

Vegas Goes to Paris

Ruth Singer, flute
Ari Lê, viola
David Ponder, harp
Ronald Maltais, piano

Sunday, September 30, 2018
3:00 p.m.

Plaza Hotel Ballroom
Las Vegas, New Mexico

Barcarolle from Tales of Hoffmann

Jacques Offenbach
(1819-1880)

Entr'acte from Carmen

Georges Bizet
(1838-1875)

Flower Duet from Lakmé

Léo Delibes
(1815-1910)

Sonatine
1. Modéré

Maurice Ravel
(1875-1937)

Après un Rêve op.7, no.1

Gabriel Faure
(1845-1924)

Berceuse

Gabriel Faure

Sicilienne

Gabriel Faure

Morceau de Concours

Gabriel Faure

Intermission

Nocturne

Claude Debussy
(1862-1918)

Sonata for Flute, Viola & Harp (1915)

Claude Debussy

Pastorale. Lento, dolce rubato

Interlude: Tempo di Minuetto

Finale. Allegro moderato ma risoluto

Presented by
Meadow City Academy of Music
Ronald Maltais, Artistic Director

Please join us for a reception at El Zocalo Galley on the Plaza after the performance

About the Artists

Ruth Singer serves as Harpist-in-Residence at Christus St. Vincent Hospital where she is honored to provide support for the healing and well-being of patients, families, friends and staff. A flutist, harpist, singer, soloist, chamber player and orchestral musician, Ruth Singer has performed throughout the country, in Carnegie Hall, the World Olympics, in castles of Europe, and on the shores of the Mediterranean.

Ari Lê began studying viola and violin while growing up in New York and has performed with chamber ensembles and orchestras in New York, Paris, Providence, Boston and San Diego. Ari Lê moved to Santa Fe in 2015 and serves as concert master of the Santa Fe Community Orchestra. Holding a Ph.D. from MIT, Ari's day job is as a post-doctoral fellow in plasma physics at Los Alamos National Laboratory.

David Glen Ponder is a diverse musician who has been featured as a soloist with orchestras as a harpist, pianist, violist and singer. Mr. Ponder has performed at Kennedy Center's Concert Hall, The Library of Congress and the US. Capital. His BA degree was taken at the University of Northern Iowa and he earned a Master of Music degree at Peabody Conservatory where his focus was harp.

Ronald Maltais, pianist, composer and singer, served as the director of music at the United World College USA from 2001 to 2016. He earned a BM in Piano Performance at New England Conservatory and holds a DMA from Boston University in Music Composition. His travels have led to engagements as a musician and lecturer in several US states and in India, Turkey, Swaziland, and Peru. He helped to design and implement/teach a pilot program for southeast Asian pianists in Singapore. Currently he is composing a string quartet, a song cycle, a solo alto flute piece (for Mary Kay Robinson) and an opera based on the life of Camille Claudel.

The **Meadow City Academy of Music**, founded by artistic director Ronald Maltais in the spring of 2017 has set out to provide excellent musical/dance training and performances for the Las Vegas, New Mexico community. The **Castañeda Concert Series**, launched in September 2016 seeks to present professional New Mexico musicians and dancers in venues throughout our city. As we proceed in our second season through tonight's performance we are proud to announce that the Castañeda Concert Series has featured 35 New Mexico artists during since the beginning of 2017. Meadow City Academy of Music events included 8 concerts, 3 Flamenco shows, 10 dance classes and 3 theater screenings at 6 Las Vegas venues. Due to the generosity of our donors, we are now awarding to offer subsidized music lessons for Las Vegas youth.

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Please visit us at www.meadowcitymusic.org

Program Notes

"Belle nuit, ô nuit d'amour" (often referred to as the "**Barcarolle**") is a piece from *The Tales of Hoffmann*, Jacques Offenbach's final opera. A duet for soprano and mezzo-soprano, it is considered the most famous barcarolle ever written and described in the *Grove Book of Operas* as "one of the world's most popular melodies." The text, concerning the beauty of the night and of love, is by Jules Barbier.

