

//PRESS RELEASE



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**“Shpachenko and Friends” Chamber Music Festival features pianist Nadia Shpachenko with Jerome Summers, clarinet and Grammy nominee, Karen Elaine, viola**

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**SPECIAL EVENT**

**“Shpachenko & Friends” Chamber Music Festival**

Wednesday, November 18, 2009 at 8:00pm

Cal Poly Pomona Music Recital Hall

Tickets \$15 general/\$10 student available online at <http://csupomona.tix.com> or at the Music Publicity Office #24-142

Professor Nadia Shpachenko announces the first concert in the **“Shpachenko & Friends” Chamber Music Festival** and shares her inspiration for establishing this new series.

“Chamber music is one of my greatest passions and I am constantly looking for opportunities to collaborate with musicians and groups who share my vision and inspiration. My goal is to expose Cal Poly Pomona students and local audiences to a great variety of artists, styles and repertoire.

Last year’s sold-out concert with the Biava Quartet from the Juilliard School of Music turned out to be a huge success and it gave me the idea of starting a new chamber music festival at Cal Poly Pomona that will focus on exactly what I did last year: *collaborating with distinguished artists and presenting interesting and unique chamber programs at Cal Poly Pomona.*

**“Shpachenko and Friends” Chamber Music Festival** will include at least one concert per quarter in which I will be performing a great variety of programs with outstanding guest artists from many parts of the world.

The first concert of the series will feature acclaimed Canadian clarinetist Jerome Summers and Grammy-nominated violist Karen Elaine. I am very excited that the concert series will open with a piece commissioned specifically for the first concert,

*Portraits of Pompeii* by David Kopplin, and will feature the premiere of Carol Worthey’s *Lament*.”

**Repertoire:**

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart Trio for Clarinet, Viola and Piano in E flat Major, K. 498, *Kegelstatt*

Max Bruch Selections from Acht Stücke for Clarinet, Viola and Piano, Op. 83

Paul Hindemith Sonata for Viola and Piano in F Major, Op. 11, #4

Carol Worthey *Lament* for Viola and Piano (2009) (World Premiere)

David Kopplin Trio for Clarinet, Viola and Piano, *Portraits of Pompeii* (World Premiere)



*David Kopplin and Nadia Shpachenko*

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**About the Musicians**

**Karen Elaine** is the First Place Grand Prize winner of the 1998 Bruno Giuranna International Viola Competition. As winner of numerous solo competitions in her native California, she is noted by the Los Angeles Times as “...the soloist to bring the viola out of obscurity.” Ms. Elaine has recorded with the London Symphony Orchestra, the City of London Sinfonia (for which she received nomination for a 1992 Grammy Music Award), the Orquesta Sinfonica da Paraiba, and the Moraska Philharmonie. A featured artist on recital and orchestral series worldwide, Ms. Elaine has given premier performances of new works and exuberant interpretations of the standard repertoire.



Ms. Elaine has commissioned and premiered numerous works for solo viola by such distinguished composers as David Baker, Ed Bland, Gordon Kerry, Patrice Rushen, Bruce Taub, and David Ward-Steinman. As an arranger and soloist, Ms. Elaine’s works for solo viola with string orchestra have been performed by the Rogue Valley Symphony, the Afro-American Chamber Music Society, the Palisades Symphony, and the Southeast Los Angeles Symphony.

