

“Visual Vivaldi” Will Be a Hot Ticket in a Cold Month at the Elmhurst Symphony

Picture this: the waves of an icy, slushy lake roll against a darkened sky as the plaintive, silvery strains of "Winter" from Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons* fill the air. A new experience awaits concertgoers at "Visual Vivaldi," the Sunday, January 25 concert of the Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra, when the visual artistry of Ben Whitehouse pairs with the stellar gifts of young phenom Garam Kim in Vivaldi's most famous work—a feast for the eyes and ears. Kim's performance will be accompanied by video images especially created for this concert by Whitehouse.

“Each day on our planet, one can witness a unique symphony of beautiful and interrelated experiences,” says Whitehouse, “and I see this in Vivaldi's great score. For two years now I have been looking at our world with eyes full of this great music. Sometimes I had sophisticated cameras with me on the journey. At other times I had to grab my iPhone when suddenly confronted by inspiration. But always I aimed at a simple marriage of score and our Midwest environment in homage to both. I am extremely grateful to Stephen Alltop and to the Elmhurst Symphony for this opportunity.”

Rounding out this not-to-be missed program are two outstanding musicians, Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra Concertmaster Rika Seko and Assistant Concertmaster Kathleen Carter, playing two more pieces on the greatest hits of the Baroque era list: Vivaldi's rousing *Concerto Grosso in D minor* and Bach's beloved *Concerto for Two Violins*.

This program without Whitehouse's video images--entitled "Viva Vivaldi!"--will also be presented on Saturday, January 17 at 2:30 p.m. in the intimate space of Mayslake Peabody Estate at 1717 West 31st Street in Oak Brook, providing another opportunity for Baroque music lovers to hear this spectacular music performed by superlative musicians.

Violinist Garam Kim has performed as concerto soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician in North America, South America, Europe, and Asia. Born in South Korea, Garam began playing the violin at the age of 8. Her first concerto solo performance was at age 10 under the baton of Dr. Stephen Alltop with the Cheyenne Symphony. At age 16, she entered Northwestern University, where she simultaneously received a Bachelor of Music degree in Violin Performance and a Bachelor of Arts degree in neurobiology with a minor in chemistry. Like Whitehouse, who has merged his love of music and art, Kim pairs her career as a concert violinist with work in the field of neuroscience research, where she studies Alzheimer's disease and primary progressive aphasia.

ESO Concertmaster Rika Seko is currently a member of the Grant Park Symphony Orchestra, assistant concertmaster of the Peninsula Music Festival (Wisconsin) and performs as a freelancer with numerous ensembles including the Lyric Opera of Chicago and Ars Viva. ESO Assistant Concertmaster Kathleen Carter is a member of the Chicago Q Ensemble, a string quartet dedicated to performing new music and classic works. She has also been featured on recordings of both classical and rock music and is an enthusiastic violin teacher.

The ESO, under the baton of Maestro Alltop, will perform in the spectacular space at Elmhurst Christian Reformed Church, 149 W Brush Hill Rd. in Elmhurst, which is handicapped-accessible and offers free parking. The concert experience is enhanced by the informative and lively discussion, Behind the Music Stand, led by audience favorite Dr. Ted Hatmaker, which takes place at 1:45 pm, prior to the 3:00 pm concert. To purchase concert tickets, please visit the ESO web site, www.elmhurstsymphony.org. Premium prices at the door are an additional \$5 per ticket. Three-concert subscriptions for the 2014-15 season are still available at a savings of 20% over single ticket prices. For information and to purchase subscriptions visit the web site or call the ESO Box Office at 630-941-0202.

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