

British Airways and Le Meridien Phoenicia
In association with
The Management Committee of the Manoel Theatre

Proudly present

Music and More
"In Her Own Voice"
A Celebration of Women Composers
09 March 2000
Sala Isouard, Manoel Theatre

Natasha Chircop, piano
Tatjana Chircop, violin
Valeriu Popovici, 'cello
Rebecca Hall, flute
Maxwell Spiers, piano

From Trio in D op. 11
Andante. Expressivo
Lied

Fanny Mendelssohn
(1805 - 1847)

Piano Trio in G minor op. 17
Allegro Moderato
Scherzo: Tempo di Minuetto
Andante
Allegretto

Clara Schumann
(1819 - 1896)

Interval

Suite for Solo Flute

Violet Archer
(b. 1913)

Adagio for Flute and Piano

Fanny Mendelssohn

Sonatina for Solo Flute

Barbara Pentland
(b. 1912)

Concertino for Flute and Piano

Cécile Chaminade
(1857 - 1944)

Please join **Music and More** as we travel to the City of Light for "April in Paris"! This concert, including the Poulenc Trio for Oboe, Bassoon and Piano and the *Premiere Rhapsodie* of Claude Debussy will feature John McDonough (Oboe), Godfrey Mifusd (Clarinet), Mario Micallef (Bassoon), and Lucia Micallef (Piano). Tickets for this 06 April Concert will be available soon from the Manoel Theatre Booking Office.

9/03/2000

The Performers

Natasha Chircop started her studies in Malta. In 1992 she was awarded a scholarship by the Italian government to continue her studies at the Conservatorio G. Verdi in Milan. There she graduated with diplomas in Flute and Piano. These studies were supplemented by chamber music tutelage at the Accademia di Firenze. She is also the holder of diplomas in both flute and piano from London's Trinity College of Music and Royal Schools, as well as a B.Ed (Hons.) from the University of Malta. Frequent concert appearances, both as soloist and chamber musician have taken Natasha to France, Germany, Spain, Greece, Syria and Portugal. As a concerto soloist, she has performed works by Franck, Ravel and Jirasek, as well as Maltese composers. As a flutist, she counts concerti by Bach and Vivaldi in her repertoire. Natasha has recorded for Italian Radio, and for the recording labels Geiga and Rugginenti.

Tatjana Chircop began playing the violin and piano at the age of four with Mr. J. Psaila. She continued her violin studies with Mr. Mario Bisazza and harmony with Rita Psaila, obtaining her diploma in both. In 1991, she won the Bice Mizzi Vassallo music competition. This allowed her to begin studies at the Conservatoire National du Region in Lyon, France, where she studied with Veronique Riou and Roger Germser. In 1995, under the guidance of Antoine Frendo, she obtained the FTCL in violin. Tatjana is currently Assistant Concertmistress of the National Orchestra of Malta and teacher of violin at the Johann Strauss School of Music. She has performed in France, Italy, Germany, North Korea, and Scotland, and is one of the busiest chamber musicians in Malta.

Romanian cellist **Valeriu Popovici** began his musical studies on the piano at the age of five. Switching to 'cello at the age of ten, he was first prizewinner in national competitions by the age of 14. After completing his Bachelor of Music degree at the Academy of Music in Romania, he proceeded to the Guildhall School of Music in London where he studied with Stefan Popov. He has worked with Radu Aldulescu (Menhuin Academy) and Lynn Harell. Before joining the Manoel Theatre Orchestra of Malta in 1996, Valeriu worked in various chamber groups and ensembles, such as the Radio Chamber Orchestra of Bucharest, and recorded for Radio Romania. Currently, Valeriu is principal 'cello of the National Orchestra of Malta.

Celebrated for her "stellar performances" and "charming manner", Canadian Flutist **Rebecca Hall** is a favourite with audiences on both sides of the Atlantic. Born and raised in St. John's, Newfoundland, Ms. Hall trained at Memorial University of Newfoundland and later at the University of Western Ontario, where she completed her Master of Music studies with double distinctions in Flute Performance. A perennial competition winner in her native country, Rebecca Hall was four times woodwind finalist in the CIBC National Music Competitions. She has appeared as concerto soloist with some of Canada's major Orchestras, including the Hamilton Philharmonic and Orchestra London Canada. Her recital appearances have been broadcast on both CBC Radio and Television. Since moving to Europe, Rebecca Hall has held the post of Principal Flute with the National Orchestra of Malta. A contemporary music enthusiast, she is a founding member of the chamber music group, the Issa Ensemble, who specialize in Twentieth Century repertoire. Frequently included in her solo recitals are works composed especially for her by Canadian and Maltese composers.

Max Spiers started piano lessons at the age of five, later winning a scholarship to study at the Bromley Schools Music Centre (UK) with Prof. John Riggs. In 1992 he was the first pianist to win the Norman Trotman Competition and was for three years a National Youth Chamber Music Competition finalist, with the Bromley Schools Piano Trio. In 1993, Max entered the Royal College of Music (London) to study piano with Ruth Gerard and oboe with John Anderson. Although training as an oboist, his accompanying skills were in great demand - so much so that he is still employed by the Royal College as a pianist on a regular basis.

Graduating from the RCM in 1997, Max was able, with the help of a scholarship from the Countess of Munster Trust, to continue his musical studies. These he combined with a post as Organist and Choirmaster at St. Giles, Camberwell (London), a busy freelance orchestral career as well as teaching and piano accompaniment work.

In August of 1999, Max moved to Malta to assume the post of Co-Principal Oboe with the National Orchestra

The Organizers wish to thank the Canadian Music Centre (Toronto, Ontario) for their kind assistance with this evening's performance