, Teatro Teresa Carreño (Caracas, Venezuela), Salzburg Domesaal, Megaron Mousikis Concert Hall in Athens, Parco de la musica in Rome, Teatro Arcimboldi in Milano, Teatro Odeum in Patras, and with renowned orchestras in Austria, Panama, Brazil, the United States, Spain, Italy, Greece, and Venezuela. Upcoming performances include concert tours with the Reverón Trio (a Venezuelan ensemble devoted to the standard and Latin American piano trio repertoire), with clarinetist Cecilia Kang (premiering works by American composers featured in their first album together), and the Ælia Duo (with pianist Elena Lacheva), as well as masterclasses in the US and abroad.

After finishing her two-year tenure as Studio Artist at the prestigious Houston Grand Opera Studio, as well as the Merola Opera Program of the San Francisco Opera, she became Head Vocal Coach of the Moores Opera Center at the University of Houston. Currently, she is Assistant Professor of Collaborative Piano at Louisiana State University, where she is in charge of the collaborative program. She is the Artistic Director of the Collaborative Piano Institute, an intensive three-week summer program devoted to collaborative pianists, with stellar faculty such as Martin Katz, Rita Sloan, Kathleen Kelly, Marie-France Lefebvre, Howard Watkins, and many more. She was Head Coach and Conductor for the Franco American Vocal Academy in France and Salzburg (FAVA) during several summers, where she conducted works like *Don Giovanni* and *La Belle Hélène*, and coached singers in their roles and art song.

Ana María has won First Prize at all the major Venezuelan piano competitions, as well as the University of South Carolina Concerto Competition and the Ouro Branco Festival Competition (Brazil). She is also a regular guest, as performer and teacher, at different Universities in the US such as the University of Michigan, University of Minnesota, Bemidji State University and the University of South Carolina. She holds a Master's degree in piano performance from the University of Wisconsin, an Artist Certificate from the University of South Carolina, and a Doctorate in collaborative piano from the University of Michigan, where she studied with renowned pianist Martin Katz.

She was principal keyboard of the Venezuelan Symphony Orchestra (2007–08) as well as assistant professor at the University of Musical Studies in Caracas. Besides her musical training, Ana María is fluent in English, Spanish, French, and Italian, and also a Geophysical Engineer. Her thesis was published in the prestigious journal *Physics of the Earth and Planetary Interiors*.



Now a member of the music staff at the Louisiana State University School of Music, **Elena Lacheva** was until recently involved as a vocal coach with the productions of *The Crucible*, the Pulitzer Prize-winning opera by Robert Ward, *The Secret Marriage* by Cimarosa, and Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette* at the University of Houston's Moores Opera Center. During her previous seasons at MOC, she prepared the productions of *Manon* by Massenet, Mozart's *Così fan tutte* and the Houston premiere of *Anna Karenina* by David Carlson, in addition to *Les contes d'Hoffmann*, *Gianni Schicchi*, and another Houston premiere — *Frau Margot* by Thomas Pasatieri. Elena also collaborates with Opera in the Heights, where she most recently assisted with the productions of *Der Fledermaus*, *I pagliacci* and *La cenerentola*. Elena is Program Director of the Collaborative Piano Institute, a summer program for current and potential collaborative pianists.

As a member of the Houston Grand Opera Studio, Elena was involved in the rehearsal process and performances of Wagner's *Das Rheingold*, Weinberg's *The Passenger* (in Houston, and at the Lincoln Center Festival in New York in the summer of 2014), Verdi's *Aida*, and *Il trovatore*, Kern's *Showboat* and Puccini's *La bohème*; and she performed extensively with the Studio Singers in recitals in Texas and Louisiana. Elena completed her collaborative piano studies with Martin Katz at the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre, and Dance in 2012, and that summer she was an apprentice coach in the Merola Program at the San Francisco Opera Center, working on Dominick Argento's *Postcard from Morocco* and participating at the Schwabacher Summer Concerts. She was a répétiteur and coach for Verdi's *Falstaff* at the University of Michigan School of Music, and was a Fellow of the Tanglewood Music Center where she collaborated in Stravinsky's *Renard* with the Mark Morris Dance Group. At the Chicago College of Performing Arts Elena rehearsed and performed Ravel's *The Spanish Hour* for the annual OPERAFEST festival. Elena has performed internationally in solo and chamber music concerts in Berlin, Germany and Reykjavík, Iceland.

