

CALIFORNIA CHRONICLE

Tuesday, July 14, 2009 10:42:58 PM

LA Jewish Symphony at Ford Celebrates E Eur Culture

July 14, 2009

Enter

LOS ANGELES JEWISH SYMPHONY, LED BY FOUNDER/ARTISTIC DIRECTOR NOREEN GREEN,

PRESENTS "L'CHAIM!" (TO LIFE!): A MUSICAL CELEBRATION OF EASTERN EUROPEAN CULTURE FEAT ENTERTAINER MIKE BURSTYN.

Also on the Program are Soloists Mark Kashper, Violin; Zinovy Goro, Clarinet;

and Yevgeniy Milyavskiy, Piano.

Sunday, August 9, 2009, 7:30 p.m. - Ford Amphitheatre

A spirited program showcasing Jewish and Yiddish music and songs of Russia, Poland and other Eastern European countries performed by artists rich with Eastern European roots is presented by the Los Angeles Jewish Symphony on Sunday, August 9, 2009, 7:30 p.m., at the Ford Amphitheatre. "L'CHAIM!" (TO LIFE!): A Musical Celebration of Eastern European Culture, features guest entertainer Mike Burstyn and LAJS Founder/Artistic Director Noreen Green who leads the orchestra with soloists Mark Kashper, violin, Zinovy Goro, clarinet, and Yevgeniy Milyavskiy in an evening that toasts hallowed cultural traditions.

The first half of the program includes Wladislaw Szpilman's Piano Concertino, featured in the Academy Award-winning film "The Pianist" and written while the composer was interned in the Warsaw Ghetto. Rising pianist Yevgeniy Milyavskiy's performance represents the LAJS's artistic vision providing opportunities for young musicians to perform with a symphony orchestra. Also on the program is The Fiddler, based on a Yiddish Shalom Aleichem tale by American composer Elliot Finkel for violin, narrator and orchestra, spotlighting LAJS Concertmaster Mark Kashper and entertainer Mike Burstyn. Rounding out the evening's first half is To the Wedding with soloist Zinovy Goro. Grzegorz Fitelberg (1879-1953), the legendary composer/conductor internationally known as "the Ambassador of Music" whose life was dedicated to promoting Polish art, culture, and music worldwide. The program features Burstyn and the orchestra presenting music, songs and stories, adding their voices to international efforts to promote the revival of the endangered legacy of Yiddish language, culture and history.

Since 1994, the Los Angeles Jewish Symphony, under the baton of Dr. Noreen Green, has been distinguished by its performance of orchestral works of distinction which explore Jewish culture, heritage and experience. It is an important resource for aspiring composers and musicians. Dr. Green, LAJS founder and artistic director, is a renowned lecturer on Jewish music, and an accomplished educator. Under her baton, the orchestra has performed with a number of artists including Billy Crystal, Tovah Feldshuh, Leonard Nimoy, Randy Newman, Bikel, Laraine Newman, Valerie Harper, Pat Boone, Lainie Kazan, Fyvush Finkel, Dave Koz, Marvin Hamlisch,

Mike Burstyn, one of the world's most popular Jewish entertainers, has enjoyed a unique international career with large audiences on stage, screen and television, in nightclubs and on concert stages throughout the world. Born to a family of actors, his work includes "The Komediant," a documentary about his family, which won the 1999 Best Documentary Award. He has received standing ovations and an Outer Critics Circle nomination as Meyer Lansky in "Lansky" and a Drama Desk Award nomination for his performance in "On 2nd Avenue." He recently completed a concert celebrating his 50th anniversary in show business and co-starred with Valerie Harper in the national tour.

"The Allergist's Wife." He won an Outer Critics Circle Award nomination starring as Mike Todd in the Broadway musical "Ain't Broadway Grand" and a Drama Desk Award nomination for his portrayal of Mayer Rothschild in the acclaimed Off-Broadway revival of "The Rothschilds." He also starred on Broadway as P.T. Barnum in the winning musical "Barnum," a role he recreated in the Dutch language production in The Netherlands.

Kashper, the Los Angeles Philharmonic's associate principal second violinist, has appeared as a soloist with the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl as well as in many New Music Group and Chamber Music Series performances, collaborating with such distinguished musicians as Andre Previn, Emanuel Ax, and Yefim Bronfman. He has been the L.A. Philharmonic's concertmaster and frequent featured soloist since 1994.

Goro, considered a brilliant exponent of the clarinet in all types of music, including the highly specialized field of film music, has performed on countless television and motion picture soundtracks, and orchestra recordings for Columbia, Decca, Philips and RCA Labels, and in the Mark Taper Forum's 1986 production of Ghetto. He has also been a composer, orchestrator, arranger and clarinetist with the L.A. Chamber Orchestra and is currently the principal clarinetist.

Milyavskiy, at the age of 23, is the Best American Prize winner of the 2008 Jose Iturbi International Piano Competition and has received numerous other awards, including grand prize at the 2006 Los Angeles International Piano Competition, a 2002 Spotlight Award from the Los Angeles Music Center, and the ASCAP Lieber & Stoller Award. He has performed in numerous solo, chamber, and orchestra appearances nationally and overseas and was a featured soloist at numerous music festivals.

