

Bennington College presents



Not the typical Chamber ensemble

**American Standards
The Music & Lyrics of
Frank Loesser**

with

Ida Faiella, Soprano

Abba Bogin, Piano/Arranger

Barry Finclair, Violin

Jonathan Dinklage, Violin

Julien C. Barber, Viola

Semyon Fridman, Cello



Not the typical Chamber ensemble

Ida Faiella

Executive Artistic Director

PO Box 38024, Albany, New York 12203
(518) 218-0504

Saturday, October 14, 2000

7:30 pm

Greenwall Auditorium

~Program ~

ONE

I Like Everybody
Warm All Over
If I Were A Bell

Arrangements by Abba Bogin

*Ida Faiella, Abba Bogin, Barry Finclair, Jonathan A. Dinklage
Julien C. Barber and Semyon Fridman*

TWO

Nobody's Ever Gonna Love You Like I Love You
My Time Of Day & I've Never Been In Love Before

Ida Faiella, Abba Bogin

THREE

More I Cannot Wish You
Lovelier Than Ever
Adelaide's Lament

Arrangements by Abba Bogin

*Ida Faiella, Abba Bogin, Barry Finclair, Jonathan A. Dinklage
Julien C. Barber and Semyon Fridman*

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

IDA FAIELLA, *Soprano*

Ida Faiella, is founder and Executive Artistic director of *L'Ensemble*, which performs all facets of chamber music from Bach's unaccompanied sonata to fully staged productions. Under Ida's direction, *L'Ensemble* has been committed to stretching the definition of chamber music, and it's repertoire has always included the classics and much more, from jazz influence to cabaret arrangements of the standards of Irving Berlin, Jerome Kern, George Gershwin and Leonard Bernstein.

While many artists are described as "versatile", Ida has enjoyed concurrent successes in the traditional concert world and in the field of popular music. Ms. Faiella's musical interests extend far and wide. Her childhood singing idols were Maria Callas and Billie Holiday. Singing at an early age, she had her own radio show when she was eleven. As a young singer she performed with big bands, including those of Les and Larry Elgart until she confessed that she was not 21. As an opera major at Hartt College of Music, she worked weekends in well known jazz clubs with the bassist Ron McClure (much to the dismay of her voice teacher). Throughout her career of singing some of the most difficult modern music for soprano, Ida always maintained a repertoire of popular music. Her work in musical theatre has included *The Music Man*, *Oliver*, *Anything Goes* and *Good News*. She, along with other members of *L'Ensemble*, was invited to present a retrospective concert of American Popular music in Tanglewood's Ozawa Hall.

As a member of the Bennington College Music Faculty, Ida has tackled major works of the 20th century classical music including Schoenberg's *Pierrot Lunaire*, the soprano solo of his *String Quartet* as well as premieres of works by faculty composers. Her performances

have been recognized from Moscow to Paris, from New York City's Lincoln Center to halls in the rural areas. Whatever genre of music she sings, Faiella applies the same exacting standards, and critics have applauded her efforts. *The New York Times* wrote that she "sings with considerable intelligence and an apt intimacy and warmth." In a typical critical reaction, Albany Times Union wrote, "The score required Faiella to sing, speak, chant, shout, croon and act! She was outrageously wonderful."

Besides being married to violinist Barry Finclair and the mother of Cristina, Ms. Faiella tends to the needs of her parrot Mongo Santamaria, cats Cosi, Emi and Cassius and dogs Wolfgang and Piano. She is pleased to announce that no animals were harmed in the preparation of her high C.

ABBA BOGIN, *Pianist, Conductor and Arranger*

Abba Bogin has a long association with Hollywood and Broadway composer/lyricist, Frank Loesser. Starting in 1955 when Loesser was preparing *The Most Happy Fella*, Bogin joined the production team as both assistant conductor and musical assistant to Loesser. Involved throughout the entire casting and rehearsal periods for the show, Bogin worked with the composer in additional writing and fixing of musical material. He contracted the orchestral musicians and supervised the production of original cast recordings.

In 1959, Mr. Bogin became Music Director for Loesser's next production, *Greenwillow*. This was followed by a NYC revival of *Happy Fella* at the New York City Center, which was conducted by Bogin. Following that he became conductor of the original Broadway company of *How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying*. In 1967, the City Center had a Frank Loesser Festival in which revivals of *How To Succeed*, *Where's Charley?*, *Happy Fella* and *Guys and Dolls* were presented in succession. Bogin was Music Supervisor for the entire festival,

conducting performances of all the shows. He is the only person to have conducted all five Loesser shows. Loesser asked Bogin to be Music Director for what was to become his unfinished work, tentatively titled *Senor Discretion*, a most promising show on a Mexican Motive. Unfortunately, it was never completed, due to Loesser's untimely death.

BARRY FINCLAIR, *Violin*

A former member of the New York Philharmonic, Mr. Finclair has been a member of *L'Ensemble* since 1974. He attended New York City's School of Performing Arts, the Julliard School of Music, Mannes College of Music and the University of Southern California. At age 13, he was selected by Leonard Bernstein as soloist on the nationally televised New York Philharmonic Young People's Concerts. His awards and prizes include first place in the Merriweather Post Competition. He has appeared as the soloist with the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington D. C. The personification of versatility, he has toured with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and plays with them at their Lincoln Center home, while performing chamber music concerts on a regular basis. At the same time he has played on literally hundreds of recordings with pop artists, including Stevie Wonder, Aretha Franklin, Frank Sinatra, Barbara Striesand, Paula Cole, and Wyclef Jean.

JONATHAN A. DINKLAGE, *Violin*

Jonathan A. Dinklage is an award-winning violinist who has performed at Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, and Newark Symphony Hall. He has played first violin in many orchestras and was Concertmaster and soloist in New York City's Jupiter Symphony Orchestra. Especially active as a "crossover" musician, Dinklage has

played on numerous recordings and film scores, in addition to Broadway shows. Some of his credits include Broadway's *Footloose* and *Phantom Of The Opera*. His recordings with pop artists include David Bowie, Paula Cole, Marc Anthony, The Doobie Brothers, George Michael and many others.

JULIEN C. BARBER, *Viola*

Mr. Barber entered the Royal Academy of Music in London, England at the age of 19 and received the Gold Medal Certificate. He has studied at the Julliard School of Music, the Aspen Festival School, the Mannes College of Music and received a Master of Music from Yale University School of Music. Mr. Barber has been a member of the Halle Orchestra in England, the Brooklyn Philharmonic and the American Symphony Orchestra. As a member of the Carnegie String Quartet, he was in residence at the Brooklyn College. One of the earliest crossover artists, Barber has been much in demand with such notable pop performers as Diana Ross, Tony Bennett, Barbara Streisand, Aretha Franklin, Dionne Warwick and numerous others. Recently, Mr. Barber was playing the Broadway show *The Wild Party* with Eartha Kitt.

SEYMON FRIDMAN, *Cello*

First Prize Winner of the Concert Artists Guild New York Competition, Fridman has been soloist with the Baltimore Symphony and the Kiev State Philharmonic. He made his critically acclaimed New York debut at Merkin Concert Hall and has performed in recital in Pasadena, Baltimore, Boston, Miami and Jacksonville. In 1998, he made his first debut tour of Japan. Fridman graduated from Kiev's Tchaikovsky Conservatory and is a member of the music faculty of Bennington College.