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"SPIRIT OF AMERICA"

SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2009 AT 7 PM

AT THE COVINA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

437 W. SAN BERNARDINO ROAD, COVINA, CA 91723

A VERY SPECIAL CONCERT

CELEBRATING THE DIVERSE HERITAGE OF OUR COUNTRY AND OUR PRECIOUS FREEDOMS

GUEST ARTISTS

★ **RUSLAN BIRYUKOV, CELLO** ★ **MARY AU, PIANO**
★ **CHARLES E. DICKERSON III, TENOR** ★ **FRANCES ANTHONY, SOPRANO**

FEATURING

"RHAPSODY IN BLUE", GEORGE GERSHWIN ~ "CELLO CONCERTO", ANTONIN DVORAK
"SOLSTICE CELEBRATION", SYLVIA LEE MANN ~ "COURAGE", ADRIENNE ALBERT
"HERITAGE SUITE", A MUSICAL COLLAGE CELEBRATING OUR MANY CULTURES

About Ruslan Biryukov (*Руслан Бирюков*):

Heralded as a charismatic performer, MPEIC artist Ruslan Biryukov represents a new generation of creative professional musicians whose artistic level is recognized not only by awards, but also by a worldwide audience. Known for his "superb artistry, passion and individuality," he collaborated with Midori, Kirill Rodin, Mstislav Rostropovich and Seiji Ozawa in venues such as the Los Angeles Disney Hall, the Renee and Henry Segerstrom Hall and the Big Hall of Moscow Conservatory in over twenty countries in the former USSR, Europe and the United States. Born in Baku, Azerbaijan and winner of the 17th MPE International Competition, Ruslan Biryukov is a graduate of Baku Music Academy, Tchaikovsky Moscow Conservatory, and USC Thornton School of Music.

A musician committed to a lifetime of music making, his purpose to introduce art as a philosophy of existence to audiences from all walks of life: Mr. Biryukov is known for his prodigally magnificent cello sound, shaped as a flowing monument to a concept which equates a sense of life with a sense of beauty. To read more about Ruslan Biryukov, please visit www.celloart.com.



About Mary Au (*歐慧賢*):

Known for her "sensitive, seamless transition between chamber music collaboration and piano accompaniment", is a much sought after pianist whose artistry embodies her worldwide experience. Heralded as one of the "Outstanding Young Women of America", Ms. Au's collaborations in recitals and master classes with esteemed artists Christine Brewer, Nathaniel Rosen, Natalia Gutman, Janos Starker, Steven Isserlis, Boris Pergamenschikow, Mstislav Rostropovich, Evan Drachman, Ruslan Biryukov, Ruggiero Ricci, Myung Whun Chung, and Elly Ameling have left a lasting impression on audiences from all walks of life. Her recordings with cellist Ruslan Biryukov have been enthusiastically received. Courted by Chinese officials, Ms. Au performed in the IFEA Award winning Nanning International Arts Festival in China. Mary Au is a graduate of the Royal Academy of Music and the University of Southern California. Her mentors include Kevin Fitz-Gerald, Daniel Pollack, Gordon Green, Brooks Smith, Alice Schoenfeld and Eleonore Schoenfeld. As a former executive of the GRAMMY Awards, Mary Au continues to dedicate herself to crossing cultural boundaries and sharing her musical fabric with audiences worldwide. To read more about Mary Au, please visit www.aumary.com





"SPIRIT OF AMERICA"

a free concert by

WEST COVINA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

DR. SYLVIA LEE MANN, MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR

SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2009

7:00 PM

COVINA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

437 W. SAN BERNARDINO RD ~ COVINA, CA 91723

(626) 771-0462 ~ WWW.WESTCOVINASYMPHONY.COM

★ A CONCERT CELEBRATING OUR DIVERSE HERITAGE AND FREEDOMS ★

★ "RHAPSODY IN BLUE", GEORGE GERSHWIN
PIANIST MARY AU

★ "CELLO CONCERTO", ANTONIN DVORAK
CELLIST RUSLAN BIRYUKOV

★ "STAR SPANGLED BANNER", KEY/SMITH
CHARLES E. DICKERSON III, TENOR

★ MUSIC BY AMERICAN COMPOSERS ~
"COURAGE", ADRIENNE ALBERT
"SOLSTICE CELEBRATION", SYLVIA LEE MANN

★ "HERITAGE SUITE", SYLVIA LEE MANN
FEATURING FRANCES ANTHONY, SOPRANO

★ "STARS AND STRIPES FOREVER",
JOHN PHILLIP SOUSA



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