

**DRAFT COPY OCTOBER 7, 2011**

**The Lively Arts**

**College of Fine Arts**

Present

**José Franch-Ballester, Clarinet**

**Roman Rabinovich, Piano**

Tuesday, October 11, 2011 • 8:00 p.m.

Gorell Recital Hall

**Premiere Rhapsodie for Clarinet and Piano**

Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

**Sonata for Clarinet and Piano, Op. 167**

*Allegretto*

*Allegro animato*

*Lento*

*Molto allegro*

Camille Saint-Saens (1835-1921)

**Concert Piece No. 2, Op. 114**

*David Martynuik, guest artist*

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

• *Intermission* •

**Sonata for Clarinet and Piano**

*Allegro Tristamente*

*Romanze*

*Allegro con fuoco*

Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)

**Four Rags for Two Johns**

*Schenectady*

*4th Street Drag*

*Recuperation*

*Full Strede Ahead*

John Novacek (b. 1962)

Spanish clarinetist **José Franch-Ballester** is a captivating performer of “poetic eloquence” (*The New York Sun*) and “technical wizardry” (*The New York Times*). A soloist and chamber music artist in great demand, he plays regularly with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, at the Bridgehampton Chamber Music Festival, with Camerata Pacifica, Chamber Music Northwest, the Saratoga Chamber Music Festival, the Skaneateles Festival, and at the Music from Angel Fire Festival in Colorado. He has also appeared at the Usedomer Musikfestival in Germany, the Verbier Festival in Switzerland, the Cartagena Festival Internacional de Música in Colombia, and the Young Concert Artists Festival at Nexus Hall in Tokyo, Japan.

As concerto soloist, Franch-Ballester has appeared with numerous orchestras including the Orchestra of St. Luke’s at Lincoln Center, the BBC Concert Orchestra, the Santa Barbara Orchestra, the Wisconsin Philharmonic and the Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra. In Spain, he has performed with the Orquesta de Radio y Television Española, the Orquesta Sinfónica Castellón, and the Orquesta Cambra XXTeatro Monumental in Madrid, among many others.

Winner of the 2004 Young Concert Artists International Auditions, he was awarded YCA’s Claire Tow Prize which sponsored his New York debut and the Alexander Kasser Prize, which sponsored his debut at the Kennedy Center. In 2008, he won a coveted Avery Fisher Career Award.

As the “Revelation of the Year” in 2010, he was awarded Cannes’ Midem Prize for Classical Music, which aims to introduce recording stars of the future to the classical recording industry. With members of Lincoln Center’s Chamber Music Society he has recorded Bartók’s *Contrasts* on the Deutsche Grammophone label.

Franch-Ballester has presented recitals at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston, Iowa State University, the Buffalo Chamber Music Society, and at the Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts. In 2004, he performed the world premiere of Jake Heggie’s *Winter Roses* with mezzo-soprano Frederica von Stade with Camerata Pacifica.

Franch-Ballester has commissioned new music and worked with contemporary composers such as Kenji Bunch, Paul Schoenfield, Edgar Meyer, William Bolcom, George Tsontakis, and Kevin Puts and has been a dedicated music educator, developing new audiences by playing countless educational concerts and workshops for young people and community audiences.

Born in Moncofa, Spain into a family of clarinetists and Zarzuela singers, José Franch-Ballester began clarinet lessons at the age of nine and graduated from the Joaquin

Rodrigo Music Conservatory in Valencia. He earned a Bachelor of Music degree from the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia in 2005, where he studied with Donald Montanaro, and Pamela Frank.

[www.josefranchballester.com](http://www.josefranchballester.com)

Israeli pianist, **Roman Rabinovich**, has been praised for his “vivacity and virtuosity” and “the impeccable clarity of execution.” He has performed throughout Europe and the U.S.A. in such prestigious venues as Leipzig’s Gewandhaus and London’s Wigmore Hall, Carnegie’s Weill Hall and the Metropolitan Museum, as well as the Great Hall of Moscow Conservatory, Salle Cortot in Paris, and Millennium Stage of Kennedy Center in Washington DC.

Rabinovich, “whose mature, self-assured playing belies his chronological age” (*San Francisco Classical Voice*) is a top prize winner, along with four additional prizes, at the 12<sup>th</sup> Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Master Competition. He has also taken first prizes at the Animato and the Arjil Piano Competitions in Paris as well as the Vendome Virtuosi prize.

At age ten, he made his Israel Philharmonic debut under the baton of Zubin Mehta and since then performed with IPO and Maestro Mehta again in 1999 and 2003. He performed as a soloist with most of Israeli’s orchestras, Buffalo Philharmonic, Dohnányi Orchestra, Ann Arbor Symphony, Delaware Symphony, and others. He has participated in international festivals such as the Lucerne Festival, Ravinia’s Steans Institute, Davos Festival, Verbier Academy in Switzerland, Israel Festival.

In December 2010 on a three days notice, Rabinovich played a recital with violinist Daniel Hope at New York’s People’s Symphony series. In spring 2010, he was invited by Miriam Fried to join her at the Steans Institute’s Ravinia Tour, playing in Boston’s Gardner Museum, Ravinia’s Bennet-Gordon Hall, Stamford’s Treetops series, and New York’s Merkin Hall. In 2009, Mezzo television recorded his recital now frequently broadcast in more than 30 countries in Europe and Asia.

Born in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, Rabinovich immigrated to Israel with his family in 1994, where he studied with Arie Vardi. He graduated from the Curtis Institute of Music as a student of Seymour Lipkin and received his master’s degree at the Juilliard School where he studied with Robert McDonald.

[www.romanrabinovich.net](http://www.romanrabinovich.net)