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Violinist Gidon Kremer Headlines Unique Voices Concert Series at Longy

Cambridge MA, September 29: Internationally-renowned violinist Gidon Kremer will perform at Longy School of Music's Edward M. Pickman Hall on Monday, October 10, at 8:00 p.m., the first in a series of Unique Voices concerts the school has planned for 2011-2012 year. The recital features Kremer playing the works of Silvestrov, Bach, Gubaidulina, and Shostakovich, with Andrius Zlabys, piano and Giedre Dirvanauskaite, cello. The trio will perform only four dates in North America on their tour.

The first half of the program features Valentin Silvestrov's **Homage to J.S. Bach**, performed by Kremer and Zlabys, followed by Kremer's solo performance of Bach's **Chaconne from Partita No. 2 in D Minor**. Kremer and Dirvanauskaite will pair for Sofia Gubaidulina's **Sonata for Violin and Cello**.

After intermission, the program begins with Gubaidulina's **Chaconne for Piano Solo**, performed by Zlabys; the evening concludes with Shostakovich's **Piano Trio No. 2 in E minor, Op. 67**.

"Longy is thrilled to present Gidon Kremer and his distinguished colleagues in concert. One of the greatest musicians of our time, Mr. Kremer has devoted to his life to perpetuating the art of music not only through his stunning interpretations of the classics but through the championing of contemporary works of Arvo Part, Philip Glass, Alfred Schnittke and John Adams," says Longy Conservatory Dean and Curator of the Unique Voices Series, Wayman Chin. "His program at Longy, linking Bach to contemporary masters Silvestrov and Gubaidulina, is yet another representation of the catholicity of Kremer's view, that all music is connected and that there need not be boundaries between the old and the new."

Tickets: \$40 adults/ \$30 students and seniors.

Please visit www.longy.edu to purchase tickets and for additional information.

GIDON KREMER

Monday, October 10, 8:00 p.m.; Edward M. Pickman Hall, Longy School of Music

V. SILVESTROV: Homage to J.S. Bach (*G. Kremer & A. Zlabys*)

J.S. BACH: Chaconne from Partita No. 2 in D minor (*G. Kremer*)

S. GUBAIDULINA: Rejoice –Sonata for Violin & Cello (*G. Kremer & G. Dirvanauskaite*)
intermission
S. GUBAIDULINA: Chaconne for Piano Solo (*A. Zlabys*)
D. SHOSTAKOVICH: Piano Trio No. 2 in E minor, Op. 67 (*G. Kremer, G. Dirvanauskaite & A. Zlabys*)

BIOS

Gidon Kremer

Over the course of his distinguished career, violinist Gidon Kremer has established a worldwide reputation as one of the most original and compelling artists of his generation.

Born in Riga, Latvia, he began studying at the age of four with his father and grandfather, both distinguished string players. At the age of seven, he entered Riga Music School. At sixteen he was awarded the first Prize of the Latvian Republic and two years later he began his studies with David Oistrakh at the Moscow Conservatory. He went on to win prestigious awards including the 1967 Queen Elizabeth Competition and the first prize in both Paganini and Tchaikovsky International Competitions.

Gidon Kremer's repertoire is unusually extensive, encompassing the standard classical and romantic violin works, as well as music by twentieth- and twenty-first century masters such as Henze, Berg and Stockhausen. He also championed the works of living Russian and Eastern European composers and has performed many important new compositions; several of them dedicated to him. He has become associated with such diverse composers as Alfred Schnittke, Arvo Pärt, Giya Kancheli, Sofia Gubaidulina, Valentin Silvestrov, Luigi Nono, Aribert Reimann, Peteris Vasks, John Adams, Victor Kissine, Michael Nyman, Philipp Glass, Leonid Desyatnikov, and Astor Piazzolla, bringing their music to audiences in a way that respects tradition yet remains contemporary. It would be fair to say that no other soloist of his international stature has done as much for contemporary composers in the past 30 years.

An exceptionally prolific recording artist, Kremer has made more than 120 albums, many of which brought him prestigious international awards and prizes in recognition of his exceptional interpretative powers. These include the *Grand prix du Disque*; *Deutscher Schallplattenpreis*; the *Ernst-von-Siemens Musikpreis*; the *Bundesverdienstkreuz*; the *Premio dell' Accademia Musicale Chigiana*; the *Triumph Prize 2000*; the *2007 Unesco Prize*; the *Saeculum-Glashütte Original-Musikfestspielpreis*; the *2008 Rolf-Schock Prize*; and the *Life Achievement Prize* of the Istanbul Music festival.

In February 2002 he and the Kremerata Baltica were awarded a Grammy for the Nonesuch recording "After Mozart" in the Best Small Ensemble Performance category. The same recording received an ECHO prize in Germany.

