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Please note that late entry or reentry of the East Building after 6:30 pm is not permitted.

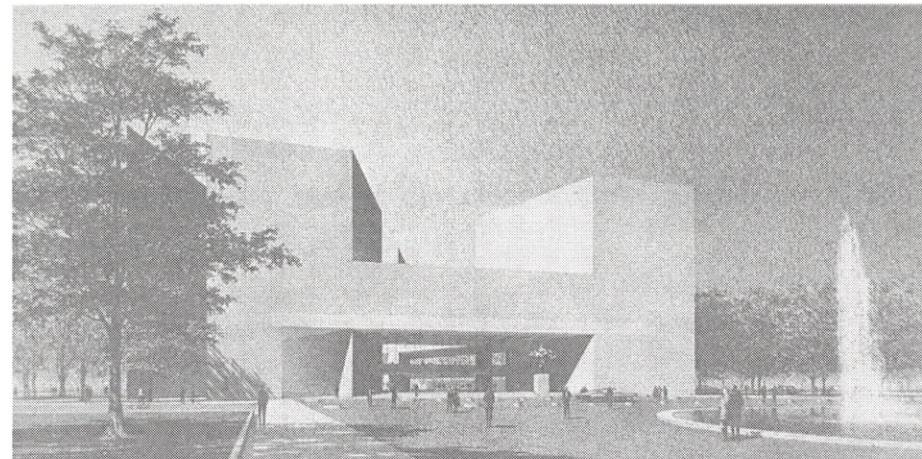
For the convenience of concertgoers, the Garden Café remains open for light refreshments until 6:00 pm on Sundays.

Music Department
National Gallery of Art
Sixth Street and Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC

www.nga.gov

Concerts are made possible in part through the generosity of donors to the National Gallery of Art through The Circle. Reserved seating is available in recognition of their support. Please contact the development office at (202) 842-6450 or circle@nga.gov for more information.

COVER: Paul Stevenson Oles, *Sketch of the East Building Exterior*, 1971,
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The Seventy-first Season of
The William Nelson Cromwell and F. Lammot Belin
Concerts

National Gallery of Art
2,928th Concert

Theatre Tuscaloosa
Paul Looney, director emeritus
with

Soloists of the Russian National Orchestra
Soloists of the University of Alabama Orchestra
Members of the National Gallery Orchestra

Hermitage Cats Save the Day

March 10, 2013
Sunday, 6:30 pm
East Building Auditorium
Admission free

Program

Chris Brubeck (b. 1952)

Hermitage Cats Save the Day

A Jazz Musical Fantasy for Cat-Lovers, Music-Lovers and
Art-Lovers of All Ages, Especially Children

MAIN CHARACTERS

Vladislav Lavrik, conductor and trumpeter

Drew Baker and Russell Stephens, assistant conductors,
who tell the story

Charles Prosser, Katzenoff, head of museum security guards

HERMITAGE CATS

Diane Boyd Schultz (piccolo), Amber

Maxim Rubtsov (flute), Naughty Red-Ears

Marcio Botelho (cello), Van Dyck, a cat named for the
Dutch artist because he was found trapped in the heat
vent of the Van Dyck picture gallery

Bruno Nasta (violin), Renoir, a cat named for the French
Impressionist artist

David Sciannella (trombone), Rastrelli, a cat named for the
Italian-born Russian architect who designed the Winter Palace

Edward Walters (clarinet), Kuzya, a cat without a tail

Dawn Sandel (guitar and vocals), Murlyka, a tabby cat that
purrs and sings

Joseph Connell (percussion), Sophocles, a wise old cat named
for the Greek philosopher and writer

Gregory Watkins (double bass), a thief

Hermitage Cats Creative Team

Mary Ann Allin is president of Swashbuckler Enterprises, an arts consultancy based in Washington, DC, that specializes in Russian cultural projects. In addition to writing the libretto for *Hermitage Cats Save the Day*, she is the coauthor with Maria Haltunen of the prize-winning children's book, *Anna and the Hermitage Cats* (2007).

Drew Baker returned to the stage, her true passion, after several years practicing law. She has appeared in dozens of major roles for Theatre Tuscaloosa and the University of Alabama stage. Since 2009 she has been artistic coordinator of Tuscaloosa Children's Theatre. As a storyteller she has brought folk tales to life for thousands of children.

