

Sybarite5

string quintet

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Gorell Recital Hall, John Sutton Hall

Sami Merdinian, violin

Sarah Whitney, violin

Angela Pickett, viola

Laura Metcalf, cello

Louis Levitt, bass

Winner, 2011 Concert Artists Guild

Victor Elmaleh Competition

Winner, 2011 Sylvia Ann Hewlett

Adventurous Artist Prize

*The program will be announced
from the stage*

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The following information has been provided, unedited, by the artists.

"Their rock star status...is well deserved. Their classically honed technique mixed with grit and all out passionate attack transfixes the audience..."

That is how *The Sarasota Herald Tribune* described Sybarite5, the first string quintet ever selected as a winner of the Concert Artists Guild International Competition in its 60 year history.comfort, and a frisson of missionary zeal" (*The Washington Post*). The Quintet's debut EP disc *Disturb the Silence*, featuring music by Radiohead and Piazzolla, plus two original works written for Sybarite5, was released in spring 2011 and quickly reached the

includes a week-long educational residency with Quad City Arts (IL), culminating in a concert co-presented by the Quad City Symphony (IA).

Recent performance highlights include Sybarite5's Carnegie Hall debut at Zankel Hall on the CAG series, Library of Congress, Aspen Music Festival, UC San Diego, University of Arizona, Sun Valley Center for the Arts, University of Nevada/Reno, Chautauqua Institution, Tuckamore Chamber Music Festival, and in New York at Lincoln Center, Time Warner Center, Tishman Auditorium and Bohemian National Hall. The Quintet has also performed at such diverse NYC locations as Galapagos Artspace, the Apple Store, the Museum of Sex, the Core Club and the Cutting Room. The group has also performed on the CBS Early Show and for his Holiness the Dalai Lama.

Ongoing programs include the *Radiohead Remixed* Project, *The Shuffle Effect* and *New Music IDOL* (featuring a series of short newly-commissioned works by student composers, in collaboration with University composition departments). Also at the 2011 CAG Competition, Sybarite5 was awarded the Sylvia Ann Hewlett Adventurous Artist Prize, which was used to com-

mission new pieces for *Radiohead Remixed* and to produce the CD, *Everything in its Right Place*. In spring 2015, the Quintet looks forward to premiering the world's first concerto for string quintet and orchestra by the acclaimed American composer Dan Visconti.

Formed at the Aspen Music Festival, Sybarite5 was the first string quintet admitted to the Aspen Advanced String Quartet Studies program, where the group worked with Earl Carlyss of the Juilliard Quartet, bassist Edgar Meyer and the Cavani, American and Ying Quartets. Currently the ensemble continues its tenure at the Aspen Music Festival in a new capacity as the AMFS Alumni Ensemble.

Musicians

Argentinian violinist **Sami Merdinian** has received worldwide recognition for his outstanding performances as a soloist and chamber musician. Sami has recently appeared as a soloist with the Montevideo Philharmonic, the Argentinian National Symphony, The Charlemagne Orchestre, Symphonic FAspen M-()125.2(The QuinteGr)

international competitions including Gold Medal in the XII International Young Solo Instrumentalists Competition in Argentina and the New Talent Competition in Slovakia organized by the European Radio. He has also received the Rising Star Award by Tiffany & Co. and was named Outstanding Artist of the Year by the Argentinian Press. While at The Juilliard School and Yale University, Mr. Merdinian was a pupil of Dorothy Delay, Naoko Tanaka and Peter Oundjian, and has participated in master classes for artists such as Itzhak Perlman, Ruggiero Ricci, Emmanuel Ax, Pamela Frank and members of the Tokyo, Cleveland and Guarneri String Quartets.

Sarah Whitney, an active solo and chamber musician, has been heard