Piano Dedication Prayer

Please join together in saying: **Bountiful God, we praise you for all the blessings of this life, and in particular for your gift of music. We give you thanks for the wonders of human imagination and creativity that can inspire and support us when life is difficult. We give you thanks for music which calms our fears, lifts our hearts, speaks to our souls, and takes us beyond words into the presence of your joy. We give you thanks for those who compose and conduct it, who play and perform it: that your glory may be heard in it, and that the hearts of all people may rejoice in it. Eternal, loving God, we give you thanks for the faithfulness and generosity of spirit that build up this community of faith. Honoring that faithfulness and generosity, we dedicate this piano to your worship and praise, and the glory of your Holy Name. Amen.**

Program

Slava from Six Morceaux for four hands ♦ Op. 11	Sergei Rachmaninoff 1873–1943
Sonata for four hands in D major ♦ KV 381	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart 1756–1791
La Dulzura de tu Rostro	Ramón Delgado Palacios 1863–1902
Humoresque	Pancho Vladigerov 1899–1978
Three movements from Petroushka <i>La Fête de la Semaine Grasse</i> (The Shrovetide Fair) <i>Le Tour de Passe-passe</i> (The Magic Trick) <i>Danse Russe</i> (Russian Dance)	Igor Stravinsky 1882–1971
Ma Mère l'Oye (Mother Goose) <i>Pavane de la Belle au bois dormant</i> (Pavane of Sleeping Beauty) <i>Petit Poucet</i> (Thumbelina) <i>Laideronnette, impératrice des pagodes</i> (Little Ugly Girl, Empress of the Pagodas) <i>Les entretiens de la belle et de la bête</i> (Conversation of Beauty and the Beast) <i>Le jardin féérique</i> (The Fairy Garden)	Maurice Ravel 1875–1937
Mambo from West Side Story (arr. Elena Lacheva)	Leonard Bernstein 1918–1990



Please join us for a reception in the Gathering Area following the program.

FREE ICE CREAM FOR ALL!

Your presence and generosity are welcome. A freewill offering in support of the Music at St Philip Concert Series will be received at the Sanctuary exits.

Donations may be made by cash, check or credit card.



MUSIC AT ST. PHILIP 2018-2019 SEASON

Join us for these upcoming programs — **FREE** (contributions welcome)



Concert for Peace, with Cecilia Duarte and Julia Fox

SATURDAY | OCTOBER 6, 2018 | 7:30 p.m.

In times of turmoil and crisis, musicians and poets illumine pathways toward unity and peace through the shared arts of music and the spoken word. Our eleventh annual **Concert for Peace** features soprano **Julia Fox**, mezzo-soprano **Cecilia Duarte**, pianist **Keith Weber**, and poets **Rosemary Catacalos** and **Sandi Stromberg** in a moving 90-minute “cross-cultural” program.



Gabriel Fauré: Requiem

SUNDAY | NOVEMBER 4, 2018 | 11:00 a.m.

In celebration of **All Saints Sunday** and the commemoration of all the faithful departed, we present the sublime **Requiem** by **Gabriel Fauré**, featuring the **St. Philip Choir**, soloists, organ and instruments. Fauré composed his *Requiem* between 1887 and 1890, and he said the work “is dominated from beginning to end by a very human feeling of faith in eternal rest.”



Greenbriar Consortium, Chamber Orchestra

SUNDAY | NOVEMBER 11, 2018 | 4:00 p.m.

In November we present **Mysteries of the Macabre** by **György Ligeti** with soprano **Julia Fox**, **Song of Songs** by **Lukas Foss** with mezzo-soprano **Sonja Bruzauskas**, and the glorious **Octet in F major** by **Schubert** — all featuring the **Greenbriar Consortium**, comprised of Houston Symphony players dedicated to presenting classical and modern chamber music.



Advent Lessons and Carols

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 9, 2018 | 11:00 a.m.

In December we present our annual service of **Advent Lessons and Carols**, with readings and music celebrating the anticipation of Christ’s coming at Christmas, carols sung by everyone, and anthems sung by the **St. Philip Choir**. This year’s anthems include works by **Richard Proulx**, **Carson Cooman**, **Malcolm Archer**, **Thomas Pavlechko**, **John Joubert**, and **Kyle Haugen**.



Menotti: Amahl and the Night Visitors

SUNDAY | JANUARY 6, 2019 | 6:00 p.m.

Celebrate Epiphany with the story of **Amahl and the Night Visitors** by **Gian Carlo Menotti**, along with **Ottorino Respighi**’s lush and very beautiful **Trittico botticelliano** (*Three Botticelli Pictures*) for chamber orchestra. Featuring many fine Houston Symphony musicians, the **Greenbriar Consortium** returns with several excellent singers to present this festive program.

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