



Washington Square Music Festival

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**WASHINGTON SQUARE MUSIC FESTIVAL PRESENTS MUSIC AND
POETRY Nov 19, 4 pm in St. Marks Church-in-the-Bowery, free**

The Washington Square Music Festival wraps up its 65th season on Sunday, November 19 at 4 pm in St. Mark's Church-in-the-Bowery. Ahmed Alom will conduct the Festival Chamber Ensemble, in works that span four centuries of creativity by Mozart, Britten, Bartók, and Guido López Gavilán, a Cuban composer. Featured is Benjamin Britten's *Serenade*, with soloists Marc Molomot, tenor, and Karl Kramer, French Horn. The concert is free; seating is first come, first served.

Sunday, November 19 2023, 4 pm free
St. Mark's Church-in-the-Bowery

131 East 10th Street
New York NY 10003

Subway: N, R at 8th St.-NYU; 6 at Astor Place

ws-mf.org

The Festival Chamber Ensemble

Ahmed Alom, conductor

Marc Molomot, tenor

Karl Kramer, French horn

W.A. Mozart: *Symphony no. 17 in G major, K.129*

Guido López Gavilán: *Camerata en Guaguancó*

Béla Bartók: *Romanian Dances*

Benjamin Britten: *Serenade for tenor, French horn, and Strings, op 31*

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that." Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Marc Molomot, tenor • Karl Kramer, French horn

the ARTISTS



Ahmed Alom

**Conductor, pianist,
and composer**

Mr. Alom is a prize winner of the New York Young Musicians Competition, Slatkin Competition at the Manhattan School of Music, Maria Clara Cullerell Competition (Costa Rica), and the National Chamber Music Competition (Mexico), he was a finalist of the 66th New York Chopin Competition by Kosciuszko Foundation, and the recipient of the Praised by his technical command, musicality and great versatility, Mr. Alom is one of the leading young artists in New York City, having performed with Louisville Symphony Orchestra, New World Symphony Orchestra, Orquesta Filarmónica de Mexico, and Britt Festival Orchestra, and as both pianist and conductor with the Washington Square Music Munz Foundation Scholarship for Young Artists.

As a conductor, he has led the Ballet Hispanico Ensemble, the Association of Dominican Classical Artists in New York, and became assistant conductor of the Washington Square Music Festival Orchestra, making the New York Premiere of Dick Hyman's Ragtime Clarinet Concerto with soloist Julian Milkis. Mr. Alom has performed as a soloist with orchestras in Spain, Cuba, Mexico, and the United States, performing works ranging from Beethoven to Chopin, Gershwin, and contemporary composers.

As a jazz and Latin jazz pianist, he has appeared in festivals in the US, Canada, Mexico, Spain, Costa Rica and Cuba, and he has performed at Jazz at Lincoln Center, Montreal Jazz Festival, Rochester Jazz Festival, Newport Jazz Festival, the Manhattan School of Music Afro Cuban Jazz Band, ExitZero Jazz Festival and Jazz Night in America. He has also arranged and written music for Pedrito Martinez Group, Canadian Brass, and People of Earth.

He has collaborated on several studio albums: "Impulso Tanguero" with the Pedro Giraud Tango Quartet, "And I Love Her" with Steve Hackman, "Doña Peron" by Peter Salem, and with Grammy Winner bandoneonist Hector del Curto among others. Ahmed Alom lives in Harlem with his wife, mezzo-soprano Rosario Armas.



Mr. Molomot is possessed of a high-tenor voice and a winning stage persona that comfortably embraces both comedic and dramatic roles, and was recently named "Artist of the Year" by Voix des Arts. Originally known for appearances with the world's leading early music ensembles, and conductors including William Christie, John Eliot Gardiner, Nicholas McGegan, and Andrew Parrott, Mr. Molomot is now praised as "an excellent actor-singer" in repertoire of all eras.

In concert, recent engagements include Britten's *Serenade* with Omaha Symphony and Britten's *St. Nicholas Cantata* with Berkshire Chorale International, Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9* with Mobile Symphony Orchestra and Nashville Symphony, Bach's *Magnificat* with Israel Camerata Jerusalem, *Messiah* with Rhode Island Philharmonic, Milwaukee Symphony, Symphony Nova Scotia, and Mozart *Coronation Mass* at Alice Tully Hall with American Classical Orchestra. Increasingly in demand as tenor soloist in Orff's *Carmina Burana*, after his role debut with the Houston Symphony, he has reprised it with the Kansas City, Pacific, and Omaha Symphonies.

Known for his heartfelt portrayal of the Evangelist in Bach's Passions, Mr. Molomot has explored the role in performances worldwide under the batons of conductors including Andrew Parrott and John Nelson. Recent concert appearances include a *St. John Passion* with Berkshire Choral Festival, and a *St. Matthew Passion* at King's College, Halifax.

Mr. Molomot's recordings include the GRAMMY Award-winning release of Berg's *Wozzeck* with the Houston Symphony; GRAMMY Award-nominated Lully's *Thésée* with the Boston Early Music Festival; GRAMMY Award-nominated *Il Ritorno di Ulisse* with Boston Baroque; Charpentier's *Judicium Salomonis* with Les Arts Florissants conducted by William Christie, and Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo* with Apollo's Fire led by Jeannette Sorrel.

the ARTISTS



Karl Kramer

French Horn

Mr. Kramer writes: "The main focus of my performance career is chamber music. My first job out of conservatory was with the national Danish chamber ensemble: Esbjerg Ensemble. Currently, I am an artist

member of the Dorian Wind Quintet, Jupiter Chamber Players, and Concerts in the Heights.

In addition, I have frequently performed with many great orchestras, including appearances as Guest Principal with such organizations as Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Munich Symphony, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Chattanooga Symphony, Long Island Philharmonic, Bergen Philharmonic, and others. From 1997-2001, I was performing as Principal horn with the Jupiter Symphony in New York City.

Maestro Jens Nygaard frequently featured me as a soloist in both the well-loved concerti by Mozart, Strauss and Saint-Saëns, as well as in lesser-known works by Chabrier, Dubois, Reinecke, and others. Other solo-engagements include the 2003 Norwegian Premiere of Ligeti's "Hamburgisches Konzert" with Ensemble Ernst in a live radio broadcast, and participation in Moscow's 2014 Mozart-Marathon.

Although I play the entire standard repertoire as a recitalist, I have also unearthed some rarely played repertoire. Perhaps the most interesting discovery is a Serenade by Heinrich Schenker (a work that had been sitting in a box in a library in California without any known performances for the last hundred years), which I re-introduced to the public in 2013.

I continue to take great joy in trying to produce the most beautiful sounds out of a long, conical, curved brass-tubing and strive every day to improve as a performer and spread beauty and happiness through music."



Benjamin Britten

Serenade op 31:

This masterly work was written for the combined musical talents of tenor Peter Pears and hornist Dennis Brain. Pears was an English tenor who was Britten's professional and

personal partner for many years. *Serenade* is framed by a horn solo played on natural harmonics to evoke an atmosphere of far-off, primeval innocence. It is an extraordinary example of Britten's ability to set an anthology of texts bound together by a similar theme, the world of night, sleep, and dreams. The twilight atmosphere that characterizes this beautiful and evocative work is offset by the two settings that form its centerpiece, the "Sick Rose" of Blake's "Elegy" and a nightmarish setting of the anonymous 15th-century "Lyke Wake Dirge".

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