



IV NEW DOCTA INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 4TH TO 13TH 2016

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES
MASTERCLASSES
PRIVATE LESSONS
FREE ACTIVITIES IN PUBLIC SPACES
CONCERTS



NEW DOCTA FOUNDATION - NUEVA DOCTA

MISSION AND VISION

Our vision is to become one of the leading music festivals in all of Latin America.

We aim to use classical music and its power of expression to nourish the souls and open the minds of people of all ages and backgrounds. Our music will break down existing barriers and contribute to a universal humanity and better tomorrow.

OBJETIVES

The mission of New Docta International Music Festival includes these objectives:

- I. To present world-class chamber music concerts to the greater Cordoba region;
- II. To introduce classical music to new audiences, with particular emphasis on the youth and underprivileged;
- III. To search for and nurture young talent in Cordoba, in Argentina, and in South America through master classes, music workshops, performance opportunities, and career consultation;
- IV. To foster vibrant relationships with local teachers, schools, universities, and conservatories;
- V. To champion the music and composers of Argentina;
- VI. To maintain and expand a professional network among the leading artists of our generation while connecting it with the inspiring artists of previous generations;
- VII. To establish future links and partnerships between Argentina and the leading conservatories, orchestras, concert halls, and arts institutions of the world.

CO-FOUNDERS AND ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

Sami Merdinian
Solange Merdinian
Yves Dharamraj

BOARD DIRECTORS

Arq. Lilian Balian
Dra. María Isabel Bisio
Dra. Graciela Olga Andonian

Our music will break down existing barriers and contribute to a universal humanity and better tomorrow.



SOLANGE MERDINIAN MEZZO-SOPRANO

Co-Founder and Artistic Director

 www.solangemerdianian.com

Acclaimed for her “smoldering stage presence” (New York Times) her “richly-hued voice” (BBC Music magazine), New York based Armenian-Argentinean mezzo-soprano **SOLANGE MERDINIAN** has garnered an international reputation for her versatility and interpretation as a recitalist, chamber musician, in repertoire ranging from baroque to contemporary, tango, cabaret, art songs and opera. She is the Co-Founder and Co-Artistic Director of the *New Docta International Music Festival*, in Cordoba Argentina.

Highlights include Ms. Merdianian’s critically-praised “tour de force” debut role of *Maria* in Piazzolla’s tango-opera “*Maria de Buenos Aires*” with the Lexington Philharmonic; and also with *Opera Hispanica* at (Le) Poisson Rouge in NYC; alto soloist in “*Saint Matthew Passion*” with *La Barroca del Suquia* in Argentina; soloist in “*El Amor Brujo*” by De Falla at *The Phoenicia International Festival of the Voice, NY*; singing at *Madison Square Gar* Oscar winning composer for Best Soundtrack, AR Rahman, who personally invited her to be a featured artists of his *USA Tour 2015* in New York. In 2015 she finished four year world tour with the Philip Glass Ensemble in the award winning production of the landmark opera “*Einstein on the Beach*” as directed by Robert Wilson, composed by Philip Glass, and choreographed by Lucinda Childs.

She has also sang in chamber music concerts for the New Docta International Music Festival in the US, Chile and Argentina.

In April 2015, she performed as a soloist with the *American Chamber Orchestra*, she was also invited to sing at the *United Nations* on April 24 in *Commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide*. In the summer of 2015 toured Russia and Armenia with the *Shushi Armenian Dance Ensemble*.

