

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 14, 2016

Phenix COMMUNICATIONS

“Which Came First?”

Silent Film Classics: with Strings Attached

Performance Date: Tues January 17, 2017 at 7 PM
Location: Midtown Arts and Theater Center Houston
Matchbox 2
3400 Main Street, Houston TX 77002

The East-Coast based Miller-Porfiris Duo presents a chicken-egg approach to silent film and the music accompanying it.

Most of us have grown up watching movies that have soundtracks specifically written or arranged to fit the scene. This ensures that all showings are exactly the same, to all audiences in different locations and times. Yet in the days of early silent film, music was not used in this way. Each theater had its own accompanist, who played live accompaniment, personally selected from big generic books of music that corresponded to different types of actions.

In this film showing, the Miller Porfiris Duo presents three short films produced between 1903 and 1924. One of the films would have been presented in the usual way with live generic music. Another was based on an actual opera, but when shown as a film, would have been accompanied with the same generic music. The third film, like modern films today, actually had music composed for it, but due to a falling out between composer and director, did not get premiered with its own music.

The music the Duo will play with the films comes from period-appropriate composers, enhancing and responding to the action on the screen, in real time.

Films: The Great Train Robbery, The Violinmaker of Cremona, and Ballet Mekanique

Music by: Villa Lobos, Copland, Grosz, Gliere, Berlin, and as an overture, a world premiere by Mario Diaz Gavier

**Ticket Prices: \$12 General admission; \$7 students/seniors
To reserve tickets call MATCH box office at 713-521-4533 or visit www.matchhouston.org**

**The Miller-Porfiris Duo
Anton Miller, violin; Rita Porfiris, viola**

Praised by the press for their "haunting and picturesque" musical interpretations, the Miller-Porfiris Duo has delighted audiences in the United States, Europe, Great Britain, and Central America since 2005.

Highlights of the 2016 season include the release of the duo's third CD, "Divertimenti", heralded by Fanfare Magazine as "a lightning bolt" and speaks to the "color, fire, and passion" of their playing.

Recent past performances include Iceland's Harpa Concert Hall, a series at Israel's Tel Aviv Museum, Rhode Island's Clouds Hill Victorian Museum, Arkansas's Chamber Music Society of Little Rock, an annual New York City borough tour, Vermont's Point CounterPoint Summer Music Series, Greece's St. George International Music Festival, the Bruch Double Concerto with Nebraska's Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra, and, with the Concert Artists of Baltimore, a performance of the rarely performed Arthur Benjamin *Romantic Fantasy for Violin and Viola*.

Equally at home with both established and contemporary repertoire, the Miller-Porfiris Duo are committed to expanding the repertoire for violin and viola, Their second CD, titled "Eight Pieces" includes a

version of *Eight Pieces Op. 83* by Max Bruch for violin and viola and a new arrangement by Ms. Porfiris of Reinhold Gliere's *Eight Pieces Op. 39* for violin and viola. It was deemed a "fine new recording" and praised for its "wonderfully smooth ensemble work" and "vibrant and focused" playing by Gramophone and Audible Audiophile Magazines. The duo's 2010 debut album, "Five Postcards", features the world premiere recording of two works for violin and viola commissioned by the duo: Belize-born British composer Errollyn Wallen's *Five Postcards* and Argentinean composer Mario Diaz Gavier's *Tres Epigramas* for violin, viola, and piano, as well as American composer Libby Larsen's *Larsen's Black Birds, Red Hills*, transcribed for violin, viola and piano.

Violinist Anton Miller has appeared throughout the United States and abroad as a soloist, chamber musician, recitalist, and pedagogue. He was a founder and the Artistic Director of the Three Bridges International Chamber Music Festival in Minnesota, and was the co-Artistic Director of the Silver Bay Festival. As a chamber musician he can be heard in concert with the Miller-Porfiris Duo, Con Brio Ensemble, and the Hartt Quartet.

Currently Associate Professor of Violin at The Hartt School and on the violin and chamber music faculty at New York University, Mr. Miller completed his Master of Music degree at The Juilliard School studying with renowned violin pedagogue Dorothy DeLay and chamber music with Felix Galimir and members of the Juilliard Quartet. He received his Bachelor of Music Degree from Indiana University as a student of Franco Gulli and was awarded the prestigious Performer's Certificate.

Mr. Miller's complete discography can be found on the Dorian, Jericho, Full House, Hugo, Naxos and Klavier labels. His world premiere performance of Xiogang Ye's "Last Paradise" for violin and orchestra in Beijing, China was recorded for broadcast throughout Asia and released on CD.

Violist Rita Porfiris served as a member of the Houston Symphony for 15 years. As a founding member of the Plymouth Quartet, she was in-residence at the Ojai Festival, Mainly Mozart, Point Counterpoint, and the Internationale Quartettakademie Prag-Wien-Budapest. As a

soloist, she has appeared with numerous orchestras, including Orquesta Filarmonica de la Ciudad de Mexico, the New World Symphony, Lincoln's Symphony, the Akademisches Orchester Leipzig, and the Concert Artists Baltimore. As a chamber musician, she can be heard in concert with the Miller-Porfiris Duo and the Hartt String Quartet.

Currently Associate Professor of Viola and Chair of Chamber Music at The Hartt School, Ms. Porfiris received both her BM and MM in Viola Performance from The Juilliard School, studying with William Lincer. Other teachers and mentors have been Paul Doktor, Norbert Brainin, and Harvey Shapiro. Among her honors are Austria's prestigious Prix Mercure, Second Prize in the Fischhoff International Chamber Competition, and Second Prize in the 1997 Primrose International Viola Competition.

Additional information on the two artists can be found at www.miller-porfirisduo.org

and

<https://www.facebook.com/millerporfirisduo>

To view a video by the Miller-Porfiris Duo of the 4th mvmt "Leicht bewegt" from the *12 Duette Op. 60* by Robert Fuchs, filmed at Clouds Hill Victorian Museum in Warwick, Rhode Island, please visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NuTwqsP605E>

Publicity photos of the Miller-Porfiris Duo are available upon request.

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