

The New Crossroads of American Music

Press Release



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EMF WELCOMES VIOLINIST NADJA SALERNO-SONNENBERG
AND GUEST CONDUCTOR JAHJA LING

Greensboro, NC- Eastern Music Festival presents the fourth concert of its Lincoln Financial Festival Orchestra Series, under the baton of internationally renowned **guest conductor Jahja Ling**. The program will highlight the performance of Shostakovich's Violin Concerto in A minor, op.77, by the exceptional **violinist Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg**. Made possible with the support of the Lincoln Financial Foundation, the concert will also include works by Glinka and Dvořák. It will take place on **Saturday, July 25, 2009 at 8pm** in **Dana Auditorium at Guilford College** (5800 West Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27410). Tickets may be purchased for \$55 for reserved seating and \$45 for general admission by calling the EMF Box Office at Triad Stage at 336.272.0160 or 866-579-TIXX, or online at www.EasternMusicFestival.org.

Acclaimed as one of the greatest violinists of our time, **Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg** is characterized for her powerful and incomparable artistry. She is associated with some of the major orchestras and the biggest names in the classical music world. An innovative personality and a true leader, Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg currently serves as the Music Director and Concertmaster of the New Chamber Orchestra. In her collaboration with the Eastern Festival Orchestra, Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg will perform the extraordinary Violin Concerto in A minor, op.77 by Dmitri Shostakovich. The lyrical piece, magnificently orchestrated by the composer, displays the instrument's virtuosic, dynamic and colorful range.

As guest conductor for the evening, **Jahja Ling** will incorporate other interesting works to the varied program. Such is Mikhail Glinka's *Ruslan and Ludmilla: Overture*, a charming tap into the Russian composer's Nationalist style. The concert will culminate

with Antonin Dvořák's Symphony No. 8 in G major, op.88. The work exudes rich melodic and harmonic expression, embracing passion and the joyful power of music.

A free pre-concert conversation with musicologist Dr. Greg Carroll, called Musically Speaking, explores the history of the evening's composers and repertoire in a casual, conversational atmosphere. Musically Speaking begins at 7pm in the Moon Room of Dana Auditorium and is free and open to the public. There is also a pre-concert prelude beginning at 7:15pm in front of Dana Auditorium to welcome concertgoers.

Pennybyrn at Maryfield Retirement Living Community is the proud sponsor of Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg for this performance.

More about Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg

Electrifying performances, fearless interpretations and musical depth have established violinist Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg as one of the leading violinists of our time. After a triumphant first season as Music Director of the New Century Chamber Orchestra (New Century), Nadja leads this 19-member string orchestra in four subscription series for the 2009-10 season, including the world premier commission of Bolcom's *Romanza* violin concerto. On August 11, 2009, Nadja's record label, NSS Music, releases "Together," her first recording collaboration with New Century.

Nadja appears during the 2009-10 season as soloist with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra, Madison Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Austin Symphony Orchestra, New World Symphony Orchestra, Chattanooga Symphony, Lexington Philharmonic, Long Island Philharmonic, Toronto Symphony Orchestra and San Antonio Symphony. She is joined once again by pianist and collaborator Anne-Marie McDermott for recitals throughout the season.

A powerful and innovative presence on the recording scene, Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg started NSS Music in 2005. This record label continues to grow, with the most recent release being "Together," Nadja's first recording collaboration with New Century. "Together" includes *Impressions* by Clarice Assad, which was given its world premiere by New Century in 2008; Piazzolla's *Four Seasons of Buenos Aires*, and Gershwin's *Bess You Is My Woman Now* from *Porgy and Bess* arranged for string orchestra, both with Nadja as soloist; and Bartók's *Romanian Dances* arranged for string orchestra. "Together" follows NSS Music's previous recording, "Originis Live from Brasil," released in April 2009, a recording which honors the Italian heritage of Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg and the Brazilian heritage of her collaborators, guitarists Sérgio and Odair Assad. The NSS Music label also features Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg's "Merry" (a compilation of Christmas favorites, performed by Nadja and friends), "Nadja" (Tchaikovsky and Assad, violin concertos), "Live" (Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg and Anne-Marie McDermott), as well as "Love, All That It Is" (NSS Music's first jazz album featuring The Clarice Assad Trio), Anne-Marie McDermott's "Bach" and John Cerminaro's "John Cerminaro, A Life of Music." Additionally, she has over twenty releases on the EMI and Nonesuch labels.

Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg's exceptional artistry is paired with great musical intelligence which, along with her unique personality, have served her well in numerous environments—on camera, in a commercial for Signet Bank, hosting a Backstage/Live from Lincoln Center program for PBS, appearing in the PBS/BBC series *The Mind*, even talking to Big Bird on *Sesame Street*. She was the subject of the 2000 Academy Award-nominated film, *Speaking In Strings*, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival. Released in theaters nationwide and subsequently premiered on HBO's Signatures channel in 1999, this intensely personal documentary on her life is available on VHS and DVD through New Video. The CD of music from the film was released in 1999 by Angel/EMI. Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg has appeared on ABC's prime time comedy *Dharma & Greg* in 2001, and she has also been interviewed and profiled on CBS' *60 Minutes*, *60 Minutes II*, and *Sunday Morning*; CNN's *Newsstand*; NBC's *National News* and *The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson*; A & E's *Artist of the Week with Elliot Forrest*; Bravo's *Arts & Minds* and *The Art of Influence*; PBS' *Live from Lincoln Center*, *The Charlie Rose Show*, and *City Arts*. On the publishing front, *Nadja: On My Way*, her autobiography written for children discussing her experiences as a young musician building a career, was published by Crown Books in 1989.

Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg's professional career began in 1981 when she won the Walter W. Naumburg International Violin Competition. In 1983 she was recognized with an Avery Fisher Career Grant, and in 1988 was Ovarions Debut Recording Artist of the Year. In 1999 she was honored with the prestigious Avery Fisher Prize, awarded to instrumentalists who have demonstrated "outstanding achievement and excellence in music." In May of that same year, Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg was awarded an honorary Masters of Musical Arts from the New Mexico State University, the first honorary degree the University has ever awarded. An American citizen, Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg was born in Rome and emigrated to the United States at the age of eight to study at The Curtis Institute of Music. She later studied with Dorothy DeLay at The Juilliard School.

More about Jahja Ling

Having conducted all of the major orchestras in the U.S. and prominent orchestras in Europe and Asia, **Jahja Ling's** distinguished career as an internationally renowned conductor has earned him an exceptional reputation for musical integrity, intensity, and expressivity. Mr. Ling is in his fourth season as music director of the San Diego Symphony, where his work continues to receive the highest praise from the public and critics alike.

Since his acclaimed debut with The Cleveland Orchestra in 1985, Mr. Ling has conducted the orchestra in 23 consecutive seasons. He was a member of the conducting staff of The Cleveland Orchestra for 20 years, from 1984 to 2005. From 1985 to 2002, he served as resident conductor, leading the orchestra in over 400 concerts and over 550 works at Severance Hall, at the annual Blossom Festival, and on tour. During his tenure as resident conductor, Mr. Ling led the orchestra's annual concert in downtown Cleveland, heard by more than a million people since first presented in 1990. For six seasons, from 2000 to 2005, he served with distinction as Blossom Festival director. His telecast of "A Concert in Tribute and Remembrance" with the orchestra for 9/11 received an Emmy Award.

Mr. Ling was named Music Director Laureate of The Florida Orchestra and the National Symphony Orchestra of Taiwan after he served as music director and artistic director with those respected organizations.