Karen Elaine has recorded on the Delos, Harmonia Mundi, Laurel, R-Kal, Fleur de Son, and Tzadik record labels. Featured on the daily Karl Haas classical radio program ‘Adventures in Good Music’ is her Grammy-nominated recording of the ‘Lyric Fantasies’ by Norman Dello Joio, one of her many collaborative works with conductor David Amos. Their new release, a collection of solo viola works by Ernest Bloch featuring Ms. Elaine, can be perused and purchased on [www.cdbaby.com](http://www.cdbaby.com). In the commercial world of music, Ms. Elaine can be seen on-screen on the American Idol, America’s Got Talent, Dancing with the Stars, and the Academy Awards Oscars TV shows. She also is with the band on numerous phonograph CD’s and sound tracks for TV and Motion Picture, including Space Jam, Major Payne, The Curious Case of Benjamin Button, Speed Racer, Up, Star Trek, Desperate Housewives, Nathalie Cole’s “Still Unforgettable”, Avril Lavigne, Dave Matthews Band, Stevie Wonder’s “A Time to Love”, Smokey Robinson’s “Love Songs”, and many more.



**Jerome Summers** has enjoyed a distinguished career as a conductor, clarinetist, composer, and teacher. As a clarinet artist, he has performed with many of Canada’s major symphony orchestras as well as with internationally renowned chamber and solo performers. Prior to joining the Performance Faculty at The University of Western Ontario, he served as clarinetist in the Vancouver Opera Association, Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, New Music Society of Vancouver, Early Music Society of Vancouver (recorders and other Renaissance instruments), the Calgary Philharmonic, Royal Winnipeg Ballet Orchestras, National Ballet of Canada Tours, New York Joffrey Ballet (soloist), Cassenti Players of Vancouver, Cambini Wind Quintet, and numerous Hollywood Sound Track recordings and commercial recordings.

More recently, he has appeared internationally with such ensembles and artists as: The Canadian Opera Company, Purcell Quartet, Audubon Quartet, Los Angeles Camerata, oboist Alex Klein, bassoonist Charles Ullery, cellist Tsuyoshi Tsutsumi, violinists Eduard Minevich, Joseph Lanza, and pianists William Aide, Ronald Turini,

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Jane Hayes, Janina Fialkowska, and Robert Kortgaard. His first CD recording, *Songs of the Nightingale*, was released to critical acclaim in 1994. A second solo recording, *Flight of the Nightingale* with pianist Robert Kortgaard was released in 2001 and a second recording, *FLIGHT OF THE NIGHTINGALE* was re-released in 2008 on Cambria Master Recordings label. His conducting activities have embraced a broad spectrum of styles and genres, including opera and ballet productions, symphonic masterworks, world premiere performances of new works, pops, theatre pieces, recording sessions and chamber orchestra performances throughout North America and Western Europe. Summers currently serves as Music Director of thriving orchestras in Southern Ontario, Michigan, and Toronto and frequently appears on the podium for Orchestras London and Windsor. Jerome Summers has acquired widespread recognition and critical acclaim as one of Canada’s most vital musicians.

Pianist **Nadia Shpachenko** has performed extensively in solo and chamber music recitals and with orchestras in North America and Europe in venues such as Carnegie Hall in New York, Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Described by critics as a “truly inspiring and brilliant pianist...spellbinding in sensitivity and mastery of technique,” she most recently toured Mexico with Orquesta de Baja California and performed with the Kharkov Philharmonic, the Ukrainian National Symphony, and the Ukrainian National Radio Symphony Orchestras in Ukraine and the San Bernardino Symphony Orchestra in California.



In addition to bringing out new facets of the traditional repertoire, Dr. Shpachenko enjoys applying her deep interpretation to new repertoire by performing and premiering music by contemporary composers. Her recent notable premieres include the World premiere of Ukrainian composer Yury Ishchenko’s Piano Concerto No. 2 at the 17th International Contemporary Music Festival “Kiev Music Fest 2006” and the West Coast premiere of Elliott Carter’s Dialogues for Piano and Chamber Orchestra with the Nimbus Ensemble in Los Angeles. Dr. Shpachenko is also touring a series of lecture-recitals exploring the relations between modern art and modern music, including one on Unorthodox Use of Piano by 20th Century American Composers and one commissioned by the Phillips Collection in Washington, DC to accompany its Modigliani exhibit.

