

## Temple University Symphony Orchestra

Luis Biava, conductor

Carolyn Semes, violin, winner, Student Soloist Competition, preparatory division

Shelley Jackson, soprano, winner, Student Soloist Competition, collegiate division

Patrick Bailey, percussion, winner, Student Soloist Competition, collegiate division

Nina Vieru, violin, winner, Student Soloist Competition, collegiate divisions

February 10, 2012 at 7:30pm – Temple Performing Arts Center

### About the Artists

**CAROLYN SEMES** (14) is a 9th grade student at The PA Leadership Charter School University Scholars Program. She is a recipient of a Starling Violin Scholarship at Temple University Music Prep where she studies with Choong-Jin Chang, Principal Viola of The Philadelphia Orchestra. She is a member of The Youth Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Maestro Luis Biava. Carolyn has appeared as soloist with The Shanghai Philharmonic and The Ambler Symphony, as winner of their Menges Scholarship Competition. She has appeared as a soloist with her three sisters, all of whom play the violin, with The Ocean City Pops, The Olney Symphony, and The Macau Youth Orchestra as part of their 10th Anniversary Concert. They have appeared together on The Weekly Radio Broadcast in Shanghai, Hong Kong's RTHK show, "The Children's Corner," on WRTI as part of their fund raising, and on WHY, "The President's Dinner." For the past 4 summers, she has been a student at The Aspen Music Festival. As winner of the 2011-12 Music Prep Concerto Competition, Carolyn is the first recipient of the Nancy W. Hess Music Prep Concerto Competition Prize at Temple University.

**SHELLEY JACKSON**, soprano, is in her second year of study for a Masters in Opera at the Temple University Boyer College of Music, where she holds an academic internship and teaching assistantship. Her upcoming engagements in 2012 include Giannetta in *L'Elisir d'Amore* and Anna (cover) in *The King and I* as a young artist at Opera North, the International Vocal Arts Institute in Blacksburg, VA, Adina in *L'Elisir d'Amore* with Temple Opera Theater, scenes as the Governess in the Turn of the Screw, and a recital of songs about Ophelia at Temple this spring. Her opera roles at Temple have included Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte* and Thérèse/ Tirésias in *Les mamelles de Tirésias*, and scenes as Leïla in *Les Pêcheurs de Perles*, Zdenka in *Arabella*, Violetta in *La Traviata* and Curley's Wife in *Of mice and men*. Prior to coming to Temple, Ms. Jackson spent two years studying with renowned soprano Mirella Freni at her academy, Centro Universale di Bel Canto (CUBEC), in Modena, Italy. Ms. Jackson graduated from the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University with a BM in Vocal Performance, and other previous training includes the Chautauqua Institution, Russian Opera Workshop, and the Bel Canto Institute in Florence, Italy.

Highlights of last season included the title roles in *Iolanta* (Tchaikovsky) with Russian Opera Workshop and Carlisle Floyd's *Susannah* for the Philadelphia Fringe Festival, and Juliette in *Roméo et Juliette* (cover) with the Chesapeake Chamber Opera. Ms. Jackson has also sung Micaëla in *Carmen* and scenes as Giulietta in *I Capuleti ed i Montecchi* at Chautauqua, the Countess in *Le Nozze di Figaro* with the Peabody Opera Theater, Pamina and the Second Lady/Papagena in the Peabody Opera Outreach production of *The Magic Flute*, and Belinda in *Dido and Aeneas* at Peter Symonds College. With Mirella Freni she studied the roles of Adina in *L'Elisir d'Amore*, Musetta in *La Bohème* and Lauretta in *Gianni Schicchi*. Ms. Jackson has also performed in opera galas with Bel Cantanti Opera in Washington DC, Il Quintetto concert society in Rome, and recently debuted with Concert Operetta as Anita in *Giuditta*, the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra as a soloist in the Mozart *Coronation Mass*, and the Russian Chamber Arts Society in Washington DC.

Awards won include a Dean's Grant from Temple University, an encouragement award from the Metropolitan National Council Auditions Connecticut District, the Nicolai Ghiaurov scholarship from the CUBEC school, and second place in the Russell Wonderlich Competition in Baltimore. Ms. Jackson was a semi-finalist in the Centre Lyrique de Clermont-Ferrand International Singing Competition, France, and Rolando Nicolosi Singing Competition in Rome, Italy, finalist in the National Symphony Orchestra Young Soloist's Competition at the Kennedy Center, and has also won a Young Singer's Foundation scholarship, the Bel Canto Institute Performance award, and the George Woodhead and Azalia H. Thomas Prizes from Peabody.

Originally from Washington DC, Ms. Jackson lives in Philadelphia and is a student of soprano Benita Valente.

**PATRICK BAILEY**, from Newtown, PA, started playing percussion in the fourth grade. He graduated in 2008 from Pennsbury High School, where he received the Stan Kenton Award for excellence in Jazz from his participation in the school's award winning jazz program. At Temple University, Patrick has been afforded opportunities that have allowed him to pursue various aspects of his musical education. He has performed numerous times at Verizon Hall in the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, arranged percussion parts for the Temple University Diamond Marching Band, written two pieces specifically for the Temple University Percussion Ensemble (*Journeys* in 2009, published by Bachovich Music, and *Junkyard Sweet*, commissioned in 2011), selected to be a Diamond Peer Teacher, awarded scholarships for performance and contribution to the percussion department, and most recently selected to help lead a panel/discussion on "Principals of Good Teaching."

