

Westchester  Philharmonic  
*Concert V Program*

Saturday, May 14, 2011 at 8 pm

Sunday, May 15, 2011 at 3pm

**Jaime Laredo, guest conductor**  
**Orion Weiss, piano**

**Gioachino Rossini**

Overture to *Semiramide* (1823)

**Frédéric Chopin**

Concerto for Piano and Orchestra No. 1 in E Minor, Op. 11 (1830)

I. Allegro maestoso  
II. Romance: Larghetto  
III. Rondo: Vivace

**Mr. Weiss**

INTERMISSION

**Ludwig van Beethoven**

Symphony No. 5 in C Minor, Op.67 (1808)

I . Allegro con brio  
II . Andante con moto  
III . Scherzo: Allegro  
I V. Allegro

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## Program Notes

*Please refer to the originally printed program for notes on Rossini's Overture to Semiramide and Beethoven's Symphony No. 5. A biography for Orion Weiss can also be found in the originally printed program.*

### Concerto for Piano and Orchestra No. 1 in E Minor, Op.11 (1830)

--Frédéric Chopin  
(Born March 1, 1810 in Żelazowa Wola, Duchy of Warsaw; died October 17, 1849 in Paris)

*Instrumentation:* two flutes, two oboes, two clarinets, two bassoons, four horns, two trumpets, one trombone, timpani, and strings, in addition to the solo piano.

Chopin's E Minor Piano Concerto, although known to us as his Concerto No. 1, was in fact the second of his two concertos to be composed. Like its F Minor predecessor, the E Minor concerto was premiered in Warsaw. The October 11, 1830 performance essentially served as Chopin's farewell concert, as the ambitious twenty-year-old eagerly set off for a tour of Europe the following month. Little did the Warsaw audience know that their beloved Chopin would never again return to Poland.

Chopin dedicated the E Minor concerto to the German pianist Friedrich Kalkbrenner (1785-1849), who was then considered the preeminent virtuoso in Europe, but is largely forgotten today. In Paris the following year, Chopin approached Kalkbrenner regarding lessons—he clearly idolized the older pianist: "I have become a good friend of Kalkbrenner, the greatest pianist in Europe. He is the

only one whose shoelaces I am not worthy of tying." The haughty Kalkbrenner insisted that Chopin devote three full years to private study with him, an unheard of length for a musical apprenticeship. Such was Chopin's esteem for Kalkbrenner that he very nearly accepted the offer—only his friends' most fervent pleas could dissuade him.

The opening movement, *Allegro maestoso*, expands upon the model that Chopin established in his F Minor concerto. That is, the concerto is a vehicle for the piano soloist to demonstrate his virtuosity. Though the movement includes a wide array of dramatic pianistic fireworks, Chopin balances these passages with delicate lyrical sections, such as the plaintive secondary theme. Maintaining an interpretive equilibrium between the stormy and the calm is the primary challenge for any soloist approaching this work.

Chopin described the famous second movement *Romance: Larghetto* as follows: "I wasn't trying to get strength in it. It's rather a calm, melancholy romance. It must make the impression of a tender gaze turned toward a place evoking a thousand charming memories. It's like a reverie—not on a fine spring day, but by moonlight." The listener is left to wonder what charming memories Chopin had in mind while composing the endless, cascading piano melodies in this movement. We will never know for sure, but this infusion of emotion into an instrumental genre is quintessentially Romantic (with a capital 'R').

Like the *mazurka* finale of his F Minor concerto, Chopin employed the *krakowiak*, a characteristically synco-

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October 1 and 2, 2011  
**Raymond Leppard, conductor**  
**Lynn Harrell, cello**

Beethoven: *Leonore* Overture No. 3  
Tchaikovsky: *Rococo Variations*  
Dvořák: Rondo for Cello and Orchestra  
Elgar: *Enigma Variations*

November 12 and 13, 2011  
**Tomomi Nishimoto, conductor**  
**Anne Hobson Pilot, harp**

Liszt: *Les Preludes*  
John Williams: *On Willows and Birches*  
Rimsky-Korsakov: *Scheherezade*



December 18, 2011  
**Ted Sperling, conductor**  
**Kelli O'Hara, soprano**  
**Ben Davis, tenor**

Selections from Rodgers' *Carousel*, Bernstein's *West Side Story*, Porter's *Kiss Me Kate*, and more. Recently performed with the NY Phil, this program features award-winning Broadway stars.



April 14 and 15, 2012  
**Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg**

Rossini: Sonata for Strings  
Piazzolla: *Four Seasons of Buenos Aires*  
Shostakovich: Quartet No. 8  
("Chamber Symphony")  
Brahms: *Hungarian Dances*



May 19 and 20, 2012  
**George Manahan, conductor**  
**Branford Marsalis, saxophone**

Mozart: Symphony No. 38 ("Prague")  
Glazunov: Concerto for Alto Saxophone  
Mussorgsky: *Pictures at an Exhibition*

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Programs, artists, dates and times subject to change.

*Laredo bio continued...*

University, where his wife Sharon Robinson also holds a teaching position. Additionally, Mr. Laredo is the conductor of the New York String Orchestra at Carnegie Hall, which brings young musicians from around the world to the stage every December.