Dr. Shpachenko completed her DMA and MM degrees at the University of Southern California, where she was awarded the title of Outstanding Graduate. Her principal teachers have included such distinguished musicians as John Perry in Los Angeles, Victor Rosenbaum in Boston, and Victor Derevianko in Israel. Winner of a number of international piano competitions, she performed at the International Holland Music Sessions, Aspen, Cliburn, Manchester, Orford, Sarasota, Music Academy of the West, Tel-Hai, and Saluzzo International Music Festivals.

Dr. Shpachenko is currently Assistant Professor of Music at the California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. In addition, she has recently served as visiting faculty at Pomona College, guest lecturer at the California Institute of the Arts, and Artist in Residence at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. In June 2007 Dr. Shpachenko joined the faculty of the Sarasota International Music Festival.

Please visit [www.ullanta.com/nadia](http://www.ullanta.com/nadia) to learn more about Dr. Nadia Shpachenko and listen to some of her performances.

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**About the Composers**

**I**nternationally recognized composer **Carol Worthey** began her music career on the first day of life: Family friend Leonard Bernstein was in her house, made hamburgers in the shape of stars and declared, "This little girl's gonna be a star!" Not to make Lenny wrong, Carol began composing at age three and a half. When Carol was ten she wrote an Etude that was premiered in Carnegie Hall by pianist Vivian Rivkin. At thirteen Carol began her first composition lessons with Grant Beglarian (himself a student of Aaron Copland at Tanglewood) at Merrywood School of Music where John Harbison was Music Director. She studied with Darius Milhaud at Aspen Music Festival, and with Vincent Persichetti (of Juilliard) at the Hopkins Center for the Performing Arts (Dartmouth) where she was also mentored by Walter Piston and Elliott Carter. (At the time she was known as Carol Lee Symonds.)



Carol Worthey won First Prize in Composition while at Columbia University (studying under Otto Luening, Vladimir Ussachevsky and Henry Cowell) and was the winner in 1990 of the Inner City Cultural Center's Composer Competition for Fanfare for Joy & Wedding March. Carol studied with Dick Grove and was the second woman graduate of the extremely demanding Contemporary Composing and Arranging Program at the Grove School of Music where she honed her skills in orchestration. After Grove School, she also studied under Academy Award winner Eddy Lawrence Manson.

She has since had eight world premieres at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, as well as works performed in England, France, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Canada and the United States. A children's musical she wrote played for five years with the Los Angeles Children's Theatre and was featured on Entertainment Tonight.

In 2002 Carol was commissioned by renowned Cellist Joyce Geeting (protege of cello great Janos Starker) to compose Elogy for Cello & Orchestra, a one-movement concerto World-premiered at St. Martin-in-The-Fields, London in Spring of 2003 to rousing acclaim. Elogy is a musical enactment of the events of 9/11 and is a heartfelt tribute to those lost and those left behind. It is designed to heal.

Carol is proud to say she has been happily married to Ray Korn for twenty-nine years, has one lovely daughter Megan Worthey and lives in Hollywood Hills where she teaches composition and piano.



**P**rofessor **David Kopplin** not only directs the CPP Jazz Band, but he sings and plays drums with the Off-Scales, a quartet that performs classic soul, rock, and pop music.

Kopplin is active as a writer and speaker and has lectured on music for the Hollywood Bowl, Los Angeles Philharmonic and Pacific Symphony Orchestra, as well as guest lectured at many universities. He regularly contributes articles, program notes and features for the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Los Angeles Opera, UCLA, the Phillip’s Performing Arts Center, Washington (D.C.) Performing Arts Society and for the Hollywood Bowl.

Professional credits as a composer include film scores, incidental music for theater, works for chorus, chamber orchestra, full orchestra, various electro-acoustic works for chamber ensembles, songs, and works for jazz and Latin-jazz ensembles. Dr. Kopplin has created a new work for the trio that will be premiered on this concert. His “Portraits of Pompeii” depicts the tragedy and heroism of the last days of the ancient Roman city.