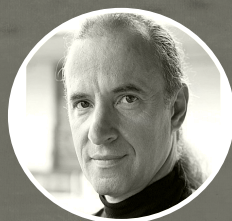




ALHAMBRA ORCHESTRA PRESENTS ITS
33rd SEASON FINALE CONCERT

Featuring pianist
KEMAL GEKIC



▶ **SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2023 | 7:30 PM**
Wertheim Performing Arts Center

10910 SW 17th Street, Miami, Florida



33rd SEASON FINALE



Dear Friends and Supporters,

We are delighted to present to you in person this concluding event of our 33^d season. As Miami-Dade's community orchestra, we're especially pleased that we will be performing with one of our best local musicians as soloist, internationally known pianist Kemal Gekic. Gekic will be playing the wonderful Piano Concerto #5 in Eb Major, opus 73.

We thought it was time for an all-Beethoven program to remind us all of the glorious depths of classical music. You'll hear a remarkable symphony, followed by a monumental piano concerto that makes a fitting conclusion to our 2022-23 concert season. We're already planning many exciting events for next season, so be sure to join our mailing list, follow us on social media, and watch our official website for updates.

Alhambra Orchestra Board, Officers, and Musicians

AlhambraOrchestra.org | 2829 Bird Avenue, Suite 5 PMB 290 Coconut Grove, Fl, 33133 | (305) 668-9260

Thank You To Our Generous Sponsors

We are committed to the belief that music and live performances in particular, are essential to the growth of our community. Made possible by the support of our generous sponsors, the Alhambra Orchestra is pleased to present tonight's program. On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff, we wish to thank all of the individuals that believed in our commitment to bring live music to our community and invested their personal time and effort to make this possible.



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The Alhambra Orchestra's season is made possible with the support of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and the Board of County Commissioners. It is also sponsored by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture, with the National Endowment for the Arts



The stage is set.
ENJOY THE GIFT OF LIVE MUSIC

PROGRAM



A CELEBRATION 33 YEARS IN THE MAKING

Our Season Finale Concert concludes with a crafted and finely detailed all-Beethoven program conducted by Maestro Daniel Andai with soloists KEMAL GEKIC accompanied by the magnificent Alhambra Orchestra.



MUSIC OF LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN
(1770-1827)

Symphony no. 1 in C major, op. 21

INTERMISSION

Piano Concerto #5 in Eb Major, opus 73



A WORD OF GRATITUDE

THIS CONCERT WAS SPONSORED BY A GENEROUS GIFT FROM THE FRANK ARMSTRONG EDUCATION FOUNDATION

ALSO MADE POSSIBLE WITH GENEROUS ASSISTANCE FROM CITIZENS INTERESTED IN THE ARTS



CITIZENS INTERESTED IN THE ARTS
KEEPING ARTS ALIVE IN SOUTH FLORIDA

ALHAMBRA ORCHESTRA PERSONNEL

Conductor
Daniel Andai

Guest Soloist
Kemal Gekic, Piano

Violin 1

Steffen Zeichner (concertmaster), Maria Consuelo Armas, Roda Buenconsejo, Joy Castro, Chandler Finley, Idanis Gallimore, Christopher Jimenez, Francisco Jimenez, Wendy Ocando, Silvina Parra, Katie Peña, Luis Sanchez Navarro, Bianca Tavaress

Violin 2

Xiomara Sepulveda, Faye Albert, Jackie Alvarez, Janet Copeland, Janice Coker, Orlando Correa, Joy Hyams, Derek Mercer, Michelle Pelletier, Tamara Riley, Barbara Roy, Peter Vertes

Viola

Paul Strassburg, William Burrows, Jessica Ginsberg, Gabi Huget, Helen Hauser, Lee Johnson, Carolina De Leon, Michelle Sanchez, Leo Walz

Cello

Sara Wigderson, VVolker Anding, Suzanne Gottlieb Calleja, August Neal, Ruth Alexandra Smith, Barbara Tria, Sophie Trautschold, Pamela Yen