Outside of Temple, Patrick has pursued other aspects of his musical career, holding the position of Percussion Coordinator and Percussion Arranger of the Pennsbury High School Marching Band, Director of the Pennsbury High School Indoor Drumline, and Music Director of the Miller Homes High Steppers Drumline. He has also been a guest lecturer for the Music Theory department at Pennsbury High School. He has marched with Drum Corps International's Boston Crusaders, winning top honors in the Ensemble Competition, as well as the Old Barracks Fife and Drum Corps from Trenton, NJ, and has toured internationally to China, Germany, and the Czech Republic with various musical ensembles. He performs with the Philadelphia based percussion trio Three for All Percussion, and has served for 6 years in the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra where he was awarded the Helen T. Karp Award for Distinguished Service in 2008. Patrick is currently finishing his last semester at Temple as a music education major and plans on pursuing a career in education and performance following his time at Temple. Patrick is currently a student of Professor Philip O'Banion.

Moldavian born violinist **NINA VIERU** comes from a family of musicians. At the age of seven, she was accepted into the prestigious class of Galina Buinovschi at the Ciprian Porumbescu Music School. Upon relocating with her family to Bucharest, she was accepted at the Dinu Lipatti Music High School. Soon after, renowned violinist Stefan Gheorghiu asked her to join his studio. Since her first Grand prix in a National Competition in Bucharest, Nina has captured top prizes at over 35 national and international competitions and has performed on two continents on concert halls and radio broadcasts. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Performance from Boyer and will begin graduate studies under Professor Eduard Schmieder in January.

**LUIS BIAVA** has been a prominent figure in classical music for decades and has influenced students and professional musicians worldwide. Born in South America, he studied at the Atlantic University in Colombia, The Manhattan School of Music in New York and the Accademia di St. Cecilia in Rome. He joined the National Symphony in Washington DC in 1963 leaving in 1968 to become a member of the violin section of The Philadelphia Orchestra. He was appointed principal second violin in 1984. He was later appointed assistant conductor and in 1994 conductor-in-residence, a position he held until his retirement from the orchestra in 2004.

Maestro Biava is artistic director and conductor of the Temple University Symphony Orchestra and the Temple University Youth Chamber Orchestra, as well as senior artistic administrator and conductor of the Pacific Music Festival in Sapporo, Japan. He was the artistic and musical director of the FOSJA/Casals Festival in Puerto Rico and has instituted a cultural exchange with the String Orchestra of the Puerto Rico Conservatory of Music. He founded the Philarte String Quartet and was the first violinist with the Philadelphia Chamber Ensemble. He guest conducts throughout the world including all the Americas, Europe and Asia.

In the 2007-08 season, Maestro Biava became artistic advisor of the Puerto Rico Symphony where he conducted the orchestra in several programs throughout the season. In March, the Temple University Symphony Orchestra and Maestro Biava made their debut at Carnegie Hall in New York City. Also that year, Maestro Biava was guest conductor for an all-Bernstein program with the Pacific Music Festival Symphony Orchestra as a part of their celebration of the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Leonard Bernstein's birth.

In May 2009, Maestro Biava was invited to Europe to conduct three concerts with the Symphony Orchestra of Castilla & Leon in Valladolid, Spain where he inaugurated also a new Concert Hall in the City of Avila.

Maestro Biava and the Temple University Symphony Orchestra performed in New York City for the third time in April 2010. This program included the local premiere of two commissioned works by American composers; a piece for orchestra, jazz combo and trumpet soloist by Bill Cunliffe and *Ansel Adams: America* by Dave and Chris Brubeck. The composition by Bill Cunliffe, "*fourth stream...La Banda*," was recorded by the Temple orchestra with distinguished

soloist Terell Stafford on trumpet and Maestro Biava conducting, and was nominated for the Grammy for Best Instrumental Composition in 2010.

The Biava String Quartet faced with the challenge of choosing a name for their new ensemble, said this; “Maestro Luis Biava is a person who embodied for us a commitment to excellence and humility in attitude that seeks to inspire sensitive music making as the true essence of...music. The quartet has had the great privilege of bearing the name of Maestro Biava in the hopes of continuing the great legacy that he continues to model to both students and professionals.”

Luis Biava has been awarded a Citation from the City of Philadelphia, the Art of Music Award from the Musical Fund Society of Philadelphia, the rank of Commendatore in the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic; the Medal of San Carlos, in the rank of Official, from the President of the Republic of Colombia, the Comcast Newsmaker of the Year for the Arts and the Philadelphia Orchestra’s C. Hartman Kuhn Award, given to “a musician who has shown both the musical ability and enterprise of such character as to enhance the musical standards and reputation of The Philadelphia Orchestra.”