

Meiravi Quartet Summer Newsletter 2012



Greg Peter Vivian Igor

2012-13 SEASON

Looking forward to a new exciting fall and spring concert season, and seeing YOU!

Mark these four 2012-13 Sunday dates in the Philadelphia area on your calendar.

1) Academy of Vocal Arts, 3-5 PM, Sunday, November 25

For a post Thanksgiving dessert, treat yourself to our cornucopian concert! This rich and delicious program will include a lively Bartok and Mozart, and a teaser of the forthcoming Nocella Quartet No. 3 in **Green** from Peter's **COLOR QUARTET** series.



Academy of Vocal Arts Recital Hall, 1920 Spruce St.

2) Woodmere Art Museum, 3 PM, Sunday, December 2

In the ambiance of this spacious and artistic setting, the Quartet will perform Peter's **String Quartet No. 2 in Red**, with new CD hot off the presses, as well as **Mozart Quartet in F Major, K.590**,



Woodmere Art Museum, 9201 Germantown Ave.

3) Amado Recital Hall (UPENN), 7 PM, Sunday, May 5

We return to the **UPENN's Amado Recital Hall** for the exciting **WORLD PREMIER** of Peter Nocella's **String Quartet No. 3 in Green**, a modern reflection of our natural world. The concert will also include a musical tribute to Italian film featuring music by composers Nino Rota, Ennio Morricone, and others.



Amado Recital Hall, 34th and Spruce Sts.

4) Woodmere Art Museum, 7 PM, Sunday, May 5

A program of musical treats and musical surprises in the works! **Stay tuned!**

**We trust you have been enjoying a relaxing summer
and hope to see you at our area concerts in the fall and spring.**

THE 2011-2012 SEASON IN REVIEW- (WE LEARNED A LOT OF NEW MUSIC!)

Fall 2011

Performing our '**FALL INTO RED**' concert, at the University of Pennsylvania,- along with Debussy and Bartok's Rumanian Folk Dances, we premiered Peter's **String Quartet No. 2 in Red**---a fiery work with a peaceful resolve.

SPRING CONCERT- HOPE SURVIVES!

At our UPENN, Amado Recital Hall spring concert, the music centered on four world class but little known composers, Viktor Ullmann, Hans Krasa, Erwin Schulhoff, and Alexander Zemlinsky, whose lives were truncated and whose works were repressed by the Nazis. Movement I of Peter's **String Quartet No.2 in Red** was reprised in the spring as a tribute to the Holocaust Era composers.

WHO KNEW? DEPT.

Not until recent years has there been a resurgence of their compositions and recognition of their artistry. Krasa and Ullmann, who perished in the concentration camps, however, still found musical outlets even at Theresienstadt---**UNDER THE NOSES OF THE NAZIS...!**



...WE LEARNED...

Krasa's anti-Nazi opera, **Brundibar**, featuring a Hitleresque organ grinder along with the children in the camp, was performed (in Czech) over 50 times, once a week while in Theresienstadt!---Who Knew?

...WE LISTENED...WE HAD TO PLAY IT!...

Ullmann's remarkable **Third Quartet**, composed while interned at Theresienstadt, is a cornucopia of emotions. As a reflection of his Holocaust experience, the work encompasses a broad array of emotions: **bravado, bitterness, resolve, inner strength and dignity**. Although he may have heard it rehearsed, sadly the quartet was premiered only after Ullmann's death in Auschwitz in October, 1944. [Ullmann: String Quartet No.3 2/2 - YouTube](#)



Additional Concert Highlights

[Schulhoff5 - Tarantella](#)

[Zemlinsky: Str. Qt. No.1, Meiravi Quartet 4/4 - YouTube](#)

---QUARTET BUZZ---

THE VIOLIN BOYS OF SUMMER: IGOR ROCKS!

Igor, after a season of performing with the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, Opera Company of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Ballet, AVA Opera, and bearing up under the unusually hot Philadelphia spring, in June, played for 70's R & B group, "Earth, Wind, and Fire," which Igor says, didn't help to cool down Philly's atmosphere one bit!

As concertmaster, Igor also performed at the Princeton Festival Puccini's slyly humorous and passionate **Gianni Schicchi** and Rachmaninoff's lush and romantic **Francesca da Rimini**.



IGOR DOFFS HIS ACADEMIC HAT, and PLAYS THE MANN with JACKIE E

As a faculty member, Igor participated in a week long string music camp at Rowan University in July. He joined faculty members, founders, cellist, George Atanasiy and his wife, violinist, Lenuta Cilei, along with guest faculty, Gabriel Bala, principal violist of the Dusseldorf Symphony and Marco Grisanti, chamber music pianist and accompanist from Rome. They each provided edifying master classes, dynamic chamber music workshops, and orchestral sessions, along with a very exciting faculty concert.

Saturday, August 25, Igor was at the Mann Theater with classical crossover singer, Jackie Evancho, (now 12!), America's Got Talent 2010 winner,



GREG PERFORMS UNDER THE BATON OF MAYOR NUTTER! Who? Nu!?

