

Thursday, May 29, 2008, 8pm
Zellerbach Hall

From the Top

A Showcase of the Nation's
Top Young Classical Musicians

with host
Christopher O'Riley

PROGRAM

- Camille Saint-Saëns (1835–1921) Introduction & Rondo Capriccioso in A minor,
Op. 28 (1863)
Anthony Bracewell, *violin*
Christopher O'Riley, *piano*
- Carl Maria von Weber (1786–1826) Andante & Hungarian Rondo, Op. 35 (1809)
Brigid Babbish, *bassoon*
Christopher O'Riley, *piano*
- Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750) Selections from *The Art of Fugue* (bef. 1742):
Contrapunctus No. 1
Contrapunctus No. 9
Hilda Huang, *piano*

- Preben Antonsen (b. 1991) Camouflage
Viaggio String Quartet
Eric Gratz, *violin*
Anthony Bracewell, *violin*
Stephanie Price, *viola*
Ken Kubota, *cello*

- English traditional The Water of Tyne
arr. Michael Neaum (b. 1939)

- Canadian traditional Ah! Si mon moine voulait danser!
arr. Donald Patriquin (b. 1938) from *Six Songs of Early Canada* (1980)
San Francisco Girls Chorus
Dr. Susan McMane, *artistic director*
Susan Soehner, *piano*

Program and repertoire subject to change.

Tune in to From the Top on 102.1 KDFC, Sundays at 7pm.

This program is scheduled to broadcast on September 28, 2008.

See Hilda Huang, San Francisco Conservatory's Luna Trio and other fantastic young musicians on From the Top at Carnegie Hall on San Francisco's KQED-Channel 9, Sundays at 11am beginning July 20, 2008.

The From the Top radio program is produced in association with WGBH Radio Boston and New England Conservatory of Music, its home and education partner, with support from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation. National Public Radio distributes From the Top.

Cal Performances' 2007–2008 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo Bank.

Preben Antonsen (*composer*), 17, from Berkeley, California, has been composing since he was four and now studies with prominent American composer John Adams. He has attended music programs at Aspen Music Festival and School, Perlman Music Camp and Yellow Barn Young Artists Program. A serious pianist, Preben appeared on *From the Top* when he was 14. He also loves outdoor activities, science and tennis, and appreciates the hip-hop productions of Dr. Dre.

Brigid Babbish (*bassoon*), 18, is a very recent graduate of Cranbrook Kingswood School in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. She was first attracted to the bassoon in seventh grade because of its rich red color. She plays with the Detroit Civic Symphony and her school's band and orchestra and has attended Interlochen Arts Camp and Eastman School of Music's summer institute. Brigid loves reading and writing and playing ice hockey in her backyard in the winter.

Anthony Bracewell (*violin*), 16, is a *From the Top* \$10,000 Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist from Essex, Ontario in Canada. He is co-concertmaster of the Detroit Symphony Civic Orchestra and has attended summer programs at Meadowmount School of Music in New York. Anthony also performs with his chamber ensemble, the Viaggio String Quartet. A junior at Walkerville Collegiate High School, he is active in drama and music and has received honors for writing original compositions for school productions.

Hilda Huang (*piano*), 12, is a seventh grader at Jordan Middle School in Palo Alto, California, and a student of John McCarthy at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music Preparatory Division. She has participated in master classes with David Finkel, Barbara Nissman and Stephen Swedish and was one of only four pianists in the world selected to attend Music@Menlo. Hilda also plays harpsichord and enjoys riding her bicycle and playing sports. Watch Hilda on *From the Top at Carnegie Hall* on KQED-Channel 9 this summer!

The **San Francisco Girls Chorus**, founded in 1978, is a regional center for music education and

performance for girls and young women, ages 5–18. More than 300 singers from 160 schools in 48 Bay Area cities participate in this internationally recognized program, deemed “a model in the country for training girls’ voices” by the California Arts Council. Each year, dedicated young artists present season concerts, tour nationally or internationally, and appear with respected sponsoring organizations, including San Francisco Symphony and San Francisco Opera. The Girls Chorus has won many honors, including the prestigious Margaret Hillis Award in 2001, given annually by Chorus America to a chorus that demonstrates artistic excellence, a strong organizational structure, and a commitment to education. Other honors include two ASCAP awards for Adventurous Programming in 2001 and 2004.

The **Viaggio String Quartet** is **Eric Gratz** (*violin*), 17, from Shaker Heights, Ohio; **Anthony Bracewell** (*violin*), 16, from Essex, Ontario, Canada; **Stephanie Price** (*viola*), 17, from Worthington, Ohio; and **Ken Kubota** (*cello*), 16, from Troy, Michigan. They are team coached in Cleveland by Debbie Price of the Chamber Music Connection in Worthington, Ohio, and Annie Fullard of the Cleveland Institute of Music. Recently, the quartet placed first in the Saint Paul String Quartet Competition.