Acclaimed for his interpretation of works in the standard repertoire, he is also recognized for the breadth of contemporary music included in his programs. In May 2000, his debut performance with the St. Louis Symphony and cellist Yo-Yo Ma was featured on the ABC News program "20/20." Recent and upcoming guest conducting engagements include the symphony orchestras of Boston, Baltimore, Cleveland, Honolulu, Phoenix, Houston, Pittsburgh, San Antonio, Utah, the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, and the Aspen Music Festival. Abroad, he has recently appeared at the Tivoli Festival with the Copenhagen Philharmonic, with the Bochum Symphony in Germany, China Philharmonic in Beijing, Guangzhou Symphony, and the Singapore Symphony.

Mr. Ling's commitment to working with and developing young musicians is evident, having conducted the orchestras of the Aspen Festival, Curtis Institute of Music, and The Juilliard School, where he is a regular guest. Additionally, Mr. Ling served as founding music director of the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra from 1986 to 1993.

Mr. Ling's recordings include a range of works on the Telarc, Azica Records, and Continuum labels, featuring performances with The Florida Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic, and the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, one of which was nominated for a GRAMMY® award. His performance of the world premiere of Ellen Taaffe Zwilich's Third Symphony with the New York Philharmonic is included in the orchestra's "American Celebrations" collection.

Born in Jakarta, Indonesia, of Chinese descent and now a United States citizen, Mr. Ling began to play the piano at the age of four. He received his master's degree from The Juilliard School in piano performance, and his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Yale University School of Music, where he studied conducting with Otto Werner Mueller. In the summer of 1980, Mr. Ling was awarded the Leonard Bernstein Conducting Fellowship at Tanglewood, and Mr. Bernstein became one of the most influential mentors in his musical life.

Tickets: Triad Stage Box Office 336.272.0160 or 866.579.TIXX or www.EasternMusicFestival.org.

*a service fee will apply

Discounts are available for full-time students with a valid ID, seniors aged 65 or older, and groups of 10 or more for most performances. Young Artists and EMF*kids* concerts offer family-friendly packages. Please call the box office about packages. This season most discounts will be available at the door. Discounts and gift certificates will not be accepted for concerts designated as special events.

**Dates, programs, venues, and artists are subject to change.*

More About Eastern Music Festival

Now in its 48th year, the Eastern Music Festival & School is recognized for its prodigious contributions to the field of American music and its commitment to nurturing talented American and international youth through a collaborative learning process. The program brings together a cross-section of America's most sought-after artists with pre-professional students in a five-week schedule of 100 concerts and music-related events. **Music Director Gerard Schwarz** heads a distinguished list of participating artists scheduled for 2009, including **Peter Serkin, Sarah Chang, Horacio Gutiérrez, Nadja Salerno Sonnenberg, Xavier Phillips**, plus many others.

The Festival also produces a popular EMF*fringe* series of alternative programming, featuring everything from Americana to alt country, blues, jazz and gospel with artists such as **Mike Cross, The John Cowan Band, Laurelyn Dossett, Steep Canyon Rangers, Waybacks, The Chris Hicks Band**, blues artist **Larry McCray** and more. EMF*kids* offers camps and concerts with each uniquely designed to foster a love and knowledge for classical and non-classical music. This year's concerts are **Shana Banana** and **Dan Zanes**. EMF*jazz&blues* runs each spring and EMF Fringe on the Fall each autumn. Season tickets on sale through June 27th (EMF*fringe* season tickets on sale through July 9th); single tickets on sale now. www.EasternMusicFestival.org; Box Office 336.272.0160 or 866.579-TIXX.

The 2009 Eastern Music Festival season is sponsored in part by the United Arts Council of Greater Greensboro, the North Carolina Arts Council, Lincoln Financial Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Southern Arts Federation, WFDD Triad Arts Station, Greensboro's News and Record, Continental Airways, Yes! Weekly, and Piedmont Music Center (Steinway Pianos).

For more information about EMF or its programs, please visit www.EasternMusicFestival.org, or call toll free: 1.877.833.6753

The Eastern Music Festival's mission is to promote musical enrichment, excellence, professional collaboration, innovation and diversity through a nationally-recognized teaching program, music festival, concerts and other programs which will enhance the quality of life, health and vitality of our region.

EMF is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.
All contributions are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

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