Greg, after a busy fall and winter season with the Philly Pops, Pennsylvania Ballet Company, and the Academy of Vocal Arts, played the Independence Day concert with the Philly Pops in front of Independence Hall with **Mayor Michael Nutter** present---**AND CONDUCTING** --- the **Liberty Bell March!** A stellar performance---Nevertheless, we hear the mayor has no plans of quitting his day job! Greg also performed Gilbert and Sullivan operetta, **The Mikado**, with the Savoy Company of Philadelphia, at both the Academy of Music and Longwood Gardens.

GREG STRINGING ALONG WITH SARAH McLACHLAN

Greg then went on an exciting three city tour as concertmaster for Sarah McLachlan's orchestra! The sold-out shows were performed in Boston, Connecticut (Foxwoods casino) and in Atlantic City at the Borgata. Exciting for Greg, since Sarah, as we know, has a very large and strong following and the shows were, of course, a huge success. Naturally, Greg being concertmaster, they would be!--- (We're just sayin'!)



VIVIAN'S RANGE OF MOTION ---- DULCET CELLO TONES VIBRATE WITH BOTH VIVALDI *and* EARTH, WIND, AND FIRE!

Vivian, after performing with the Pennsylvania Ballet Company and the Opera Company of Philadelphia all season, joined Igor in June to perform some hot licks with **Earth, Wind, and Fire**. Vivian finished PBC's season in the spring, followed by a demanding Vivaldi program.

The Vivaldi works were performed with Vox Ama Deus at both St Martins in the Field in Chestnut Hill and at Thomas Great Hall at Bryn Mawr College before Vivian kicked back for the summer and finally relaxed with her family, interspersed with regular Meiravi Quartet rehearsals for our fall programs, of course



PETER'S COLORS EXPAND

Just in time to provide inspiration and additional information, as part of his preparation for Meiravi's March concert, Hope Survives! Composers of the Holocaust Era, Peter attended an informative conference in Phoenix on two Holocaust era composers, Viktor Ullmann and Erwin Schulhoff, held at Arizona State University, through their Department of Jewish Studies.

After completing his teaching duties for the year at Penn State Abington and Nazareth Academy, **Peter** has spent the spring and all of this summer composing, composing, composing! All is in preparation for next season's Meiravi Quartet performances, as well as some other compositional endeavors, including refining his **Symphony No. 3, (Un' Viaggio di un Italo-Americano)**.

A COMPOSER'S PALETTE

Last summer's recording of **String Quartet No.1 in Blue** will be followed this fall with a new Meiravi Quartet CD of Peter's **String Quartet No. 2 in Red**, and perhaps, also, a recording of **Hope Survives: Four Composers of the Holocaust Era**.



THE NOVEMBER POGROM PLOT -- THE MYSTERY REMAINS!

With the **Blue** and the **Red** Quartets under his belt, Peter is currently working on the third of the Color Quartets, **Green**, as well as working on another new work, which has the appearance at the moment, of becoming the **String Quartet No. 4 in Black**, and later, a full opera. Based on the true backstory of **Kristallnacht/ Novembre pogrome---** this newest work involves events that led up to the November 9-10 destruction in 1938 Germany and some:

Think a 17 year old Polish boy, (Herschel Grynszpan), a murder at the German Embassy in Paris, a bistro, **The Boeuf Sur Le Toit, (The Ox on the Roof)**, frequented by the Parisian Bohemian artistic community and intelligentsia -- intimations of homosexuality, an American female crusading reporter (Dorothy Thompson, one of Sinclair Lewis' wives), a

committee of German generals, AND---Andre Gide! Whew! Imagine **La Boheme** crossed with **Schindler's List**, with a smidgeon of **Moveable Feast**.



Grynspan after his arrest 11/7/38



Jewish shops the morning after *Kristallnacht*



Berlin Shul after *Kristallnacht*

THE RESULTING STATISTICS

At least 91 Jews were killed in the 11/9-10/38 attacks, a further 30,000 arrested and incarcerated in concentration camps. Jewish homes, hospitals, and schools were ransacked as the attackers demolished buildings with sledgehammers. Over 1,000 synagogues were burned (95 in Vienna alone), and over 7,000 Jewish businesses destroyed or damaged.... Enough material for several operas!



MEIRAVI QUARTET ON YOUTUBE

Hope Survives! Composers of the Holocaust Era concert

Meiravi Quartet + Krasa, Ullmann, Zemlinsky, Schulhoff

Some Tantalizing Tidbits + Links

[Ullmann: String Quartet No.3 2/2 Video](#)

[Schulhoff: five Pieces for String Quartet 1/5 - YouTube](#)

[Zemlinsky: Str. Qt. No.1, Meiravi Quartet 3/4 - YouTube](#)

Nocella's Quartet No.1 in Blue 2/4

[Peter Nocella String Quartet No.1 in Blue \(II\) - Meiravi Quartet ...](#)

Nocella Quartet No 2 in Red 1/4

[Meiravi Quartet - Nocella: String Quartet No.2 in Red \(Premier ...](#)