Other performances include, *Liderabend Op 3* as part of BAM’s *Next Wave Festival*; Recital at Weill Recital Hall, Carnegie Hall with AGBU; a chamber music concert for the 45th anniversary of *Fundación Encuentros* with the *New Docta Ensemble*. Music of Lisa Bielawa in a New York recital; sang and acted as co-artistic director for the 2012 Armenian General Benevolent Union’s (AGBU) Debut Concert of the New England Region (Harvard Club, Boston); Bradamante in Handel’s *Alcina* (PONY); the title role in Ravel’s *L’Enfant et les sortilèges* (PONY); Jezibaba in Dvorak’s *Rusalka* (Opera Slavica); Mercedes in Bizet’s *Carmen* (Aspen Opera Theater Center); *Saint Theresa II* in Virgil Thompson’s in *Four Saints in Three Acts* (Bard College Conservatory) as well as *Indiana Elliot in The Mother of Us All* (The Juilliard School); Third Lady in Mozart’s *Magic Flute* (The Juilliard School); *Dido* in Purcell’s *Dido and Aeneas* (The Juilliard School Pre-College Division).

She has also appeared in “Dawn Upshaw and Friends” (Classical Singer Convention) and Dawn Upshaw and Osvaldo Golijov’s *Composing Song* (Zankel Hall at Carnegie).

Ms. Merdianian had the distinct honor of singing the premiere of Schoenberg’s *Pierrot Lunaire* at Bard College and Conservatory, has performed as soloist with the Juilliard Chamber Orchestra and Choral Union (Alice Tully Hall), and as alto soloist with Orpheus Chamber Orchestra (Metropolitan Museum, NYC) as part of their Bach Cantata Program.

In May 2009, Solange Merdianian graduated with a Master in Voice and Vocal Performance from Bard College Conservatory of, a new curriculum designed by Dawn Upshaw. In 2007, she received her Bachelor of Music degree from the Juilliard School.

Hailed by La Nacion for his *"beautiful sound and exquisite musicality"*, Argentinian violinist **SAMI MERDINIAN** has received worldwide recognition for his outstanding performances as a soloist and chamber musician. Sami has recently appeared with the Montevideo Philharmonic, the Argentinian National Symphony, The Charlemagne Orchestre, The Gagneung Philharmonic in South Korea, Philharmonia of the Nations at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Buenos Aires Philharmonic at Teatro Colon, South Carolina Philharmonic, and the Midland and Duluth Symphonies.

Mr. Merdinian has performed in the prestigious Concerti di Mezzogiorno at Spoleto Festival in Italy, NY in Chuncheon Festival in South Korea, Ravinia, Aspen, Great Lakes and I Palpiti festivals in the US, the Semana Musical de Llao-Llao, and performs in venues such as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and Seoul Arts Center, among others.

As a chamber musician, Sami received the First Prize and Gold Medal at the New England International Chamber Music Competition in Boston, and the First Prize at the Victor Elmaleh Concert Artist Guild Competition in New York. Sami is one of the violinists of the string quintet Sybarite5, with whom he has performed recently at Carnegie Hall, the Library of Congress, Lincoln Center, Apple Store, and toured throughout United States, Canada, Asia and South America. Sami has given recitals in the United States, Canada, Europe, South America, Lebanon, Australia and Asia with pinistas as Enrico Pace, Gilles Vonsattel, Sofya Melikyan and Paula Peluso.

Mr. Merdinian has been a prize winner in several international competitions including a Gold Medal in the XII International Young Solo Instrumentalists Competition in Argentina, and the New Talent Competition in Slovakia organized by the European Radio. He has also received the Rising Star Award by Tiffany & Co., was named Outstanding Artist of the Year by the Argentinian Press, and has been featured on WQXR in New York, "Spiegengall" live from the Concertgebouw, Argentinian Classical National Station, America's NPR, South Korean's KBS and the BBC.

Also highly sought-after as tango violinist, Mr. Merdinian has performed and recorded with some of the most prominent artist of the genre and has received a Grammy Nomination for "Masters of the Bandoneon" for Best Tango Album. Mr. Merdinian's discography includes recordings for Universal Records, Canary Classics, CAG Records and Green Parrot Records.

While at The Juilliard School and Yale University, Mr. Merdinian was a pupil of Dorothy Delay, Naoko Tanaka and Peter Oundjian, and participated in masterclasses for artists such as Itzhak Perlman, Ruggiero Ricci, Emmanuel Ax, Pamela Frank, and members of the Tokyo, Cleveland and Guarneri String Quartets.