The Ford Amphitheatre is located at 2580 Change Blvd. East, Hollywood, CA 90068. Tickets, priced at \$36 for adults and \$12 for full-time students with ID and children 12 and under, are available at www.FordTheatres.org or 323 GO 1-FORD (for non-visual media 323 GO 1-FORD).

DR. NOREEN GREEN, founder, conductor and artistic director of the Los Angeles Jewish Symphony, is also a faculty member at Valley Beth Shalom in Encino, a renowned lecturer on Jewish music, and an accomplished educator. Since the orchestra's founding in 1994, she has brought neglected as well as new and familiar orchestral works on Jewish themes to the concert stage and has achieved worldwide recognition for her knowledge and skill in presenting them. Under Green's baton, the orchestra has performed in concert with a number of artists including Billy Crystal, Leonard Nimoy, Randy Newman, Theodore Bikel, Laraine Newman, Valerie Harper, Pat Boone, Ilya Fyush Finkel, Dave Koz, Marvin Hamlisch and more.

MIKE BURSTYN is one of the world's most popular Jewish entertainers. Born in New York to a famed family, Mike first walked out on stage at the age of three, stole the show from his father and hasn't looked back since. He has enjoyed a unique international career entertaining audiences on stage, screen and television, in nightclubs and concert stages throughout the world. "The Komediand," a documentary about Mike and his family, won the Oscar. He recently received standing ovations and an Outer Critics Circle nomination as Meyer Lansky in his second Drama Desk Award nomination for his performance in "On 2nd Avenue." He recently completed a national tour of Israel celebrating his 50th Anniversary in Show Business and co-starred with Valerie Harper in the National Theatre production of "The Tale of The Allergist's Wife." He starred in a National tour garnering rave reviews as Al Jolson in "Jolson." He won an Outer Critics Circle Award nomination starring as Mike Todd in the Broadway musical "Ain't Broadway Grand" and a Drama Desk Award nomination for his portrayal of Mayer Rothschild in the critically acclaimed Off-Broadway revival of "The Rothschilds." Mike starred on Broadway as P.T. Barnum in the Tony Award winning musical "Barnum" (a role he recreated in the Dutch language production in The Netherlands). Other Broadway credits include "The Megilla" and "Inquest," in which he was hissed and booed eight times a week as Roy Cohn. Off-Broadway, he acted as host-narrator for the 92nd Street Y's famous "Lyrics & Lyricists" series, inaugurated City Centre's Encores series in "Fiorello" and starred in "The Fishkin Touch," in Murray Schisgal's "Circus Life" and in the Broadway production of Simon's "The Prisoner of Second Avenue." His recent regional credits include acclaimed portrayals of Tevye in "Fiddler On The Roof"; as Nathan Detroit in "Guys & Dolls"; "1040," a new musical by Jerry Bock ("Fiddler On The Roof") and Jerry Sterner ("Other People's Money"); as Kurt Weill in "Berlin To Broadway" (Carbonell Award Nomination); and his tribute to Israel's 50th Anniversary and the national tour of the Broadway musical "Those Were The Days."

U.S. TV appearances on The American Chronicle, The California Chronicle, Los Angeles Chronicle, World Behind the Headlines, and Gump. The Israel Cinematheque saluted his achievements in the Israeli television shows and been a record ceremony in 1997. Over the past decades he has had several successful television shows and been a record CBS Israel. He also hosted and starred in his own TV variety show in Holland. "The Mike Burstyn Show" among the ten most popular shows in The Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg. Among the many guests who make their Dutch television debuts on the show were Mike's friends Ben Vereen and Chita Rivera, who recommended him to the producers of "Barnum." Mike has been honored through the years with numerous artistic, humanitarian awards. He is an honorary board member of Gilda's Club, a Trustee of the American Friends of Israel University and served as Honorary President of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation of Israel.

MARK KASHPER (Concertmaster/Violin) was born in Leningrad (now St. Petersburg), Russia in 1954 and started violin lessons at the age of five. Until the spring of 1972, he studied exclusively under the personal guidance of Aron Khnifel. A graduate of the Moscow Conservatoire (where he was one of the last and favored students of Oistrakh), Kashper also graduated from the Leningrad Conservatoire. As a student, he received numerous scholarships. As an Assistant Concertmaster and soloist with the Moscow Conservatoire Chamber Orchestra, he performed extensively throughout the Soviet Union, Europe, and Latin America. He emigrated from the Soviet Union in October 1977. In February 1978, Kashper arrived in the United States, and three months later won an audition with the Los Angeles Philharmonic. In September 1979, he was promoted to the first violin section, progressed through its ranks, and was named the Orchestra's new Associate Principal Second Violinist in May 1986. In 1987, Kashper won high praise from the audience and critics alike for his performance of the Luciano Berio Coral Coast premiere with the Los Angeles Philharmonic under the direction of Pierre Boulez. He has also appeared with the L.A. Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl, as well as in many New Music Group and Chamber programs, collaborating with such distinguished musicians as Heinz Holliger, Andre Previn, Emanuel Ax and Leonard Bernstein. An active recitalist and avid chamber music player, Kashper has been performing regularly in the Los Angeles area and throughout the United States. Since March 1994, he has served as the Concertmaster and frequent soloist with the Los Angeles Jewish Symphony.

