

The Angels Sing: Remembering Art Farmer



Old First Concerts, Friday, March 24, 2000

Dmitri Matheny Flugelhorn

Ruth Davies Bass

Ian Dogole Percussion

Amina Figarova Piano

Bart Platteau Flutes

Kathryn Stenberg Violin

Anthony Blea Violin

Charlton Lee Viola

Gretchen Egen Cello

Melanie Berzon KCSM Jazz 91.1 FM, Master of Ceremonies

FOUR, FOR TANGO Astor Piazzola

WAPONGO Faquito d'Rivera

WHISPER, MUSE Dmitri Matheny

FIRST CLASS Dmitri Matheny

PENUMBRA Dmitri Matheny

SUITE #1 Amina Figarova

DADDY Amina Figarova

THE ANGELS SING Dmitri Matheny

Tonight's program will be presented without an intermission.

Welcome

Thank you for joining us on Opening Night of our HOME SEASON, dedicated to music legend Art Farmer.

Art Farmer set the standard for flugelhorn players, defining the characteristic sound of the big horn. He remains the most important flugelhornist in history. Born in 1928, Farmer appeared on nearly 300 recordings during five decades in the music business. Like many of our greatest musicians, Art was revered by critics and other artists, but was underappreciated by much of the public throughout most of his career.

Happily, the master's accomplishments were celebrated in grand style during the last few years of his life. Jazz at Lincoln Center, the premier American presenter of jazz in concert, staged an all-star tribute and retrospective of Farmer's brilliant career. In honor of Farmer's 70th birthday, the President of Austria presented Farmer with the *Cross of Honor for Science and Art - First Class*. And in 1999, the President of the United States awarded him the American Jazz Masters Fellowship of the National Endowment for the Arts. Although Art died last year, in the words of music critic Leonard Feather, "as long as there is room for beauty and lyricism in jazz, such voices as Farmer's will never be silenced."

Throughout our HOME SEASON, we celebrate the diverse venues and talented musicians of the San Francisco Bay Area, exploring new creative territory, launching major new works, and hosting visiting artists-in-residence.

This year it is our privilege to welcome pianist Amina Figarova and flautist Bart Platteau from Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Through their concerts and recordings, Ms. Figarova and Mr. Platteau have distinguished themselves internationally as soulful virtuosos. This season they are spending three weeks with us in the Bay Area, participating in school and community activities, as well as appearing in all HOME SEASON concerts. We are pleased to introduce them to you.

After the concert, please walk with us to the nearby California Club, 1750 Clay (Between Van Ness and Polk) for champagne and chocolates with the artists and entertainment by the Pickpocket Ensemble.

Sincerely,



Dmitri Matheny

Profiles

Flugelhornist **Dmitri Matheny** established his popularity in the 1990s touring internationally and earning such accolades as “Best New Artist” (*Jazziz* Readers Poll) and “Talent Deserving Wider Recognition” (*Down Beat* Critics Poll). A graduate of the Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan and the Berklee College of Music in Boston, Matheny was privately mentored for ten years by flugelhorn master Art Farmer.

Matheny has appeared on 20 recordings and has released 4 CDs as a leader: *Red Reflections* (1996), *Penumbra: The Moon Sessions* (1997), *Starlight Cafe* (1998), and *Santa's Got A Brand New Bag* (1999).

Bassist **Ruth Davies** has performed with jazz and blues greats Dr. John, Bobby Hutcherson, Clark Terry, and many others, and toured internationally for the eight years with blues legend Charles Brown. Her discography includes several Platinum and Grammy-winning albums by Brown, Bonnie Raitt, John Lee Hooker and Van Morrison. She is a graduate of California State University, Hayward.

For more than 20 years, multipercussionist **Ian Dogole** has articulated his vision of “Global Fusion Music,” a unique blend of jazz and multicultural musical forms. Dogole has earned an international reputation as a performer, bandleader, composer, recording artist, record producer and educator. He has released three recordings as a leader, *Along the Route*, *Dangerous Ground*, and *Ionospheres*. In 1991, Dogole was awarded the prestigious jazz performance fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Pianist **Amina Figarova** was born in Baku, Azerbaidjan (former Soviet Union) and now lives in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. A graduate of the State Conservatory of Baku, with post-graduate studies at Boston's Berklee College of Music and the Rotterdam Conservatory, she has toured internationally as both a classical and jazz concert pianist. Her critically-acclaimed recordings are available on the Munich Records label.

Flautist **Bart Platteau** was born in Brussels, Belgium and now resides in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Also a percussionist, Mr. Platteau has performed with the Nationaal Orkest van Belgie and Munt Philharmonisch Orkest. He is a graduate of both the Brussels and Rotterdam Conservatories, and currently teaches at the Rotterdam Conservatory.

Profiles, continued

Formed in 1992, the **DEL SOL STRING QUARTET** has performed throughout the United States, Canada and Europe. They have received support from the American Composers Forum and the Palomar Chamber Music Foundation, as well as critical acclaim for their work with young people in the schools. The Quartet assisted the Alexander String Quartet at the Morrison Chamber Music Center at San Francisco State University from 1992-94.

Violinist **Kathryn Stenberg** performs regularly with the San Francisco Symphony and can be heard in recordings with Indian Sarod master Ali Akbar Khan, the San Francisco Contemporary Chamber Players, and Stratos. She has participated in the Tanglewood, Banff and Music Academy of the West festivals. Ms. Stenberg is a graduate of the San Francisco Conservatory and the Eastman School of Music.

Violinist **Anthony Blea** is a graduate of the Manhattan School of Music. He has performed with the San Francisco Opera Orchestra, served as principal second violin with the Orchestra Metropolitana De Lisboa, and taught in the National Academy of Music in Lisbon, Portugal. Blea is leader of the Afro-Cuban charanga band, Orquesta Charanson.

Violist **Charlton Lee** is founder of the Del Sol String Quartet, and a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. He has performed throughout North America, Mexico and Europe, and is currently artist-in-residence at the School of the Arts in San Francisco.

Cellist **Gretchen Egen** is a graduate of the University of Arizona and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. She has been soloist with the Philharmonia Orchestra of Tucson and the Kensington Symphony, and has toured Europe with the Schleswig-Holsten Musik Festival Orchestra. Ms. Egen has been principal cellist with the Sacramento Philharmonic and was principal cellist with the Santa Cruz County Symphony for nine years. Currently she performs and records with the Women's Philharmonic.

Old First
Concerts

presents

THE
DMITRI MATHENY
GROUP

*The Audience is Invited to a Reception
At the California Club
Located at 1750 Clay Street*

Friday, March 24, 2000 - 8:00 pm

at

Old First Church
Van Ness Avenue and Sacramento Street
San Francisco

1970-2000
CELEBRATING OUR 30TH ANNIVERSARY