

Roy Bogas and Friends to Return for Fourth Annual Gualala Chamber Music Weekend



The Gualala Arts Concert Series is delighted to present **Roy Bogas and Friends** for the fourth annual Summer Chamber Music Weekend, July 8 and 9. This now-traditional weekend of superb performances by pianist Bogas and outstanding string players from the Bay Area will be the highlight of our concert season. In addition to Bogas, the ensemble includes violinists Axel Strauss and Amy Hiraga, violist Joanna Patterson, and cellist Peter Wyrick. In the Gualala Summer Chamber Music weekends of 2003, 2004, and 2005, the ensemble thrilled audiences in sold-out performances and were accorded enthusiastic standing ovations. The love affair between Gualala and Roy Bogas and Friends will continue this season with two concerts at the Gualala Arts Center on Saturday, July 8 at 7:30 pm, and Sunday, July 9 at 4 pm.

Saturday's program will include the *String Quartet No. 1* by Beethoven, the *Sonata for Violin and Piano* by Franck, and the *Piano Quartet in C Minor* by Gabriel Faure. Sunday's program will include the *Sonata for Cello and Piano* by Beethoven, the *Sonata for Violin and Cello* by Ravel, and the *Piano Quintet in F Minor* by Brahms.

Roy Bogas, who has been called Gualala's favorite pianist, received his training in New York and at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. He made his debut with the San Francisco Symphony at age 14, and at age 19 he became accompanist to Yehudi Menuhin, playing over a hundred concerts with him throughout North and South America. He has also played with Joseph Szigeti and many other well-known artists. In 1962 he was a prizewinner at the second Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow. He has performed as soloist with virtually every orchestra in Northern California and with many other orchestras in this country and abroad. Bogas is a Professor of Music at Holy Names University in Oakland, and is also Principal Solo Pianist for the San Francisco Ballet. An active chamber musician, he is the founder and director of the MasterGuild Series of chamber music concerts at Holy Names.

Violinist Axel Strauss resides in San Francisco, where he serves as Professor of Violin at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. He made his recital debut in Hamburg in 1988 and his concerto debut with the Neubrandenburg Philharmonic two years later. At the age of 17 he won the silver medal at the Enescu Competition in Romania, and has been recognized with many other awards, including top prizes in the Bach, Wieniawski, and Kocian Competitions. In 1998 he became the first German artist to win the coveted Naumburg Violin Award in New York. He later became teaching assistant to the famous Dorothy Delay at the Juilliard School of Music. He has performed in recitals and concerto appearances in many venues in the United States as well as Europe, and has worked with Itzhak Perlman and other well-known artists. He also maintains a busy concert schedule, and is frequently invited to appear at music festivals in the United States and abroad.

Violinist Amy Hiraga was a member of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra from 1991 until 1999. She is currently a permanent member of the San Francisco Symphony. Her teachers included Dorothy Delay at the Juilliard School and Emanuel Zeitlin in Seattle. She has performed and appeared as soloist with many symphonies and chamber orchestras in the United States, and has also performed in many music festivals. She and her husband, cellist Peter Wyrick, live in Mill Valley with their two daughters, Mayumi and Mariko.

New to the ensemble this year is violist Joanna Patterson, age 21, who comes to us from the Cleveland Orchestra. Born in the Principality of Monaco, she began viola at age 8, made her solo debut at age 11, performing the Telemann *Concerto*, and at age 14 soloed with the Orchestre Philharmonic de Monte Carlo, performing Bruch's "Romance." Joanna recently graduated with honors from the Cleveland Institute of Music, where she was a student of Robert Vernon. Other teachers have included Karen Tuttle and her parents, Ron and Roxanna Patterson. Joanna won the concerto competition at the Cleveland Institute playing the Bartok *Viola Concerto* in 2004. A resident of Cleveland, she is a member of the Cleveland Orchestra and Principal Viola of the Canton Symphony Orchestra. She will be performing the Penderecki *Viola Concerto* with the Canton Symphony next season. Summer chamber music performances brought her to the Bay Area this year and enabled her to join Roy Bogas and Friends for these concerts.

Peter Wyrick, Associate Principal Cellist of the San Francisco Symphony, was one of the last students of Leonard Rose at the Juilliard School in New York. He has previously served as Principal Cellist of the Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra at Lincoln Center and as Associate Principal of the New York City Opera Orchestra. He was a member of the acclaimed Ridge String Quartet, whose recording of the Dvorak *Piano Quintets* with pianist Rudolf Firkusny on the RCA Label won the French Diapason d'Or and was nominated for the 1993 Grammy Award for the Best Chamber Music Performance. He has performed as soloist with the San Francisco Symphony and as chamber musician and soloist with renowned chamber groups and orchestras throughout the world.

Tickets for the Gualala Chamber Music Weekend are \$25 for each concert. Children and young people ages 7 through 17 are admitted free. Advance tickets are available at the Gualala Arts Center or at the Dolphin Gallery in Gualala. Tickets may also be purchased at the door prior to the performances. For further information, call the Gualala Arts Center at 707-884-1138, or visit the website gualalaarts.org. Those unable to furnish their own transportation may call the Arts Center to request rides to the concerts.