Marcio Botelho is principal cellist with "The President's Own" United States Marine Band and with the National Gallery Orchestra. He has been a frequent soloist with both of these orchestras, as well as with the Millbrook Orchestra and Concert Artists Baltimore. He received a master of music degree from the Eastman School of Music, and is a *cum laude* graduate of the University of Cincinnati, where he was a winner of the concerto competition.

Grammy-nominated composer **Chris Brubeck** enjoys a diverse career—writing, arranging, performing and recording jazz and symphonic works. He is much sought after for his creative use of multiple genres in his compositions, and has been commissioned to write many innovative works.

A regular extra percussionist with the National Symphony Orchestra, **Joseph Connell** has recently appeared with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Colorado Symphony, and the Philadelphia Orchestra. He has performed with musicians as diverse as Patti Labelle, country music's Charlie Daniels, the Prog-rock group Yes, Tony Bennett, and Lady Gaga.

Erin Hisey is a freelance lighting designer for theater, dance, concert productions, and museum exhibitions at the Children's Hands-On Museum of Tuscaloosa. An adjunct faculty member at Shelton State Community College, she teaches stage makeup and stage crafts. Hisey received her bachelor of fine arts degree from New York University and her master of fine arts from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Acclaimed as one of Russia's finest trumpeters and a rising young conductor, **Vladislav Lavrik** is recognized for achievements in both classical and jazz performance styles. He is principal trumpet of the Russian National Orchestra, leader of the RNO Brass Quintet, founder of Moscow's International Brass Days Festival, and a member of the Board of the International Trumpet Guild.

Paul Looney is executive producer and artistic director emeritus of Theatre Tuscaloosa. A recipient of the Governor's Arts Award, he founded the theater department of Shelton State Community College and was technical director of the Alabama Shakespeare Festival. He has produced and designed over 120 major productions, including many that toured Alabama and abroad.

Known for his international and multi-genre repertoire, violinist **Bruno Nasta** maintains a vigorous freelance schedule within the recording, symphony, opera, theater, television and film circuits. He has performed with The Who, Yes, Ray Charles, Lyle Lovett, Liza Minnelli, Bernadette Peters, and Luciano Pavarotti, and his work has been featured on **NPR**. Nasta is director of the Jazz in the Garden summer concert program at the National Gallery of Art, personnel director of the National Gallery Orchestra, and founder/violinist of The Gypsy Strings.

Charles Prosser has performed countless roles with theaters throughout Alabama in a career spanning three decades. His acting and directing credits include productions in Annapolis, Maryland, and the Oklahoma Shakespearean Festival. Recently retired from public school teaching, he continues to enjoy a highly acclaimed acting career.

Maxim Rubtsov has been called “one of the best flutists of the Modern Age” and is recognized as one of Russia’s finest musical ambassadors. As principal flute of the Russian National Orchestra, he has premiered John Corigliano’s *Pied Piper Fantasy* and recorded Corigliano songs with American soprano Lisa Delan. *Russian Romance*, his recent recording with pianist Sergei Kvitko, is available on iTunes.

As a mother of two young boys, **Dawn Sandel** is thrilled to sing and play guitar as “Murlyka” the cat. She holds a bachelor’s degree in music therapy from the University of Dayton (Ohio) and a master’s degree in early childhood special education from the University of Alabama, Birmingham. A music therapist at the RISE School of Tuscaloosa, she thinks this production is just PURRFECT for kiddies.

Flutist and piccoloist **Diane Boyd Schultz** began studying music at age 11 in her native Mississippi. She is principal flutist of the Tuscaloosa Symphony, flutist with the Capstone Wind Quintet, and professor at the University of Alabama. A prizewinner in several national and international competitions, Dr. Boyd Schultz is a Yamaha Performing Artist.

Trombonist **David Sciannella** holds degrees from the Catholic University of America and the Eastman School of Music. He maintains an active freelance career in the greater Washington, DC, region. He is principal trombone of the National Philharmonic, the Wolf Trap Orchestra, the Lancaster Symphony, and the National Gallery Orchestra, and second trombone in the Annapolis Symphony. He is trombonist and euphonium soloist with the Washington Symphonic Brass.

Russell Stephens is a recent graduate of the University of Alabama’s musical theater program. He has starred in several UA and local musical theater productions and performed on stages throughout the state and region. Among his favorite credits are more than 500 performances in the Jedi Training Academy at the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Florida.

Edward Walters recently retired as the clarinet instructor at the University of Maryland School of Music. In addition to having served a four-year term with the United States Navy Band, Walters has been a member of the Baltimore Opera Orchestra, the Concert Artists of Baltimore, the Kennedy Center Theater Chamber Players, and the PostClassical Ensemble. Walters is the musical contractor for the National Theater in Washington, DC, and Wolf Trap in Virginia.

