

CARLOS WERNICKE
&
MERLIN STRING QUARTET



Φ

DAVID MERLIN – VIOLÍN
DANIEL HURTADO – VIOLÍN
ISIDRO RISTORI – VIOLA
EMMA BANDENIECE – CELLO
CARLOS WERNICKE – GUITAR

Φ

CONCERTO IN D, RV 93 – ANTONIO VIVALDI
JEROMITA LINARES – CARLOS GUASTAVINO
QUINTET NO. 4 IN D, G 448 – LUIGI BOCCHERINI
SINFONIA BWV 29 – JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

PROGRAM NOTES

Carlos Wernicke & the Merlin String Quartet present a program whose works are, for the most part, original for this formation—at once unusual and remarkable. Within this program, audiences can marvel, for example, at the superlative expressiveness of the *Largo* from Vivaldi's concerto, the wonderful symbiosis between popular and academic music in Guastavino, the majestic elegance of Boccherini's famous *Fandango*, and the perfect, sublime energy of Bach's *Sinfonia*, all interwoven with several duos in which Beauty prevails above all else.



PROGRAM

Antonio Vivaldi – *Concerto in D*, RV 93

- I. Allegro giusto
- II. Largo
- III. Allegro

Camille Saint-Saëns – *Le Cygne* (cello & guitar)

Carlos Guastavino – *Jeromita Linares*

Gabriel Fauré – *Après un rêve* (violin & guitar)

Luigi Boccherini – *Quintet No. 4 in D*, G 448

- I. Pastorale
- II. Allegro maestoso
- III. Grave
- IV. Fandango

Johann Sebastian Bach – *Sinfonia* from Cantata BWV 29



DAVID MERLIN LEWIN . Violin

Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, into a family of musicians, he began his violin studies at the age of three with maestro Alejandro Eljovich. He graduated from the conservatory with top honors in violin, chamber music, and composition, studying under Polina Kotliarskaya and following the Russian violin tradition. He continued his studies with Gordan Nikolić at the University of the Arts in Rotterdam and with Ivry Gitlis in Paris.



He has performed in more than 30 countries, appearing in solo recitals, chamber ensembles, symphony orchestras, as well as in piano recitals. In 2016, he recorded *Youthful Impressions*, his first album of original compositions for piano.



EMMA ALEKSANDRA BANDENIECE . Cello

Latvian cellist Emma Bandeniece started playing the cello at the age of 4. Since then she has been successful in many national and international level competitions. In 2018 Emma completed her bachelor's degree studies at the Jāzeps Vītols Latvian Academy of Music with Prof. Diana Ozoliņa.

During her studies she also took part in various master classes with cellists such as Mischa Maisky, Gautier Capuçon, Colin Carr at the Académie musicale de Villecroze 2016, Sol Gabetta, and many others. She has appeared as soloist with the Baltic Academy Orchestra and performed in various chamber music concerts in Latvia, Iceland and Canada.

From 2016 to 2019 Emma was a member of the Grammy Award-winning Kremerata Baltica chamber orchestra led by Gidon Kremer, and performed in concert halls across the world like Carnegie Hall in New York, Berlin Philharmonie, Seoul Arts Center and Suntory Hall in Tokyo. In 2018 she also became a member of the Kremerata Baltica String Trio.

In September 2019 Emma, a recipient of the ABRSM scholarship, began her master's degree studies with Prof. Melissa Phelps at the Royal College of Music in London. After her Erasmus exchange studies at the Ferenc Liszt Academy of Music (Liszt Ferenc Zeneművészeti Egyetem) in Budapest, Hungary with teachers Ottó Kertész and Dóra Kokas, Emma returned to Latvia where she continues to perform in various ensembles. Since January 2023 Emma is a permanent member of the Latvian National Symphony Orchestra.



DANI HURTADO . Violín

He began his music studies at the age of six at the Andana Academy. He completed his Professional Degree at the Adolfo Salazar Conservatory (Ferraz Street) with Víctor Correa and Farid Fasla, receiving the **Extraordinary End-of-Degree Award**. He completed his Higher Degree studies under Rolando Prusack and Nicolás Chumachenco, and in chamber music with the **Casals Quartet, Quiroga Quartet**, and Kennedy Moretti, earning an advanced training scholarship from Ibercaja, which led him to perform violin and piano recitals throughout Spain (2011–2012).

He completed a Master's degree at **Codarts, University of the Arts (Netherlands)** with Micha Molthoff, graduating with top marks. In 2013, he won **First Prize** in the chamber music category at the **Beijing International Chamber Music Festival (China)**. In September 2018, a documentary about his quintet in China was broadcast on **CCTV**.

