



Celebrity Series of Boston
Engaging • Entertaining • Enriching

Gary Dunning
President and Executive Director

Celebrity Series of Boston
20 Park Plaza, Suite 1032
Boston, MA 02116-4303

617.482.2595 [T]
617.482.3208 [F]
www.celebrityseries.org

For Immediate Release

Contact: Stephanie Janes, (617) 598-3240, sj@celebrityseries.org

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Celebrity Series of Boston
Gary Dunning, President and Executive Director
Presents
***What Makes It Great?*[®]**
with Rob Kapilow, commentator
the Borromeo String Quartet
and Lukáš Vondráček, piano
on Friday, November 18 at 8pm
at NEC's Jordan Hall

(Boston) Celebrity Series of Boston will present ***What Makes It Great?*[®] with commentator Rob Kapilow, the Borromeo String Quartet and pianist, Lukáš Vondráček**, in an exploration of Dvořák's Piano Quintet in A Major on Friday, November 18, 2011 at 8pm at NEC's Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough Street, Boston. *What Makes It Great?*[®] is sponsored by Amy and Joshua Boger and supported in part by the Celebrity Series Friends of Chamber Music. Media Partner is 99.5 All Classical.

Tickets for *What Makes It Great?*[®] are priced at \$40 and \$30, and are available online at www.celebrityseries.org, by calling CelebrityCharge at (617) 482-6661 Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. or at the Jordan Hall box office, 30 Gainsborough Street, Boston.

The **Celebrity Series of Boston** has presented *What Makes It Great?*[®] with Rob Kapilow 29 times since its Boston debut in 1997.

***What Makes It Great?*[®]** made its debut on National Public Radio's *Performance Today* more than a decade ago, and with its accessible 10-minute format, quickly attracted a wide base of fans. It soon developed into a full-evening concert program regularly booked by presenters seeking to build new audiences. During each *What Makes It Great?*[®] program, Mr. Kapilow dissects a selection of music in a listener-friendly way—pulling themes apart, demonstrating how melodies might sound in lesser hands, guiding listeners through the maze of themes and finishing with a complete performance of the work.

Rob Kapilow is a graduate of the Yale School of Music and the Eastman School of Music, and is an accomplished pianist. He has brought the joy and wonder of classical music to audiences of all ages and backgrounds, opening their ears to musical experiences and helping them to listen actively. The reach and diversity of his interactive events is considerable, both geographically and culturally: from Native American tribal communities to inner-city high school students and from children barely out of diapers to musicologists long out of Ivy League programs. Mr. Kapilow's popularity and appeal are reflected in notable engagements: on NBC's "Today Show" in conversation with Katie Couric; in a program for broadcast on PBS's "Live From Lincoln Center" in January 2008; and in his book, *All You Have To Do Is Listen*, published by Wiley.

(more)

The **Borromeo String Quartet** was formed in 1989 and consists of four members, including first violinist Nicholas Kitchen, second violinist Kristopher Tong, violist Mai Motobuchi and cellist Yeesun Kim. They have been the Quartet-in-Residence at the New England Conservatory of Music for seventeen years, conducting the informal public masterclass series at NEC, "Early Evenings with the Borromeo." The ensemble is also an artist-in-residence at Dai-Ichi Semei Hall in Tokyo. In April 2007, the Borromeo Quartet was the recipient of the Avery Fisher Career Grant, and in 2006, the Aaron Copland House honored the Borromeo's commitment to contemporary music by creating the Borromeo Quartet Award, an annual initiative that will premiere the work of important young composers to audiences internationally. The Borromeos were commissioned by the Pittsburgh Chamber Music Society in 2005 to conduct a five-month long series of outreach concerts throughout the city focused on the music of Béla Bartók, and the ensemble also serves as an advisor to Community Music Works of Providence, Rhode Island, an organization dedicated to enriching the lives of inner city youths and families through classical music. Borromeo also has its own record label, Living Archive Recording Performance Series, and awards for the Quartet include Lincoln Center's Martin E. Segal Award in 2001, Chamber Music America's Cleveland Quartet Award in 1998 and the Young Concert Artists International Auditions in 1991, as well as top prizes at the International String Quartet Competition in Evian, France in 1990.

Born in Opava, Czech Republic, in 1986, pianist **Lukáš Vondráček's** professional career began at the age of four and now, at the age of 24, he has visited 27 different countries giving more than 1,000 concerts. His first international tour was at the age of 10, when he performed at festivals in the UK and the USA. He also studied at the Vienna Hochschule, the Academy of Music in Katowice, Poland and at Ostrava University. Currently, Mr. Vondráček is pursuing an Artist Diploma at the New England Conservatory in Boston under Prof. Hung-Kuan Chen. He has performed debut recitals at Cité de la Musique in Paris, the Palais des Beaux Arts in Brussels, the Auditorio Nacional de Música in Madrid, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam and the Tonhalle-Orchester in Zürich. Vladimir Ashkenazy conducted Mr. Vondráček's debut with the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra in May of 2002 with concerts in Prague and Italy. In October 2004, he made his debut with the BBC Philharmonic playing Grieg's Piano Concerto under conductor Vassily Sinaisky. During the 2006-2007 season, he had his recital debut at Dortmund's Next Generation Series and his debut with the Gulbenkian Orchestra in Lisbon. In 2007, Mr. Vondráček joined the Australian Youth Orchestra on their European tour and played with the Sydney Symphony at the Opera House and the West Australian Symphony Orchestra in Perth. In 2010, he won first prize at the 10th Hilton Head International Piano Competition in South Carolina, USA.

About Celebrity Series of Boston

The Celebrity Series of Boston is New England's leading presenter of music, dance, and the performing arts from around the world. Now in its 73rd season, the Celebrity Series brings performances by instrumental and vocal soloists, orchestras and chamber ensembles, dance companies, jazz, folk and ethnic artists and ensembles to Boston's major concert halls. Through the Arts, Education and Community Program the Celebrity Series reaches thousands of youngsters annually with opportunities to experience and participate in the performing arts through concerts, workshops and the award-winning AileyCamp Boston, an intensive six-week summer dance program for Boston middle school students. For more information on Celebrity Series of Boston, call (617) 482-2595 or visit us online at www.celebrityseries.org.

The Celebrity Series receives generous support from Amy & Joshua Boger; The Little Family Foundation; Susanne Marcus Collins Foundation; The John S. and Cynthia Reed Foundation; Tufts Health Plan; Foley & Lardner LLP; Parametric Technology Corporation; Charlesbank Capital Partners; Susan Pravda & Gabor Garai, Honorary Consul General of Hungary, and the Hungarian Society of Massachusetts; Comcast; Massachusetts Cultural Council; New England Foundation for the Arts; and The D.L. Saunders Companies and The Boston Park Plaza Hotel, LLC.

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