The EMI Classics CD *The Berlin Recital* with Martha Argerich and works by Schumann and Bartók

has been recently released as well as an album with all violin concertos of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, a live recording with the label Nonesuch, recorded with Kremerata Baltica at Salzburg Festival 2006. His latest CD, *De Profundis* was published in September 2010 with Nonesuch. Kremer actively collaborates with the ECM label, which released his last recording of all J.S. Bach Sonatas and Partitas. The most recent releases include a piano trio album with Khatia Buniatishvili and Giedre Dirvanauskaite and a CD set of Lockenhaus live recordings celebrating the 30 years of this unique festival.

Giedre Dirvanauskaite

Giedre Dirvanauskaite was born in Kaunas, Lithuania to a family of musicians. In 1995, she graduated from the M.K. Ciurlionis Art Gymnasium, where she studied cello with R. Armonas, and entered the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre to study with S. Sondeckiene. Dirvanauskaite is the laureate of several national competitions, and has attended master classes held by M. Rostropovich, H. Beyerle, T. Grindenko, and others.

Dirvanauskaite has participated in a number of music festivals in Lithuania and around the globe: the international music festival Sugrizimai, Gstaad's chamber music festival, and "les museiques" in Basel, Switzerland, among others. Since 1997, she has been regularly participating in the Lockenhaus Chamber Music Festival in Austria, where she had the opportunity to perform in chamber ensembles with artists including M. Bekovac, D. Geringas, H. Holliger, G. Kremer, B. Pergamenschikov, and L. Hagen. As a soloist she has played with the Lithuanian National Symphony Orchestra, Lithuanian Chamber Orchestra, Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Kiev Chamber Orchestra, as well as a number of symphony orchestras in Germany, Belgium, the U.S. She regularly participates in activities and tours for the Orchestral Ensemble Kanazawa.

Dirvanauskaite is a founding member of the chamber orchestra Kremerata Baltica and has toured worldwide with them since 1997. In January 2005, she was featured as a Kremerata Baltica soloist at the international music fair MIDEM in Cannes, France and is a member, along with other Kremerata Baltica musicians, of the Kremeratini String Quartet.

Dirvanauskaite tours worldwide performing in chamber groups with pianists including A. Zlabys, Sa Chen, and K. Buniatisili, and soloists including M. Argerich, Y. Bashmet, M. Lethiec, and M. Portal. Dirvanauskaite has been performing on tour with violinist Gidon Kremer and pianist Khatia Buniatishvili since 2009.

Andrius Zlabys

Grammy-nominated pianist Andrius Zlabys has received international acclaim for his appearances with many of the world's leading orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, Rotterdam Symphony, and Philharmonic Orchestra of Buenos Aires.

At the age of 18, Zlabys—who was born in Lithuania and trained at the revered Curtis Institute of

Music—was heralded by the Chicago Tribune as “One of the most gifted young keyboard artists to emerge in years,” and it was Zlabys whom the *New York Sun* profiled in an article titled “A Shining Hope of Pianists” after his recital at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

Zlabys’ artistry has received accolades from the press for his performances of “easy virtuosity” (The Strad), “generous and all encompassing” sound (The Philadelphia Inquirer), “spell-binding interpretation” (The Plain Dealer) and his “wealth of musical perception” (Greenville News). This international acclaim has followed his approach to music, as described by the Philadelphia Inquirer: “The beloved C-major chord... rippled off of Zlabys' hands with such open-hearted rightness that you couldn't escape the notion that the pianist was acting as Bach's ventriloquist...”

Zlabys’ concerts have included appearances on many of the world’s leading stages, such as Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center, Concertgebouw, Carnegie Hall, Teatro Colón, Wigmore Hall, Vienna’s Musikverein and Suntory Hall. He has also appeared at numerous festivals both in the U.S. and abroad, including the Menuhin, Salzburg, Lockenhaus and Caramoor music festivals, and made his Carnegie Hall debut at the Isaac Stern Auditorium with New York Youth Symphony in 2001 in a performance of Beethoven First Piano Concerto, with conductor Misha Santora. He was also invited the following season as soloist with Kremerata Baltica to perform Benjamin Britten’s Young Apollo at Carnegie Hall’s Zankel Hall.

Andrius Zlabys has enjoyed collaborations with several esteemed musicians, including violist Yuri Bashmet, violinist Hilary Hahn, and an enduring and extensive collaboration with violinist Gidon Kremer, with whom Zlabys has toured extensively in Europe, Japan, South America, and the U.S. Notably, in 2003, Zlabys earned a Grammy nomination for his recording of Enescu’s Piano Quintet with Gidon Kremer and Kremerata Baltica, the same year he was also a prize winner at The Cleveland International Piano Competition.

A multifaceted musician of wide-ranging repertoire, Andrius Zlabys holds a special reverence for J.S. Bach, while remaining a strong advocate for the contemporary stage with numerous works commissioned by and written for him.

Andrius Zlabys began piano studies at the age of six in his native Lithuania with Laima Jakniuniene at the Ciurlionis Art School, and continued his studies in the U.S. with Seymour Lipkin (Curtis Institute of Music), Sergei Babayan (Cleveland Institute of Music), and Claude Frank (Yale School of Music).

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