

April 16, 2019 at 7:30pm | **Richardson Auditorium in Alexander Hall**

## CROSSROADS SERIES

Drawing musicians and music from around the globe, distilling chamber music to its purest and most elemental form, and highlighting music's steadfast intimacy and uncanny capacity to tell stories

# AVITAL MEETS AVITAL

**Avi Avital** Mandolin/Mandola

**Omer Avital** Bass/Oud

**Yonathan Avishai** Piano

**Itamar Doari** Percussion

SELECTIONS TO BE ANNOUNCED FROM THE STAGE

*This performance will last approximately 90 minutes  
and will be performed without intermission.*

## About the Artists



### AVI AVITAL Mandolin/Mandola

#### **This concert marks Avi Avital's PUC debut.**

The first mandolin soloist to be nominated for a classical Grammy, **Avi Avital** has been compared to guitarist Andrés Segovia for his championship of his instrument and to violinist Jascha Heifetz for his virtuosity. He is a driving force behind the reinvigoration of the mandolin repertoire. More than 100 contemporary compositions have been written for him, 15 of them concertos including by Anna Clyne, Avner Dorman and Giovanni Sollima which will be premiered in 2019/20. Enhanced by his infectious spirit of adventure and the warm rapport he fosters with his audience, Avital takes the mandolin center stage.

An exclusive Deutsche Grammophon artist, he has made four recordings for the label. He released a disc of the music heard on tonight's concert in 2017. "Avital meets Avital" with oud/bassist, Omer Avital, explores their

shared cultural heritage and brings their differing classical and jazz musical backgrounds into dialogue. Earlier releases featured original concerti and transcriptions by Vivaldi (2015), his own Bach concerto transcriptions (2012), and *Between Worlds* (2014), a cross-generic chamber collection exploring the nexus between classical and traditional music.

This season Avital returns to Carnegie Hall to make his debut on the main stage with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra. Highlights of the season in the United States also include play-directing the Seattle Symphony and performances with the Detroit Symphony, San Diego Symphony, and Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra. He also returns to Canada to perform with Les Violons du Roy, ahead of a North American tour in the following season. In the Spring of 2019, Avital tours North America with bassist Omer Avital. Recent appearances in the United States also include performances with the St. Louis Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Montreal Symphony, and Chicago Symphony.

He is a favorite on the international festival circuit having appeared at the Aspen, Salzburg, Tanglewood, Spoleto, Ravenna, Cheltenham, and Verbier Festivals, and he was Portrait Artist at the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival in 2017 which involved over 20 performances of 10 different programs. Artistic partners in a variety of genres with whom he collaborates include singers Andreas Scholl, Juan Diego Flórez, Dawn Upshaw,

clarinetist Giora Feidman, violinist Ray Chen, pianist David Greilsammer, percussionist Itamar Doari, and the Dover and Danish String Quartets. He was featured artist at the Dortmund Konzerthaus where he curated a weekend of programs featuring classical, jazz, and improvisations and a new collaboration with the Venice Baroque Orchestra and Georgian puppet theatre, Budrugana Gagra.

Born in Be'er Sheva in southern Israel, Avital began learning the mandolin at the age of eight and soon joined the flourishing mandolin youth orchestra founded and directed by his charismatic teacher, Russian-born violinist Simcha Nathanson. He later graduated from the Jerusalem Music Academy and the Conservatorio Cesare Pollini in Padua, Italy, where he studied original mandolin repertoire with Ugo Orlandi. Winner of Israel's prestigious Aviv Competition in 2007, Avital is the first mandolinist in the history of the competition to be so honored. He plays on a mandolin made by Israeli luthier Arik Kerman.

### OMER AVITAL Bass/Oud

#### **This concert marks Omer Avital's PUC debut.**

Bassist Omer Avital is a visionary composer and virtuoso musician whose genre-defying ensembles are pushing the boundaries of jazz expression and

providing audiences with swing and spiritual sustenance in equal measure. Among the many talented Israeli musicians who have appeared on the world jazz scene in recent years, Avital stands out from the rest. He is not part of this wave but rather one of those who initiated it—Omer Avital is a pioneer. Avital, who has lived in New York City since 1992, is partly responsible for putting his native country on the jazz map. He has been called the Israeli Charles Mingus.

He combines music from his cultural background with modern Western jazz. This makes for an atmospheric sound with contagious Middle-Eastern grooves, subtle jazz melodies and orchestral arrangements of Sephardic compositions. With his new album, *Abutbul Music* (recorded in Paris and released on the Jazz Village records label), Avital delivers a strong statement with a powerful sound, joyful rhythms and oriental melodies that draw on gospel and soul.

