

Ensemble Schumann

Sally Pinkas, Piano

Steve Larson, Viola

Thomas Gallant, Oboe

Joined in a lively and colorful trio, the outstanding artists of Ensemble Schumann present works by Schumann, Brahms, Saint-Saëns, Loeffler, Poulenc, Shostakovich and many others. Pinkas, Larson and Gallant have each performed at venues such as Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall in New York City, Jordan Hall in Boston, Wigmore Hall in London, the Library of Congress in Washington, DC, and the festivals at Tanglewood, Ravinia, Lucerne, Spoleto and Mostly Mozart. Together they have been featured at the prestigious Da Camera Series in LA, at the Clark Art Museum in Massachusetts, and on *Live From Fraser* from WGBH-Radio Boston. Their debut recording of works by Loeffler, Klughardt, Schumann and Kahn, as well as an all-Mozart disc (in collaboration with the Adaskin String Trio) are soon to be released by MSR Classics. Upcoming engagements include concerts in Pennsylvania, Michigan, Tennessee, Missouri and Oklahoma.

"...superb balance...played with passion and warmth...an impressive performance..."

-- Heritage Villager, NY

Individual Biographies

Following her Wigmore Hall debut, Israeli-born pianist **Sally Pinkas** has been heard throughout the USA, Europe, China, Russia and Nigeria. Described by Gramophone Magazine as *"...an artist who melds lucid textures with subtle expressive detailing, minus hints of bombast or mannerism..."*, she has appeared as soloist with the Boston Pops, the Aspen Philharmonia, Jupiter Symphony and the Bulgarian Chamber Orchestra. Summer credits include festivals at Monadnock, Apple Hill, Rockport, Marlboro, Tanglewood and Aspen, as well as Kfar Blum (Israel), Officina Scotese (Italy) and Masters de Pontlevoy (France). Praised for her exquisite tone and driving energy, Ms. Pinkas commands a wide range of repertoire. As member of the [Hirsch-Pinkas Piano Duo](#) she has toured extensively and has recorded works by Rochberg, Pinkham and T. O. Lee for Naxos and Arsis. She is a member of [Trio Tremonti](#), and appears regularly with the Adaskin String Trio. Ms. Pinkas' solo discography includes Debussy: Etudes and *Estampes* (Centaur), Rochberg: Piano Music Vols. III-IV (Naxos), Fauré: Nocturnes (Musica Omnia) and an all-Schumann release (MSR). She holds degrees from Indiana University and the New England Conservatory of Music, and a Ph.D. in Composition from Brandeis University. Sally Pinkas is currently Pianist-in-residence at the Hopkins Center at Dartmouth College, where she is also Professor of Music.

Violist **Steve Larson** has been praised by the Montreal Gazette for his *"...singing tone, eloquent phrasing, expressive dynamics and flawless intonation..."* and Gramophone Magazine calls his playing *"...riveting."* He is a Senior Artist Teacher at The Hartt School of the University of Hartford, having served previously as String Department Chair and Chamber Music Chair. Mr. Larson is the violist of two other acclaimed ensembles, the [Adaskin String Trio](#) and the [Avery Ensemble](#). In 1997, Mr. Larson won second prize at the Lionel Tertis International Viola Competition, UK, also receiving the special award for his performance of the commissioned work. He has performed as a soloist internationally and given master classes at numerous conservatories, universities and summer programs. He performs and teaches viola and chamber music each summer at the Wintergreen Festival in Virginia. He is a former member of the Alcan Quartet and Musica Camerata Montreal, has performed with the Montreal and National Arts Center Orchestras, and has appeared as a guest with the Emerson, Miami, Penderecki, and Arthur Leblanc String Quartets. Originally from Canada, Mr. Larson studied violin with Elman Lowe, Howard Leyton-Brown and Mauricio Fuks, viola with Jutta Puchhammer and Steve Tenenbom, and chamber music with members of the Orford and Emerson Quartets. He holds degrees from McGill University, l'Université de Montréal, and The Hartt School.

Award-winning artist **Thomas Gallant** is one of the world's few virtuoso solo and chamber music performers on the oboe. His astonishing technique and breath control have often been compared to that of the great violinists and singers. Mr. Gallant has been praised by the New Yorker magazine as *"...a player who unites technical mastery with intentness, charm and wit..."* Mr. Gallant is a First Prize Winner of the Concert Artists

Guild International New York Competition. His performances have taken him to Avery Fisher Hall and the Frick Collection in New York City, to Washington, DC, Los Angeles, Chicago, as well as to the Spoleto Festival in Italy, and to the Mostly Mozart Festival at Lincoln Center. He has appeared as guest soloist with the Kronos Quartet at the Ravinia Festival and has collaborated with flutists Jean-Pierre Rampal and with Cuarteto Casals, the Colorado and Lark Quartets, Cuarteto Latinoamericano and with the Adaskin String Trio. Recent and upcoming performances include a concert of solo and chamber music works for the oboe at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC, and tours across the United States as soloist with Camerata Bariloche from Argentina performing concerti by J. S. Bach, Bellini and Vaughan-Williams. Mr. Gallant is the solo oboist of the [Wind Soloists of New York](#) and is a member of Ensemble Schumann. He plays on an "Evoluzione" oboe made by the Italian maker Fratelli Patricola.

MCM Artists
845-691-4960
info@mcmarts.com