He is the founder, director, concertmaster, and professor of the **Orquesta Típica "Central"** at the CSMA (2009–2013), performing in major concert series and venues in Zaragoza. He currently performs with various ensembles, including a piano duo with David Merlin, **Cuarteto Iberotango, Goyeneche String Quartet**, and **SONICO**, appearing in halls and festivals across Spain, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, China, Switzerland, Austria, Italy, France, and Belgium.

He combines his performance career with teaching and is regularly invited to give masterclasses at institutions such as **Codarts, CSMA**, and in Murcia, among others.



ISIDRO RISTORI . Viola

Born in Madrid, he earned his Higher Degree in Violin at the **Conservatorio Superior de Aragón**, studying violin with Prof. Enrique Palomares and chamber music with the **Quiroga Quartet** and Kennedy Moretti. He later completed a specialized Master's degree in violin at **Codarts, University of the Arts Rotterdam**, with Gordan Nikolić, also training in viola with Prof. Gijs Kramers and in string quartet with the **Ruysdael Quartet** and Prof. Tommi Shimon.

He has been a member of numerous chamber ensembles, performing both as a violinist and violist, including the **Ebersberg Trio** and the **Ensemble S. Pablo String Quartet**, touring in China, Taiwan, Istanbul, and Paris, among other locations. He has also performed with orchestras such as the **Madrid Symphony Orchestra (OSM)** and has been a member of the **Rotterdam Philharmonic Academy**.

He currently combines performance with teaching and has recently founded the **ArtCordi Music School** in Pozuelo de Alarcón.



CARLOS WERNICKE . Guitar

(Buenos Aires, 1976) began his connection with music in childhood. At the age of ten, he started studying guitar with Máximo Pujol, and at twenty-four he graduated as a Professor of Guitar from the **Juan José Castro Conservatory** in Buenos Aires. He has participated in projects spanning tango, pop, early music, classical, vocal, and contemporary music, performing as a soloist, in chamber ensembles, and with orchestras. He has studied cello, piano, harmony, composition, and counterpoint. His current activities include the transcription of early music, composition, and the creation of arrangements. He has been awarded **First Prize at the Jorge Martínez Zárate Competition**.

As a composer, he has published *Partita Porteña* and *Tres piezas de Buenos Aires* (for two guitars), as well as *Cien noches cerradas*, *Dies illa*, and *Invención y Milonga* (for solo guitar) with the Canadian publishing house **Les Productions d'Oz**.



He has collaborated with Lotox Tango, Juan Pietranera, Marta Blanco, Irma Mejías, Suso Mariategui, José Julián Frontal, Máximo Pujol, Fernando Fiszbein, David Merlin, Juan Esteban Cuacci, Íñigo Aranzasti, Raúl Chiocchio, and Gerónimo Rauch, as well as with conductors such as Antonio Russo (Juventus Lyrica Orchestra), Leonardo San Juan (National Congress Orchestra), Gustavo Sánchez (Camerata Antonio Soler), and Alfons Reverter (OJC), among others.

He has performed in a wide range of venues, from neighborhood halls and cultural associations to prestigious theaters such as the **Auditorio de Tenerife**, **Palau de la Música in Valencia**, **L'Auditori in Barcelona**, **Teatro Real in Madrid**, **National Auditorium of Madrid**, **Teatro Carlos III**, and the **Juan March Foundation**. He has toured in Argentina, Spain, France, England, and Germany.

He has been praised for his “admirable musical sense and technical virtuosity” (*Scherzo* magazine) and for his “delicacy and creativity” (*El País* newspaper). He has also developed an extensive career in music pedagogy and guitar education since 1995, serving as assistant to Prof. Jorge Labanca at the Juan José Castro Conservatory in Buenos Aires (1998–2000), and as a teacher of guitar, early music education, solfège, and chamber music at the **Instituto Arte Vivo** in Buenos Aires (2001–2004) and the **Escuela de Nuevas Músicas de Madrid** (2004–2020).

“...the guitarist Carlos Wernicke accompanied with delicacy and creativity (extraordinary, indeed), an artist to watch.”

— *Juan Ángel Vela del Campo, El País*

“...the Argentine guitarist Carlos Wernicke, a name worthy of attention for his admirable musical sense and technical virtuosity.”

— *Leopoldo Rojas-O'Donnell, Scherzo*

“...a guitarist who does not merely accompany, but creates the right atmosphere for each song, the ideal sound for the word, and a magnificent rapport with the tenor (...) reaching moments of spectacular brilliance, including the encore at the end, full of feeling and expressive depth.”

— *Rodrigo Barbosa, La Provincia (Las Palmas)*