

Presented by the Embassy of Portugal to the United States of America

RUI LOPES & FRIENDS

Honoring the 50th Anniversary of Portuguese Freedom Day



TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2025 AT 8 PM
WEILL RECITAL HALL AT CARNEGIE HALL

Rui Lopes – Bassoon

Described by The New York Times as “*the richly gifted bassoonist*” and hailed by Gramophone as “*highly musical and virtuoso*”, Rui Lopes is recognized as one of today’s most exciting bassoonists. Remarkably, he began playing the instrument at eighteen, yet quickly gained attention for his natural musicality and technical brilliance, winning numerous prizes, including first prize at the Estoril International Competition.

As a soloist, Rui has performed with renowned ensembles such as the English Chamber Orchestra, Basel Symphony Orchestra, Finnish National Opera, Lisbon Metropolitan Orchestra, Cologne Chamber Orchestra, and the Portuguese Symphony Orchestra.

A passionate chamber musician, he is a member of Camerata Variabile Basel and Trio Estoril, and has appeared at major festivals including Schleswig-Holstein, SoNoRo, Crusell, Lucerne Festival, and others.

Rui’s acclaimed debut recording *Through Time* with the English Chamber Orchestra received widespread international praise. His most recent release, *Close Encounters*, in collaboration with the Gringolts Quartet, was enthusiastically received by critics and honored with a “Supersonic” Award for its technical mastery, virtuosity, and expressive depth. Rui is Professor of Bassoon at HEAR Strasbourg. Born in Portugal, he holds dual Portuguese and Swiss nationality and lives in Basel with his wife and two sons.



Bridget Kibbey – Harp

Called the “*Yo-Yo Ma of the harp* [Vogue Magazine]”, Bridget Kibbey is known for her great musical instincts that transcend her instrument. “*She makes it seem as though her instrument were waiting all its life to explode with the gorgeous colors and energetic figures she was getting from it* [The New York Times].”

This season’s highlights include concerti debuts with the Baltimore Symphony, Richmond Symphony, and the National

Philharmonic, solo recitals across the United States, and tours of her own productions crossing French masterworks, to baroque transcriptions, to global music alongside today’s top artists. Through it all, Kibbey illuminates the connections behind the music, transcending time and place.

Kibbey has recorded for Pentatone, Deutsche Grammophon, and SONY Records, to great critical acclaim. She is a recipient of a prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant, Premiere Prix at the Journées de les Harpes Compétition, and a Salon de Virtuosi SONY Recording Grant. Kibbey is an alumni of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center’s Bowers Program and The Juilliard School.



Hector Del Curto – Bandoneon

Praised by The New York Times as a “*splendid player*”, Grammy-winning bandoneonist, composer, and educator Hector Del Curto is one of the world’s foremost tango musicians. He has performed with over 50 orchestras, including the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, Dallas Symphony, National Symphony, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, and BBC Symphony Orchestra, and has collaborated with leading artists across genres.

Recent highlights include Piazzolla’s Aconcagua Concerto with the Boston Symphony, Four Seasons of Buenos Aires with the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra, and his own Paris to Cannes with the Portland Symphony. He also recorded his composition *Trace of Time*, for string quartet and bandoneon, commissioned by the Apollo Chamber Players.

A fourth-generation bandoneonist, Del Curto was named Argentina’s Best Bandoneon Player Under 25 at 17 and joined Osvaldo Pugliese’s legendary orchestra. He later founded the Eternal Tango Orchestra and the Hector Del Curto Tango Quintet.

He co-founded the Stowe Tango Music Festival and leads Music Intersections, a nonprofit linking tango with classical and other genres. He performs regularly with his wife, cellist Jisoo Ok, and their son, clarinetist Santiago Del Curto.

Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

Fantasiestücke op 73 *

Zart und mit Ausdruck

Lebhaft, leicht

Rasch und mit Feuer

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Toccatà and Fugue in D Minor, BWV 565 *

Camille Saint-Saëns (1835–1921)

Sonata for Bassoon and Piano, Op. 168 *

Allegretto moderato

Allegro scherzando

Adagio - Allegro moderato

- short intermission -

Reynaldo Hahn (1874-1947)

Two Songs *

À Chloris: “S’il est vrai, Chloris, que tu m’aimes”

Chansons grises: No 5, L’Heure exquise

Carlos Gardel (1890-1935)

Cuando tu no estas **

Anibal Troilo (1941-1975)

Che Bandoneon *

Astor Piazzolla (1921–1992)

Tango étude no. 3 *

Mário Pacheco (*1953)

Meu fado meu ***

Há uma música do povo ***

Transcription Note

All works are transcriptions.

(*) By the performing artists, (**) By Marcelo Nisinman, (***) By Wolfgang Renz

SUPPORT THE ARTIST

Having you here tonight means the world to me — it's truly the greatest gift. If you'd like to support my artistic journey a little further, any contribution, big or small, would go a long way in bringing future **performances and recordings** to life.

You can simply scan the QR code below to donate.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Yours, Rui



PayPal

My heartfelt thanks to the Embassy of Portugal
and the Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations
for their kind support and help in making this event possible,
and to the Pestana Hotel Group for their generous hospitality
at the stylish Pestana CR7 Times Square.



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