Double Bass

Joe Yeargin, Vlad Perez Popov

Oboe

Myron Ginsberg, Camber Flick

Clarinet

Evan Eldridge, John Garcia

Bassoon

Gail Harrison, Damian Sanchez

Flute, Piccolo

Carol Naveira-Nicholson, Sophia Camejo, Aldo Fernandez

Trumpet

Trudy Cavallo, Miles Lawrence

French Horn

Carlos Aragon, Diane Marxen

Percussion

Brian Lewis

Bold Indicates Section Principal

Graphic Design by Orlando Haddock



Infusing a Lifelong Appreciation OF THE MUSICAL ARTS





PROGRAM NOTES

LUDVIG VAN BEETHOVEN (1770-1827) is probably the most-performed and most-admired musician in Western music. His works span the transition from the Classical period to the Romantic era in classical music. Born in Bonn, Germany, the composer spent most of his career in Vienna. His career has conventionally been divided into early, middle, and late periods. His early period, during which he forged his craft, is typically considered to have lasted until 1802. From 1802 to around 1812, his middle period showed an individual development from the styles of Joseph Haydn and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and is sometimes characterized as heroic. During this time, he began to grow increasingly deaf. In his late period, from 1812 to 1827, he extended his innovations in musical form and expression.

Symphony no. 1 had its premiere in 1880. Critics agree that the symphony is clearly indebted to Beethoven's predecessors, particularly his teacher Joseph Haydn as well as Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, but it nonetheless has characteristics that mark it uniquely as Beethoven's work, notably the frequent use of sforzandi, as well as harmonic innovations.

Piano Concerto no. 5 in E flat Major, op. 73. Beethoven composed this concerto in 1809 and dedicated it to Archduke Rudolf, who was his patron, friend, and pupil. It premiered in Leipzig in 1811. The concerto's military aspects possibly derive from the recent siege of Vienna by the French army under Napoleon. Beethoven used novel approaches with the piece, such as beginning the solo entrance without orchestral introduction, lengthening the concerto, and creating a new relationship between piano and orchestra. The concerto is nicknamed "Emperor" but this may have been a publisher's invention. Beethoven would have disliked it due to his disapproval of Napoleon's conquest. As part of his repertoire, Franz Liszt frequently performed the concerto throughout his life. It has been recorded innumerable times and is a staple of the classical piano repertoire.



DANIEL ANDAI

Artistic Director & Conductor



Hailed as an “Exemplary Leader” by the New York Times for leading members of the New York Philharmonic and Manhattan School of Music in Carnegie Hall, violinist Daniel Andai has shared his versatile artistry as a soloist, recitalist, chamber musician, concertmaster, conductor and recording artist in major concert venues in over fifty countries

He is a prizewinner of numerous competitions and soloed with orchestras around the world. Daniel Andai was concertmaster and frequent soloist of the Philharmonic Orchestra of the Americas in New York with whom he recorded multiple Billboard rated SONY Classical CD's. He has guest conducted, performed as soloist, and held the concertmaster position with the Miami Symphony Orchestra (MISO) since 2010. He has appeared as guest concertmaster with orchestras in Mexico, Brazil, Switzerland, and France, performed in the sections of New York Philharmonic and Miyazaki Festival Orchestra (Japan), and worked closely with members of major string quartets, symphony, opera, and ballet orchestras around the world. As an educator, he brings a multifaceted style of teaching, suited for students of all ages and competencies. He connects with students by harnessing critical thinking, passion, and energy, to inspire skillful artistry. The greatest impact to his students is found in the creative interlacing between technique and self-confidence. By facilitating his students' creative development, he believes they can find ways to transfer skills between a music career or to an array of other workforce areas to help them best serve their communities. Dr. Daniel Andai is Dean of the Music Division at New World School of the Arts where he is the Chief Academic Officer, responsible for operating a music partnership between Miami Dade College, University of Florida, and Miami Dade County Public Schools. He is Artistic Director of Killington Music Festival (Killington, Vermont), as well as Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of Alhambra Orchestra in Miami. Previously, he served as violin professor and Marialice Shivers Endowed Chair in Fine Arts at University of Texas in Edinburg and served on faculties at Miami-Dade College and New World School of the Arts, in addition to over 30 summer music festivals. During this time, he has worked with some of the world's greatest classical and pop artists.

He has served on boards and advisory boards, been invited to serve as a panelist for Jeb and Columba Bush's Arts4Life organization, and has performed for numerous world dignitaries, including Hilary Clinton, Donald Trump, Lech Walesa, Al Gore, Benjamin Netanyahu, among others. He has performed with countless recognized artists in the pop and classical fields. Daniel Andai is an alumnus of University of Miami (DMA), Manhattan School of Music (PS & MM), Lynn University (BM), New World School of the Arts (HS), Miami Dade College and Killington Music Festival.