Clarinetist ZINOVY GORO was born in the Ukraine, Kiev, and was educated at the State Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Kiev, with further training in the United States at the Trebas Institute of Recording Arts in Los Angeles. Upon his arrival in America, Goro pursued a prestigious career as principal clarinetist in the State Honored Symphony of Radio and Television. A brilliant exponent of the clarinet in all types of music, including the highly specialized Klezmer music, he has employed his talents to excellent effect in countless television and motion picture recordings for Columbia, Decca, Philips and RCA Labels, and in the Mark Taper Forum's 1986 recording of "The Ghetto." Goro has worked as a composer, orchestrator, arranger and clarinetist with the L.A. Chamber Orchestra and is currently principal clarinetist for the L.A. Jewish Symphony.

YEVGENIY MILYAVSKIY, piano, age 23, was the Best American Prize winner of the 2008 Jose Iturbi International Competition. Born in Mozyr, Belarus, he began studying piano at the age of 3. At age 8, he had a debut with the State Chamber Orchestra. After immigrating to the United States in 1994, he studied under a full scholarship at the Southern California Conservatory of Music, with Grant Horrocks. In 1998, he began his studies with the world-famous concert pianist, Professor Daniel Pollack, with whom he is now finishing his Master of Music degree in piano at the USC Thornton School of Music. Yevgeniy is a winner of numerous awards and competitions, including the Spotlight Awards at the Los Angeles Music Center, the 2003 NFAA competition in Miami, and the 2005 Southern California International Piano Competition. He has received numerous prizes from the Lenis Fe Bland Foundation Competition at Santa Barbara, the Young Musicians Foundation, Los Angeles, and the YAPMF Music Festival, Palos Verdes. He is a Liberace Scholar, and a recipient of the ASCAP Lieber & Stoller Award. He has performed in numerous solo and orchestra performances nationally and overseas and was a fellow to numerous music festivals. Yevgeniy was grand prize winner of the 2006 Los Angeles International Franz Liszt Competition, as a result of which he performed Liszt programs in Los Angeles, San Francisco, London, and the Franz Liszt Museum and Academy in Budapest. He has performed at the Spoleto Festival de Dui Monde in Spoleto, Italy for Francis Menotti, son of composer Gian Francesco Menotti. He has been working as an accompanist for the UCLA vocal department, and premiering music by contemporary composers from Southern California. Yevgeniy will be continuing his musical studies as a D.M.A. Candidate.

fall in the studio. The Los Angeles Jewish Symphony, in the world premiere of Eric Zeisl's Biblical Ballet "Jacob and Rachel."

Since 1994, the LOS ANGELES JEWISH SYMPHONY, under the baton of Artistic Director Noreen Gree dedicated to the performance of orchestral works of distinction, which explore Jewish culture, heritage and It also serves as an important resource for aspiring composers and musicians. As part of its mission, the Jewish Symphony is committed to building "bridges of music" and understanding within the diverse communities of our great city. The mission of the Los Angeles Jewish Symphony is to perform orchestral known as well as not commonly recognized Jewish composers; establish opportunities for the present compositions by Jewish artists; serve as a professional resource for aspiring Jewish and non-Jewish musical educational medium for Jewish music and composers; and provide educational opportunities for diverse school age children. Since its debut performance in 1994, the Los Angeles Jewish Symphony has won local, international acclaim for its inspired programming featuring commissioned new works and many world performances at numerous prestigious venues locally and overseas have played to the ovation of standing audiences. In addition to its yearly concerts, the Los Angeles Jewish Symphony develops and conducts outreach programming for over 1000 school children each season. The Symphony's commitment to generations reflects its belief in the life affirming value and importance of music appreciation. The Los Angeles Jewish Symphony fills a cultural niche that revitalizes the legacy of Jewish music and spans the broad range of Jewish from the nadir of adversity to the triumph of accomplishment. In the words of the Los Angeles Times, "...the Jewish Symphony seems committed to the axiom that diversity is a terrible thing
www.LAJewishSymphony.org.

feature articles. We have over 5,000 contributors, over 100,000 articles, and over 11 million views annually.

This website and its affiliates have no responsibility for the views, opinions and information communicated here. The contributor(s) and news providers are fully responsible for their content. In addition, the views and opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of the American Chronicle or its affiliates. All services and information provided on this website are provided as general information only. Any medical advice, home remedies and all other medical information on this website should not be treated as a substitute for the medical advice of your own doctor. We are not responsible for any diagnosis or treatment made by anyone based on any of the content of this website. Always consult your own doctor if you are in any way concerned about your health.