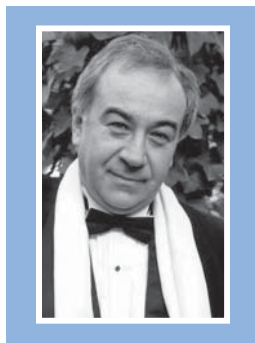




## Special Guests



### Vladimir Viardo

Renowned pianist **Vladimir Viardo**, highly acclaimed for his masterful interpretations of composers from all eras, was born in the Caucasus Mountains near the Black Sea. As a young aspiring artist he moved to Moscow to study with Professor Lev Naumov at the Moscow Conservatory, where he was taught the methods of the legendary Heinrich Neuhaus. Within six years of study, he received his doctorate degree and was appointed Associate Professor to Naumov. That same year he was tenured as a soloist by the Moscow Philharmonia. Viardo was first brought to international acclaim in 1971 after winning the “Grand Prix” and “Prix du Prince Rainier” in the Maguerite Long/Jacques Thibaud Competition held

in Paris. In 1973, he was the top prizewinner of the Van Cliburn Competition, where he also won a special prize for Rachmaninoff and Contemporary Works and subsequently received concert contracts for over seventy recitals and appearances with symphony orchestras in major U.S. cities.

But after having his travel visa revoked, Maestro Viardo was prevented from carrying on his musical career outside the USSR for fourteen years. During his confinement he expanded the foundation of his musical knowledge and enlarged his repertoire to include 37 concerti. But it wasn't until the new era of “Glasnost” and “Perestroika” that the distinguished pianist was able to bring his music to the rest of the world.

Since resuming his international career, Vladimir Viardo has met with extremely enthusiastic reviews and has become one of the most sought-after pianists in the world, performing in such major venues as Lincoln and Kennedy Centers, Carnegie Hall, the Concertgebouw, and the Great Hall of Moscow Conservatory. He has appeared as soloist with the conductors Mehta, Maazel, Penderecki, Mata, Kondrashin, Comissiona, and Krivine, among many others.

Immediately after concertizing with the Dallas Symphony, Maestro Viardo was offered the position of Professor – Artist in Residence at the University of North Texas, where he is dedicated to developing a selective class of artistically gifted students from countries such as Russia, Ukraine, Taiwan, Portugal, Finland, and the USA, who include laureates of the world's major competitions. He is the founder of the Viardo Foundation, committed to providing financial assistance to his promising students during their years of collegiate study, and he is listed among “The Most Wanted Piano Teachers in the U.S.A.”

Viardo's recordings include the Third Concerto of Rachmaninoff and solo works of Rachmaninoff, Medtner, Karamanov, Shostakovich, Liszt, and Debussy. He has also taken great interest in conducting, stating, “Conducting allows me to have a better understanding of the symphonic mentality and instrumental timbre that lies within all piano creations.” He recently conducted his orchestration of Shostakovich's Second Piano Sonata with the Kiev Philharmonic.



## Donald Manildi

**Donald Manildi** has been curator of the International Piano Archives at the University of Maryland (College Park) since 1993. He holds degrees in piano performance from the University of Washington (Seattle) and the Cleveland Institute of Music. He has made many appearances as a pianist in a broad repertoire of over 200 works. For seventeen years he served as music producer for Minnesota Public Radio, where he hosted a weekly broadcast series called *The Romantic Piano*, devoted to recordings by the great pianists of the past and present, and to unjustly neglected keyboard literature from the 19th and early 20th centuries. He has published more than 600 reviews, articles and discographies in *International Piano Quarterly*, *International Record Review*, *American Record Guide*, and elsewhere. Mr. Manildi's discography of Arthur Rubinstein appeared in Harvey Sachs's book "*Rubinstein: A Life*" (Grove/Atlantic, 1995). His compact disc, *Pianists As Composers*, was released on the Elan label in 1999 to critical acclaim. He has also produced over twenty CD reissues of historic piano recordings (available on the Pearl, Marston and IPAM labels), and he edited for publication the essays of the late pianist-scholar Jan Holcman ("*Pianists: On and Off the Record*"). At IPAM, his responsibilities include the development and preservation of existing collections, the acquisition of significant new materials, attending to visits and inquiries of pianists and scholars from around the world, and serving as guest lecturer for University of Maryland music classes.



## Martin Storey

**Martin Storey**, British-born cellist, has served as principal cellist with the London Symphony Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Philharmonia, BBC Symphony Orchestra, and Northern Sinfonia. For 14 years he was cellist of the Gould Piano Trio (based in London). Storey was awarded an Associated Board Scholarship to attend the Royal Academy of Music in London. He pursued advanced studies at New

England Conservatory in Boston as a Fulbright Scholar. Often heard on BBC Radio in live concerts and recordings, Storey has played in the English Chamber Orchestra, the Chamber Orchestra of Europe, and the London Sinfonietta. He has recorded several CDs of chamber music and has given masterclasses throughout the world. He performs regularly in Japan and England as a soloist. Martin Storey is Assistant Professor of Music at Park University in Parkville, Missouri, playing in the resident ensembles 'Quartet Accorda' and the Park Piano Trio. He serves on the faculty of The Youth Conservatory for Music and The International Center for Music at Park University.

*Focus 2006's special guests were made possible through the generosity of Connie and Bill Kotis*