SOLOIST



KEMAL GEKIC, PIANO

Performing worldwide from a vast repertoire, Kemal Gekic presents fascinating, uncompromising and ever-changing interpretations, always generating frenzied audience enthusiasm. As a recording artist, Kemal Gekic has won accolades in Europe,

America, and Japan for insightful, original views of the music.

His outstanding Rossini-Liszt transcriptions (Naxos) won "The Rosette" of The Penguin Guide to Music, while his recording of Liszt's Transcendental Etudes (JVC) is generally considered to be the best recording of a set in history. Born in Split, Croatia, Kemal Gekic got his early training from Prof. Lorenza Baturina. He graduated the class of Prof. Jokuthon Mihailovic at the Art Academy of Novi Sad and was immediately given a faculty appointment by the piano department which he eventually directed until 1999. Since 1999 he has been Artist in Residence at the Florida International University in Miami, Florida.

In 1999 he moved to Miami, Florida to take up his present post as Artist in Residence at the Florida International University after making a historical debut at the Miami International Piano Festival. Mr. Gekic is one of the most important pillars of this Festival having graced its stage on numerous occasions. Programs on his life and his performances have been broadcast by RAI Italy, TV Portugal, TV Yugoslavia, NHK Japan, POLTEL Poland, RTV Lower Saxony West Germany, RTV USSR, Intervision, CBC and PBS.

Mr. Gekic performs regularly in the United States, South America, Europe and Asia and most recently he has appeared as a soloist with the Royal Philharmonic, Warsaw Symphony and NHK Symphony Orchestra in Japan and performed several recitals in different countries.



CONCERT MASTER



STEFFEN ZEICHNER, VIOLIN

Dr. Steffen Zeichner is a creative violinist who actively performs within jazz, classical, klezmer, and a variety of other musical genres.

A native of Gainesville, Florida, Steffen plays with several ensembles and orchestras throughout the South Florida area. He is the leader of 5 String Swing, a lively jazz violin driven band that regularly presents shows of Jazz, Swing, and American Standards.

Steffen is a passionate educator with a focus on developing the creative potential of string players, particularly through exposing them to musical genres outside of the classical world and through helping students to develop improvisational and real-world performance skills. He has an international studio of private violin students learning various styles of music with him both in-person and virtually, and is the adjunct Lecturer of Jazz Violin at Florida International University.

Throughout his career Steffen has shared the stage with many top artists including Chick Corea, Gloria Estefan, Cyrille Aimee, Nestor Torres, Kenny Loggins, Ben Folds, Maria Schneider, Terence Blanchard, and George Benson, with whom he was featured as the violin soloist and concertmaster for Benson's 2013 album, "Inspiration". Steffen is also an experienced studio musician, credited on a Grammy winning CD, multiple Downbeat awarded recordings, and many other albums and commercial releases within a myriad of genres.

He holds a BM in Violin Performance from Indiana University (studying with Henryk Kowalski, Federico Agostini, Jorja Fleezanis, David Baker) and a Masters and Doctorate of Musical Arts from the University of Miami (Glenn Basham, Charles Castleman, Gary Lindsay, Stephen Guerra Jr). Steffen has also studied jazz violin with acclaimed jazz violinists John Blake Jr, Mark O'Connor, and Jeremy Cohen.





ABOUT THE ORCHESTRA

Founded in 1990, the Alhambra Orchestra has as its purpose the promotion of live classical performances and of music education in Miami-Dade County. Its corporate entity, Alhambra Music, Inc., is a tax-exempt nonprofit operated and managed by volunteers who are also musicians. Thus, the orchestra has nominal administrative expenses and nearly all of its funding goes directly into programming. The orchestra has chosen to provide free concerts as much as possible, so that everyone in the community can experience its concerts without any barriers. The Alhambra Orchestra is wholly independent and not affiliated with any educational or civic institutions, although it often partners with other groups in our community. Funding comes from state and county grants, foundations, generous audience members, and the member musicians themselves, who are largely volunteers. Our highly trained musicians are diverse members of the community who earn their livings in many different occupations, but they all believe in the need for, and the power of, great music.

Tax-deductible donations are gratefully accepted through our website (alhambraorchestra.org), Venmo@Alhambra-Orchestra or by mail. Be sure to join our mailing list while on our website.

Checks can be sent to:
2829 Bird Avenue, Suite 5, PMB 290, Miami, FL 33133.

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