In demand worldwide as a conductor and a soloist, Mr. Laredo has held the position of Music Director of the Vermont Symphony Orchestra since 1999. He is also Artistic Director of the Brandenburg Ensemble, and Artistic Director of the Chamber Music at the Y series at the 92nd Street Y in New York. In 2009 Mr. Laredo and his wife were named the Artistic Directors of the Linton Chamber Music Series in Cincinnati, Ohio.

As Artistic Director of New York's renowned Chamber Music at the Y series, Mr. Laredo has created an important forum for chamber music performances which has developed a devoted following. His stewardships of the annual New York String Orchestra Seminar at Carnegie Hall and the International Violin Competition of Indianapolis have become beloved educational pillars of the string community. A principal figure at the Marlboro Music Festival in years past and more recently with the Aspen Music Festival, he has also been involved at Tanglewood, Ravinia, Mostly Mozart, and the Hollywood Bowl, as well as the festivals in Italy, Spain, Finland, Greece, Israel, Austria, Switzerland and England.

Born in Bolivia, Jaime Laredo resides in Vermont and Indiana with his wife Sharon Robinson.

pated 2/4 Polish dance, as the rhythmic basis for the third movement *Rondo: Vivace*. Chopin reinterprets the dance in an exhilarating variety of ways, but the movement never loses a distinct folk character. In the coda, a dazzling series of scales affords the pianist the opportunity to put one final stamp on this very soloist-centered work.

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## Jaime Laredo, Conductor

Performing for over five decades before audiences across the globe, Jaime Laredo has excelled in the multiple roles of soloist, conductor, recitalist, pedagogue, and chamber musician. Since his stunning orchestral debut at the age of eleven with the San Francisco Symphony, he has won the admiration and respect of audiences, critics and fellow musicians with his passionate and polished performances. That debut inspired one critic to write: 'In the 1920's it was Yehudi Menuhin; in the 1930's it was Isaac Stern; and last night it was Jaime Laredo.' His education and development were greatly influenced by his teachers Josef Gingold and Ivan Galamian, as well as by private coachings with eminent masters Pablo Casals and George Szell. At the age of seventeen, Jaime Laredo won the prestigious Queen Elisabeth of Belgium Competition, launching his rise to international prominence. With 2009 marking the 50th anniversary of his prize, he was honored to sit on the Jury for the final round of the Competition.

Mr. Laredo has conducted and performed with the Chicago Symphony, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Seattle Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, Detroit Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra, and Philadelphia Orchestra, among many others. Abroad, Mr. Laredo has performed with the London Symphony, the BBC Symphony, the English Chamber Orchestra, the Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, the Royal Philharmonic, and the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, which he led on two American tours and in their Hong Kong Festival debut. His numerous recordings with the SCO include Vivaldi's Four Seasons (which stayed on the British best-seller charts for over a year), Mendelssohn's A Midsummer Night's Dream, "Italian" and "Scottish" Symphonies, Beethoven's Violin Concerto, and recordings of Rossini overtures and Wagner's Siegfried Idyll.

Jaime Laredo is the violinist of the Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio, founded 34 years ago by Mr. Laredo, Ms. Robinson, and pianist Joseph Kalichstein. The Trio performs regularly at Carnegie Hall, the 92nd Street Y in New York, and the Kennedy Center. They have toured internationally, to cities that include Lisbon, Hamburg, Copenhagen, London, Paris, Amsterdam, Vienna, Helsinki, Buenos Aires, Tokyo, Seoul, Sydney, and Melbourne. In 2001, the trio was named Musical America's Ensemble of the Year 2002.

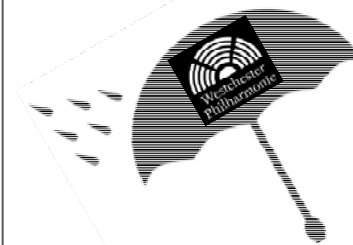
For fifteen years, Mr. Laredo was violist of a Piano Quartet with renowned pianist Emanuel Ax, celebrated violinist Isaac Stern, and distinguished cellist Yo-Yo Ma, his close colleagues and chamber music col-

laborators. Together the Quartet recorded nearly the entire piano quartet repertoire on the SONY Classical label, including the works of Beethoven, Mozart, Schumann, Fauré, and Brahms, for which he won a Grammy Award.

Mr. Laredo has recorded close to one hundred discs, received the Deutsche Schallplatten Prize, and has been awarded seven Grammy nominations. Mr. Laredo's discs on CBS and RCA have included the complete Bach Sonatas with the late Glenn Gould and a KOCH International Classics album of duos with Ms. Robinson featuring works by Handel, Kodaly, Mozart and Ravel. His releases on the audiophile Dorian label include Schubert's complete works for violin and piano with Stephanie Brown, and Virtuoso!, a collection of favorite violin encores with pianist Margo Garrett. Other releases include Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante and Concertone with Cho-Liang Lin for Sony. In May 2000, KOCH released the Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio's two-CD set of the chamber works of Maurice Ravel, to follow the complete trios and sonatas of Shostakovich. The Trio's most recent project includes a 4-disc release of the complete Brahms' Piano Trios, released in 2009.

Recognized internationally as a sought after violin teacher, Mr. Laredo has fostered the education of violinists that include Leila Josefowitz, Hillary Hahn, Pamela Frank, Jennifer Koh, and Ivan Chan, Soovin Kim, and Bella Hristova. After 35 years of teaching at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, Mr. Laredo now holds a chaired professorship at the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana

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