

For Immediate Release
MEDIA RELEASE

May 10, 2011

The VSO presents renowned Baroque specialist Kenneth Slowik in a play/conduct concert at the Chan Centre

Vancouver, BC - Internationally-renowned Baroque specialist **Kenneth Slowik** conducts the VSO on **Friday and Saturday, May 20 & 21, 8pm** at the **Chan Centre for the Performing Arts**, in beautiful program that features **Bach's** famed *Brandenburg Concerto No. 5*. Maestro Slowik will do double-duty in both performances, conducting from the harpsichord. The concert also includes **Haydn's** *Symphony No. 94, Surprise* and **Schumann's** *Symphony No. 1, Op. 38, Spring*.

Artistic Director of the **Smithsonian Chamber Music Society**, conductor **Kenneth Slowik** first established his international reputation primarily as a cellist and viola da gamba player. A distinguished Baroque specialist, he is a frequent guest artist with prominent chamber groups, most leading U. S. early music ensembles, and numerous orchestras around the world.

Slowik's impressive discography includes over seventy recordings, many award-winning, featuring him as conductor, cellist, gambist, and keyboard player. He is also an educator, serving on the faculties of the **University of Maryland** and **L'Académie internationale du Domaine Forget** in Québec, and was named Artistic Director of the **Baroque Performance Institute at the Oberlin College Conservatory** in 1993.

The performance features **VSO Associate Concertmaster Joan Blackman**, and **Principal Flute Christie Reside** as soloists in the *Brandenburg Concerto*. Ms. Blackman has been in the VSO since 1988, becoming Assistant Concertmaster in 1997 and then Associate Concertmaster in 2004. Ms. Reside joined the VSO in 1999 has been Principal Flute in the orchestra since 2004.

CONCERT INFO

Bach & Beyond

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MAY 20 & 21, 8 PM, CHAN CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Kenneth Slowik *conductor/ harpsichord*

Joan Blackman *violin*

Christie Reside *flute*

JS BACH

Brandenburg Concerto No. 5

HAYDN

Symphony No. 94, *Surprise*

SCHUMANN

Symphony No. 1, Op. 38, *Spring*

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets: \$37.50- \$66 (senior, student and subscriber discounts available)

Tickets available online at www.vancouversymphony.ca or by calling VSO customer service at 604.876.3434

The presentation of this series is made possible in part through the generous assistance of the Chan Centre for Performing Arts of the University of British Columbia.

Radio Sponsor: CHQM-FM

BIOGRAPHIES

Kenneth Slowik *conductor*

Artistic Director of the Smithsonian Chamber Music Society, conductor Kenneth Slowik first established his international reputation primarily as a cellist and viola da gamba player through his work with the Smithsonian Chamber Players, Castle Trio, Smithson String Quartet, Axelrod Quartet, and with Anner Bylisma's L'Archibudelli. Conductor of the Smithsonian Chamber Orchestra since 1988, he became conductor of the Santa Fe Bach Festival in 1998, and led the Santa Fe Pro Musica Chamber Orchestra from 1999-2004. He is now devoting increasing amounts of time to conducting orchestral, oratorio, and operatic repertoire with modern- and period-instrument ensembles on both sides of the Atlantic.

Slowik has been a featured instrumental soloist and/or conductor with numerous orchestras, among them the National Symphony, the Baltimore Symphony, l'Orchestre symphonique de Québec, the Filharmonia Sudecka, the Pleven Philharmonic, the Vancouver Symphony, and the Cleveland Orchestra. A frequent guest artist with prominent chamber groups as well as with most of the leading U. S. early music ensembles, he enjoys providing the organ or harpsichord continuo for performances of large-scale baroque works at various festivals in the United States and abroad, and appears in recital both as harpsichord soloist and fortepiano collaborator for duo sonatas and Lieder.

Slowik's impressive discography comprises over seventy recordings featuring him as conductor, cellist, gambist, and keyboard player for music ranging from the Baroque (Marais, Corelli, Bach) through the Classical (Haydn, Boccherini, Beethoven, Schubert) and Romantic (Mendelssohn, Gade, Spohr) to the early twentieth century (Schönberg, Mahler, Richard Strauss). Of these, many have won prestigious international awards, including France's Diapason d'Or and Choc, the "British Music Retailers' Award for Excellence," Italy's Premio Internazionale del Disco Antonio Vivaldi, two GRAMMY® nominations, and numerous "Record of the Month" and "Record of the Year" prizes. Recent projects include a DVD film about Schönberg's First Chamber Symphony and Verklärte Nacht, a Bartók and Shostakovich string orchestra disk, and a recording of the Bach harpsichord and viola da gamba sonatas on which, thanks to digital technology, Slowik plays both instruments.

Slowik received his training in his native Chicago, Salzburg, and—as a Fulbright Scholar—Vienna, studying with a number of prominent cellists, conductors, and musicologists, among them Frank Miller, Antonio Janigro, Karl Fruh, August Wenzinger, Nikolaus Harnoncourt, Frederik Prausnitz, Howard Mayer Brown, Robert Marshall, and Edward Lowinsky. As an educator, Dr. Slowik has presented lectures at colleges and universities throughout the United States and has contributed to a number of symposia and colloquia at museums throughout the United States and Europe. He serves on the faculties of the

University of Maryland and L'Académie internationale du Domaine Forget in Québec, and was named Artistic Director of the Baroque Performance Institute at the Oberlin College Conservatory in 1993.

Joan Blackman *violin*

Joan Blackman, Associate Concertmaster of the Vancouver Symphony, enjoys a vibrant musical life in our community. Besides playing in the orchestra, she is sought after as a first class chamber musician in North America.

She is also an active teacher, giving master classes throughout B.C. Joan has performed and recorded as soloist with Vancouver Symphony, Victoria Symphony, CBC Radio Orchestra, and the Banff Festival Orchestra.

"Shapelier phrases and sweeter tone would be hard to imagine," "a ravishing tone," "first rate soloist," "exchanged lines meltingly in a flawless performance," "playing with lyricism, precision, and evident joy;" are accolades that have graced Joan's reviews. Zach Carstensen of Seattle's Gathering Note writes "Your heart would need to be made of stone not to have loved Joan Blackman's splendid solo."

As Artistic Director of the Vetta Chamber Music and Recital Society, she programs and performs with the best of BC talent along with invited guests from afar. She is also a member of the acclaimed American String Project, which brings together concertmasters and soloists throughout North America. Joan has performed at several summer festivals including the Hornby Island and Pender Harbour Chamber Music festival.

Christie Reside *flute*

Christie Reside began studying flute with both of her parents at the age of six. Since then, she has been an active participant in numerous competitions, winning the National Music Festival of Canada, and placing second at the Tunbridge Wells International Young Concert Artists Competition. She has been invited to participate in numerous festivals around the world, including the Spoleto Music Festival, and the Mountain View International Festival of Song and Chamber Music.

An enthusiastic chamber musician, Ms. Reside has collaborated with artists such as Rudolf Jansen, Olivier Thouin, Yegor Dyachkov, and Lise Daoust. She has also appeared as a soloist with the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, l'Orchestre Symphonique de Quebec, the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, among others.

Ms. Reside is currently the Principal Flute of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra and is grateful to the Canada Council of the Arts for their generous support of her career.

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