Jeanette Waterman began work at Theatre Tuscaloosa as a volunteer and rose to become the leader of its costume department. In more than ten years as costumer she has designed and supervised construction of thousands of hats, shoes, and accessories. A native of Mobile, she studied clothing and textile design at the University of Alabama.

Classically trained double bassist **Gregory Watkins** has performed with the National Symphony Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony, and Washington Opera. Equally at home with jazz and pop, Watkins performs with The Sketches, a unique pop group that blends melodic songwriting with orchestral accompaniment. A graduate of the Peabody Conservatory, he can also be heard on many film and television scores, including programs on Discovery, National Geographic, Arts & Entertainment, Miramax, HBO, ABC, and Showtime.

Program Notes

Based on *Anna and the Hermitage Cats* by Mary Ann Allin and Maria Haltunen, Chris Brubeck's *Hermitage Cats Save the Day* received its world premiere in Moody Concert Hall at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, just four days ago. Inspired by legends surrounding the cats that live in the State Hermitage Museum in Saint Petersburg, Russia, the musical presents a new version of a story that has been told and retold in Russia for more than 250 years. Cats have lived in the basement of the Winter Palace since it was completed as a masterpiece of Russian baroque architecture for the empress Elizaveta Petrovna in 1762. Elizaveta's successor, Catherine the Great, gave the Hermitage cats official status by issuing an imperial decree, stating that they were to be considered "guardians of the picture galleries."

To this day more than fifty Hermitage cats fulfill their duty by keeping the Winter Palace and five other museum buildings free of mice and rats. According to Dr. Mikhail Piotrovsky, the director of the State Hermitage Museum, "Our cats are one of the most important Hermitage legends. The museum staff's care for and attention to the Hermitage cats offer the world an example of human kindness that serves to promote peace and understanding."

About the musical, Mary Ann Allin says, "On one level, it is a simple detective story in which the audience helps the Hermitage cats discover who has stolen a priceless cat figurine from the museum's Hall of Ancient Egypt. On another level, it illustrates the kind of adventures, fantasies, and discoveries one can have in an art museum. To be sure, the story is an allegory of human and international relations. The moral of the story: when we work together, we can solve problems."

According to composer Chris Brubeck, "Every musician knows this lesson very well—in order to make music together, we must listen to one another. We begin on the stage of the Hermitage Theater where ten jazzy musicians are unpacking their instruments, checking their sound and rehearsing. But we soon learn that these are not ordinary players. These musicians are really cool cats!"

Russian video designer Alexandra Komarova provided the visual effects by creating animated collages using original children's drawings, Hermitage works of art, photographs of real Hermitage cats, and museum interiors. Every year the State Hermitage Museum invites children to compete for prizes in a juried drawing contest. The competition winners are announced on the museum's annual Day of the Cats. The winning artworks are exhibited in the museum and become part of the permanent collection.

The music for *Hermitage Cats Save the Day* was commissioned by Nestlé Purina PetCare (Moscow), Parsons & Whittemore (New York), Friends of the Russian Arts Foundation (California), the University of Alabama College of Arts and Sciences, the Alabama State Council on the Arts, the Brannen-Cooper Fund (Massachusetts), the Panwy Foundation (Connecticut), Geraldine Anderson, Stephanie and Peter Clemson, Nancy and Russell Nelson, and Dr. Moonyeen Albrecht.

Additional partners in the Hermitage Cats Project include the National Gallery of Art, the State Hermitage Museum, Swashbuckler Enterprises, Inc. (Washington, DC), the RISE School (Tuscaloosa, Alabama), the Institute of Veterinary Biology (Saint Petersburg, Russia), and the Foundation for Cultural Programs SWASH (Saint Petersburg, Russia).

Special thanks to author's consultant Mary Quattlebaum, Embassy of the Russian Federation, Savoy Suites Hotel, and BicyclesPACE DC.

Concerts in March 2013 at the National Gallery of Art

Inscape Chamber Orchestra
Richard Scerbo, conductor

Music by Debussy, Delage,
Hindemith, and Ravel

March 17, 2013
Sunday, 6:30 pm
West Building, West Garden Court



Paul Posnak, pianist

Music by Gershwin
and other composers

March 20, 2013
Wednesday, 12:10 pm
East Building Auditorium