The **Entr'acte** is an intermezzo, taken from Bizet's Spanish opera *Carmen*, a realistic drama of love, jealousy and murder, set in Seville. It serves as an interlude before Act III, and sets the scene as the gypsy smugglers climb to their stronghold in the mountains, ready for a new enterprise, joined by Carmen and the soldier, Don José, whom she has seduced.

The "**Flower Duet**" (French: *Duo des fleurs / Sous le dôme épais*) is a famous duet for soprano and mezzo-soprano from Léo Delibes' opera *Lakmé*, first performed in Paris in 1883. The duet takes place in act 1 of the three-act opera, between characters Lakmé, the daughter of a Brahmin priest, and her servant Mallika, as they go to gather flowers by a river.

Sonatine is a piano work written by Maurice Ravel. Although Ravel wrote in his autobiography that he wrote the *Sonatine* after his piano suite *Miroirs*, it seems to have been written between 1903 and 1905. He most likely referred to the dates he finished both of the works. Ravel wrote the first movement of the *Sonatine* for a competition sponsored by the *Weekly Critical Review* magazine after being encouraged by a close friend who was a contributor to that publication. The competition requirement was the composition of the first movement of a piano sonatina no longer than 75 bars, with the prize being 100 francs.

In **Après un rêve** (originally published in 1878), a dream of romantic flight with a lover, away from the earth, and "towards the light" is described. However, on waking to the truth the dreamer longs to return to the "mysterious night" and the ecstatic falsehood of his dream. The text of the poem is an anonymous Italian poem freely adapted into French by Romain Bussine.

Berceuse, Op. 16, is a short piece by Gabriel Fauré, written in or about 1879. In its original version it is for solo violin and piano. The composer later published a version for violin and orchestra, and the work has been arranged by others for various musical forces.

Morceau de Concours (1898) is a heartfelt work Fauré composed on Bastille day (a holiday away from his duties as Director of the Paris Conservatoire) which remained unknown until it surfaced in Brussels in 1970. According to the work's editor Anabel Hulme Brieff, the composer "produced a work of such simplicity, sincerity and freshness as to be irresistible."

Sicilienne, Op. 78, is a short work by Gabriel Fauré, composed in 1893. It was originally an orchestral piece, written for a theatrical production that was abandoned. In 1898 Fauré arranged the unperformed music as a work for cello and piano, and in the same year incorporated it into his incidental music for Maurice Maeterlinck's play, *Pelléas et Mélisande*, in an orchestration for theatre orchestra. It took its final form as part of a suite arranged for full orchestra by Fauré, published in 1909.

Nocturne is a relatively early piano composition by Debussy which foreshadows several elements which will become more highly developed in his future works.

The **Sonata for Flute, Viola, and Harp** was written in 1915. The first performance of the Sonata took place in Boston on November 7, 1916. The first performance in France occurred on December 10, 1916, at the home of Debussy's publisher, Jacques Durand." According to Léon Vallas (1929), Debussy initially planned this as a piece for flute, oboe and harp, but he subsequently decided that the viola's timbre would be a better combination for the flute than the oboe's, so he changed the instrumentation to flute, viola and harp.

Next Concert

Lone Piñon **A Musical Evening in Tribute to Antonia Apodaca**

Lone Piñon is an acoustic conjunto from Northern New Mexico whose music celebrates the diversity and integrity of their region's cultural roots. Using violins, accordion, quinta huapangera, bajo sexto, guitarrón, tololoche and vocals in Spanish, English, Nahuatl and P'urépecha, the group has revived and updated the Chicano stringband style that once flourished in New Mexico.

Saturday, October 27, 2018 7:30 p.m.
Plaza Hotel Ballroom \$ 20 Admission/Cash Bar
Reservations: 505 718-6597