SAMI MERDINIAN VIOLIN

Co-Founder and Artistic Director

www.samimerdinian.com

Captivating his audiences with a “primer of technical feats” (New York Sun), and his warm, lush tone “that might be described as something akin to rich old wood” (Boston Musical Intelligencer), **YVES DHARAMRAJ** has earned a worldwide reputation as a dynamic cellist who blends an immaculate command of the instrument with deep musical understanding to express his fresh and elegant interpretations.

As soloist, recitalist, chamber musician, and teaching artist, the Franco-American cellist enjoys a multifaceted career that takes him to the major stages of the United States and abroad, including appearances at Carnegie Hall, and Lincoln Center (New York); the Kennedy Center (DC); Orchestra Hall, Ravinia Festival, and Chicago Cultural Center (Chicago); Disney Hall (LA); National Arts Center (Ottawa); Berliner Festspiele; T  atro Nacional (Dominican Republic); Panama Jazz Festival; and the Thailand National Cultural Center (Bangkok).

A top prize winner in the Ima Hogg, Irving M. Klein, Florida Orchestra, Juilliard, and ASTA competitions, Dharamraj has appeared with the orchestras of Houston, Green Bay, Edmonton, Florida, Dominican Republic, and Juilliard, with which he performed William Schuman’s *A Song of Orpheus* at Avery Fisher Hall as part of the Juilliard School’s Centennial Celebration.

Dharamraj explores the rich chamber music repertoire as a founding member of the Mo  t Trio and has collaborated with artists including Sir Simon Rattle, Itzhak Perlman, Miriam Fried, Christian Tetzlaff, Cho-Liang Lin, Gilbert Kalish, Ralph Kirshbaum, Mischa Dichter, Isabel Leonard, and members of the Emerson, Cleveland, Guarneri, and Orion Quartets.


As an artist also dedicated to the performance of contemporary music, Dharamraj is a founding member of the genre-defying Bohemian Trio and indulges in the avant-garde as the cellist of Ne(x)tnetworks. He followed his passion for teaching artistry, arts advocacy, and engaging new audiences as a fellow of the Academy, a musical initiative between Carnegie Hall, Juilliard, the Weill Music Institute, and the New York City Department of Education. He continues outreach activities as a member of Decoda, and cofounded New Docta International Music Festival in Cordoba, Argentina in 2013 to mentor and nurture Latin American talent.

Dharamraj was a pupil of Aldo Parisot at Yale University where he graduated *cum laude* with a Bachelor of Arts in History (Medieval Mediterranean Studies), a Master of Music, and an Artist Diploma. He further studied in Joel Krosnick and Darrett Adkins’s studio at the Juilliard School where he earned his Doctor of Musical Arts degree. He has also worked with Paul Katz at the New England Conservatory. Dr. Dharamraj taught cello at Juilliard as assistant to Mr. Krosnick from 2006 to 2009. He plays an 1842 Jean-Baptiste Vuillaume cello. In his leisure time, he loves to learn about and taste the great wines of Burgundy and Bordeaux, and is a zealous supporter of the Chicago Cubs, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, and Arsenal FC.



YVES DHARAMRAJ CELLO

Co-Founder and Artistic Director

 www.yvesdharamraj.com

We believe that music has the power to connect all people. In designing our programs, we investigate the human experience, culture and history through musical expression. We defy genre and break down the walls of tradition, reimagining and redefining classical music. We are the **CATALYST**.

Hailed by the New York Times at their Carnegie Hall debut as "invariably energetic and finely burnished... playing with earthy vigor" the Catalyst Quartet, prize winners of the Gianni Bergamo Classical Music Award 2012 (Switzerland) is comprised of top Laureates and alumni of the internationally acclaimed Sphinx Competition.