## YONATHAN AVISHAI Piano

**This concert marks Yonathan Avishai's PUC debut.**

Based in France, the pianist **Yonathan Avishai** was born and grew up in Israel. He began studying the piano at a young age and discovered jazz in his early teens. At the age of 14 he had already formed his own groups and performed at clubs and festivals in his country. He

often accompanied touring American musicians in Israel (Walter Blanding Jr., Marcus Printup, Allan Harris) and was part of Arnie Lawrence Ensemble. He was a member of "The Left Bank," a cooperative association of musicians formed to promote original music in Tel Aviv. In 2002 he moved to Dordogne (France) and got involved in the local cultural scene. He studied musicotherapie in Bordeaux (Atelier de Musicothérapie de Bordeaux) and formed the Third World Love Quartet with Omer Avital, Avishai Cohen and Daniel Freedman. The group recorded five albums and performed all over the world. He has recently created a new project called "Modern Times" with bassist Yoni Zelnik and drummer Donald Kontomanou. Inspired by artists such as John Lewis, Art Ensemble of Chicago and Mark Rothko, between tradition and modernity, Yonathan strives to deepen the dimensions of his music.

## ITAMAR DOARI Percussion

**This concert marks Itamar Doari's PUC debut.**

**Itamar Doari** was born in Israel and began his musical training when he was only six years old, playing traditional percussion instruments such as Frame Drums, Darbuka, Riq, and more. During the years he had the honor to learn from some of the greatest music teachers in hand-drums and percussion from Israel and abroad - include Zohar Fresco, Glen

Vallez, Sallem Darwish and Ahmed Taher.

Itamar graduated from Klor Music School with honor in 2003. When he was just seventeen years old he was already playing and touring around the world. Itamar plays different percussion instruments and collaborates with artists from different styles and origins worldwide. He is a winner of the America-Israel Foundation scholarship for 2009/2010. Itamar toured for three years with bassist Avishai Cohen. Their latest album, *Seven Seas*, which Itamar also co-produced, was nominated for the France Grammy award.

In 2010 Itamar became one of the founding members of the band Yemen Blues along with singer and composer Ravid Kahalani. The band explores music from a variety

of different cultures from Yemen to West Africa inflected with contemporary grooves of funk, Arabic Music and the deep soul of old chants. A project particularly close to Itamar's heart is one he created entitled "WadiAtma." In 2015 he put together a band of virtuoso musicians from the Flamenco and Middle Eastern traditions which created a musical melting pot of ancient art forms. The name of the project is Unites Souls (*Atma* in Sanskrit) with the wadi (originally an Arabic word that found its way to Spain via Andalusia) in a way that describes, in the best possible way, the meeting on stage: "The Valley of the Souls." Itamar has recorded with several notable record labels, such as; Universal, EMI, Deutsche Grammophon, Sony, Helicon, Blue Note, and Decca.

# ANNOUNCING THE 2019/2020 SEASON

## PRINCETON UNIVERSITY CONCERTS 126TH SEASON

### CONCERT CLASSICS SERIES

The cornerstone series of PUC highlights Beethoven's 250th anniversary, focuses on immersive single-composer programs, celebrates American musicians and composers, and more.

**2019 THURSDAY, OCT. 10 8PM**  
**THE CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY OF LINCOLN CENTER**  
"New World Spirit" featuring Copland's *Appalachian Spring*

**2019 THURSDAY, NOV. 7 8PM**  
**STEFAN JACKIW** Violin  
**JEREMY DENK** Piano\*  
The Complete Violin Sonatas of Charles Ives

**2020 THURSDAY, FEB. 6 8PM**  
**ALEXANDER MELNIKOV** Piano  
**ISABELLE FAUST** Violin  
**JEAN-GUIHEN QUEYRAS** Cello  
All-Beethoven Trios

**2020 THURSDAY, FEB. 20 8PM**  
**CALIDORE STRING QUARTET**  
"The Great Fugue" including Bach, Beethoven, and a new work by English composer Anna Clyne

**2020 THURSDAY, MAR. 26 8PM**  
**MAHLER CHAMBER ORCHESTRA\***  
**MITSUKO UCHIDA** Piano\*  
Mozart Piano Concertos

**2020 THURSDAY, APR. 2 8PM**  
**BENJAMIN BEILMAN** Violin\*  
**ANDREW TYSON** Piano\*  
Beethoven, Britten, Prokofiev, and a new work by composer Frederic Rzewski

**2020 THURSDAY, APR. 16 8PM**  
**DOVER STRING QUARTET\***  
Mozart, Bartók, and Ravel

**2020 THURSDAY, APR. 30 8PM**  
**MATTHIAS GOERNE** Baritone  
**JAN LISIECKI** Piano\*  
All-Beethoven Songs

\*PRINCETON UNIVERSITY CONCERTS DEBUT

### WITH OUR 126TH SEASON...

We reaffirm our roots as one of the country's oldest and boldest chamber music series, channeling the exuberant scope of our 125th anniversary celebration with an exciting season that stays closer to home. As always, we both reunite and expand our star-studded PUC family, welcoming back many fan favorites and introducing fifteen debuts. **Here's to the next 125 years!**

### ICONS OF SONG

PUC gives voice to timeless stories and extraordinary artist pairings, told through a brand new vocal series.