Wendy Lynch

Christopher O’Riley (*host, piano*) has redefined the possibilities of classical music through electronic media, contemporary music and innovative programming. In addition

to hosting *From the Top*'s radio and TV programs and appearing with top orchestras and festivals around the world, O’Riley is also an interpreter of some of the most important contemporary popular music of our time. He lives by the Duke Ellington adage, “there are only two kinds of music, good music and bad.” O’Riley has performed two-pia-

no arrangements of Astor Piazzolla’s tangos with Argentine pianist Pablo Ziegler and collaborated with choreographer Martha Clarke in a work which sets the staged stories of Anton Chekhov to the piano works of Alexander Scriabin. He has recorded two discs of his own re-imaginings of Radiohead songs, as well as a tribute to Elliot Smith, where he delves into the deeply emotional and complex work of the troubled singer/songwriter who died prematurely in 2003. Mr. O’Riley’s most recent disc, *Second Grace: Music of Nick Drake*, interprets the work of singer/songwriter Nick Drake. Next season he will play a series of recitals that intertwine his own piano transcriptions with classical compositions. These will debut at Columbia University’s Miller Theatre and feature Claude Debussy/Nick Drake, Robert Schumann/Elliott Smith and Dmitri Shostakovich/Radiohead. A recipient of top prizes and awards from the Van Cliburn Competition and the Avery Fisher Career Grants, Mr. O’Riley is a graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston.

Joanne Robinson (*announcer*) has a broad arts and communications background. She has performed and toured with several children’s theater companies and worked on production teams of two children’s television programs. In addition to being *From the Top*'s announcer, she serves as the show’s graphic designer and editor of fromthetop.org.

From the Top is an independent non-profit organization that celebrates the passion, dedication, and personal stories of the nation’s outstanding young classical musicians. Through entertaining radio and television broadcasts, online media, and a national tour of live events and outreach programs, these performers inspire the pursuit of excellence and encourage participation in the arts as an integral part of a vibrant and civil society.

From the Top’s training and mentorship programs prepare young musicians to serve as positive peer role models, connect with new audiences, and give back to their communities in many ways.

Television. *From the Top at Carnegie Hall* is produced by Don Mischer Productions, *From the Top* and WGBH Boston in partnership with Carnegie Hall. This PBS series is generously sponsored by

Liberty Mutual. Season 2 premieres on PBS networks and on pbs.org this spring.

Radio. *From the Top* is a weekly, hour-long radio showcase of America’s top young classical musicians hosted by acclaimed pianist Christopher O’Riley. Distributed by NPR to more than 200 stations nationwide, *From the Top* reaches nearly 750,000 loyal listeners each week, ranking it among the top weekly programs on public radio, along with long-term notables *Car Talk* and *A Prairie Home Companion*.

Live Events. From the Top records its radio and television programs in front of live audiences at its home concert hall, New England Conservatory’s Jordan Hall, at Carnegie Hall and in up to 20 communities across the country each year.

Online. On fromthetop.org, YouTube and Facebook, *From the Top* shares the music and stories of its young performers.

Education. From the Top’s education and community outreach programs bring classical music and *From the Top* performers into classrooms, youth organizations, and arts programs across the country. The goals: to inspire budding musicians of all ages, share the joy of music making, and thrill young audiences with the power of great performances by exceptional teen musicians. These programs include collaborations with Young Audiences, Inc., Macmillan/MacGraw Hill Publishers, and the Wallace Foundation.

Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist Awards. From the Top collaborates with the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation to award \$10,000 scholarships to 25 deserving young artists annually so they can make the most of their abundant talent and seize opportunities to play at their best.

Young Composer Project. With support from the Ann & Gordon Getty and ASCAP foundations, *From the Top* encourages the development of the next generation of composers. Honorees appear on the radio show and are paired with a professional composer for a one-on-one mentoring session.

About the Artists

From the Top Production Staff

Jennifer Hurley-Wales *CEO & Executive Producer*
Gerald Slavet *CEO & Executive Producer*

Tom Voegeli *Producer*
Tim Banker *Co-Producer*
David Balsom *Tour Producer*
Tom Vignieri *Music Producer*

Caroline Cardiasmenos *Assistant Music Producer*
Elizabeth DeVore *Production Manager*
Corinne King *Production Assistant*

Berred Ouelette *Technical Director*
Dan Hallas, John Servies *Sound Engineers*
Tori Sweetser *Lighting Designer*