Known for "rhythmic energy, polyphonic clarity and tight ensemble playing" (New York Concert Review). The quartet has toured domestically and abroad including sold out performances at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Chicago's Harris Theater, the Frank Gehry designed New World Center in Miami, and Carnegie Hall (Stern Auditorium), to name a few. They have also appeared on multiple radio and television broadcasts such as American Public Media's Performance Today, Chicago (WFMT), Houston (KUHF), Seattle (KING FM), Vermont Public Radio, Detroit Public Television; and have contributed to online and print media including The Strad and Strings magazine.

The Catalyst Quartet has held residencies and given master classes at institutions such as the University of Washington, University of Michigan, Rice University, Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, In Harmony Project (UK), Pennsylvania State University, and the University of South Africa. They also serve as principal faculty at the Sphinx Performance Academy at Oberlin College and Roosevelt University. The Quartet has been guest artists at Festival del Sole, Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival, Sitka Music Festival, Juneau Jazz and Classics, the BrittenPears Young Artist Programme, Juilliard String Quartet Seminar, Strings Music Festival, and the Grand Canyon Music Festival.


The Catalyst Quartet's debut album, The Bach/Gould Project, featuring their own arrangement of J.S. Bach's Goldberg Variations and Glenn Gould's String Quartet can be found on the Azica Records label. They are also featured on the album STRUM, the string works of Jessie Montgomery (available fall 2015).

The Catalyst Quartet proudly endorses Pirastro strings.



CATALYST QUARTET

International Guest

 www.catalystquartet.com

PHILIP EDWARD FISHER is recognized widely as a unique performer of refined style and exceptional versatility. Tours as a prolific soloist and ensemble musician have taken him across his native United Kingdom to Italy, Austria, Denmark, Finland, Switzerland, Norway, Kenya, Zimbabwe, the Ukraine, and the United States. Philip has appeared at Merkin Hall and Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center, and his United Kingdom credits include the Purcell Room, Wigmore Hall, Barbican Centre and Royal Festival Hall in London, Edinburgh's Usher Hall, the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, and Symphony Hall in Birmingham. He has performed concertos with, amongst others, the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, the Copenhagen Philharmonic, the Tampere Philharmonic, and the Toledo and Juilliard Symphonies, working with conductors such as Hannu Lintu, John Axelrod, Larry Rachleff, James Lowe and Giordano Bellincampi. Extensive recording credits include a two-disc set of Handel Keyboard Suites for Naxos, and a program comprising 'The Mighty Handful' group of Russian composers for the Chandos label, which was shortlisted in the best solo album category of the International Classical Music Awards in 2012.

Philip is also a highly sought-after ensemble performer, collaborating with renowned performers and ensembles such as The Brodsky Quartet, tenor Robert White, violinists Elmar Oliviera, Philippe Graffin and Augustin Hadelich, and Principal Trombonist of the New York Philharmonic, Joseph Alessi. He has appeared at Music@Menlo, the Beethoven Chamber Music Festival and the Kyoto International Music Festival, and has been heard on New York's WQXR, Boston's WGBH, BBC's Radio 3, Classic FM, and has appeared on Ukrainian Television, the BBC, and MTV.

Having begun his musical training aged 9, Philip's concerto debut followed aged 12, performing Shostakovich's Second Piano Concerto at Birmingham's Symphony Hall. He attended London's Purcell School of Music and has degrees from the Royal Academy of Music and the Juilliard School. His teachers have included Christopher Elton, Joseph Kalichstein and Jerome Lowenthal. In 2001, he was awarded the highly prestigious Julius Isserlis Scholarship by the Royal Philharmonic Society of London.



PHILIP EDWARD FISHER PIANO

International Guest

 www.philipedwardfisher.com

CORPORATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORTED THE FESTIVAL IN PREVIOUS YEARS

2013

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2015

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I Palpiti

Institutions

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Escuela Orquesta Mediterránea
Ensamble Primavera

New Docta also has the support of over 550 individuals from 5 continents that help make the festival possible year after year.