**2019 TUESDAY, OCT. 22 8PM**  
**IAN BOSTRIDGE** Tenor  
**BRAD MEHLDAU** Piano\*  
Schumann and Mehldau

**2019 WEDNESDAY, DEC. 11 8PM**  
**JOYCE DIDONATO** Mezzo-soprano  
**YANNICK NÉZET-SÉGUIN** Piano\*  
Schubert *Winterreise*

**2020 THURSDAY, APR. 30 8PM**  
**MATTHIAS GOERNE** Baritone  
**JAN LISIECKI** Piano\*  
All-Beethoven Songs

### PERFORMANCES UP CLOSE

PUC125 began as a gesture toward our 125th anniversary season—and toward the future of the concert experience. We now know that being "up close" to the music we love has ever-evolving meanings. In our 126th season, we explore **THE ARTIST AS IMPROVISER.**

**2019 WEDNESDAY, NOV. 13 6PM & 9PM**  
**VISION STRING QUARTET\***  
PROGRAM 1: Grazyna Bacewicz and Schumann  
PROGRAM 2: Jazz standards

**2020 TUESDAY, FEB. 11 6PM & 9PM**  
**GABRIELA MONTERO** Piano\*  
PROGRAM 1: Rachmaninoff and Charlie Chaplin's "The Immigrant" with improvisation  
PROGRAM 2: Schumann and improvisations

**2020 THURSDAY, APR. 9 6PM & 9PM**  
**CONRAD TAO** Piano\*  
**CALEB TEICHER** Tap Dancer\*  
Bach, Tao, and more with tap improvisation

### ALL IN THE FAMILY

PUC nurtures a lifelong love of music by offering kids of all ages a chance to encounter chamber music in person.

**2019 SATURDAY, NOV. 2 1PM**  
**MEET THE MUSIC** Ages 6-12  
The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Bruce Adolph, Host  
"Oceanophony," music, poetry, underwater photography, and amazing facts about the ocean and its creatures

**2020 SATURDAY, MAR. 14 1PM**  
**ORLI SHAHAM'S BACH YARD** Ages 3-6

### SPECIAL EVENT

When Igor Stravinsky was asked what he considered to be the most exciting modern music, his answer was (in addition to a piece by Schoenberg), "Georgian polyphonic folk song" With roots in the ancient past this tradition offers more to performance than all of the achievements of modern music."

**2019 MONDAY, NOV. 18 7:30PM**  
**ENSEMBLE BASIANI\***  
Georgian State Vocal Ensemble  
*presented in collaboration with the Princeton University glee club*

### RCP

Richardson Chamber Players, our resident ensemble of performance faculty, gifted students, and guests

**2019 SUNDAY, OCT. 20 3PM**  
**2019 SUNDAY, NOV. 24 3PM**  
**2020 SUNDAY, MAR. 8 3PM**

Subscriptions to the 2019/2020 season will go on sale in May.  
Call 609-258-2800 or visit [princetonuniversityconcerts.org](http://princetonuniversityconcerts.org)

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY  
CONCERTS

## SUPPORT US

Supporting Princeton University Concerts is critical to our future. Ticket sales cover less than half of the cost of presenting the very best in world-class music. Remaining funds come, in part, from our generous endowment, left to PUC by the Ladies' Musical Committee in 1929. We remain eternally grateful for the support of the Philena Fobes Fine Memorial Fund and the Jesse Peabody Frothingham Fund.

Other support comes from donors like you. We are grateful to the individuals whose support at all levels ensures that the musical performance remains a vital part of Princeton, the community, and the region.

**If you wish to make a donation to Princeton University Concerts**, please call us at 609-258-2800, visit [princetonuniversityconcerts.org](http://princetonuniversityconcerts.org), or send a check payable to Princeton University Concerts to: Princeton University Concerts, Woolworth Center, Princeton, NJ 08544.

### THANK YOU!

We are deeply grateful for all of the support we have received and thank all of our donors and volunteers.

The list below acknowledges gifts of \$100 or more, received between April 1, 2018 and March 31, 2019. If you see an error, or would like to make a change in your listing, please contact the Concert Office at 609-258-2800.

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Lor & Michael Gehret  
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**We are deeply grateful for all of the support we receive from our staff and volunteers.**

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