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R.C. AND TINA VASAVADA

MATT ALLEN, CELLO
YANNICK RAFALIMANANA, PIANO

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2013, 4:00 P.M. For advance purchase:

\$25 advance, \$5 more day of concert
Youth ages 7 through 17 admitted free

- Go online to **GualalaArts.org** or
- Phone Brown Paper Tickets at (800) 838-3006 or
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Matt Allen is establishing himself as one of the leading young American cellists. At the age of 17, Mr. Allen was juried, from 60 cellists representing 24 countries, the Gold Medalist in the Gaspar Cassado International Violoncello Competition in Hachioji, Japan.

Matt won his first international recognition at age 16 at the 2008 Stulberg International String Competition, taking the gold medal. He has been awarded 1st place in the ASTA National Solo Competition, 1st place in the National Federation of Music Clubs Young Artist Award, 1st place in the Cleveland Institute of Music Concerto Competition, and top prizes at the Johansen International Competition and Irving M. Klein International String Competition.

At the age of 11, he gave his first solo recital as well as his first solo performance with an orchestra. Embarking on a solo career with a commanding repertoire of over 20 concerti, Mr. Allen has been featured with orchestras throughout the United States. Concerto performances have also been with the Transylvania Symphony Orchestra, State Hermitage Orchestra of Saint Petersburg, Russia and the Tokyo Philharmonic. Mr. Allen has already graced the stages of the world's

most prominent venues including the Terrace Theater of Washington D.C.'s Kennedy Center, Tokyo's Suntory Hall, and the Cleveland Orchestra's Severance Hall, performing Prokofiev's Sinfonia Concertante for a sold out audience and live broadcast. Mr. Allen currently studies at the Cleveland Institute of Music.

French pianist **Yannick Rafalimanana** performs recitals and chamber music concerts throughout Europe, the United States, and Africa. He recently won first prize in the Boston Pops Concerto Competition, which led to his solo performance with the Boston Pops Orchestra in Symphony Hall in May 2012. Mr. Rafalimanana has won numerous awards in several competitions, including the Bruxelles J-Musiciens Competition and the International Ravel Academy's Rotary-Lions Competition.

As a soloist, he has performed regularly with the Orchestre CNR de Lille, Orchestre Impromptu, and the Ensemble Parisien. He recently founded and conducted the LFO - a chamber music orchestra based in Boston, involving NEC students, with whom he has also played as a soloist. Mr. Rafalimanana also performs frequently with the Trio La Plata, a group formed in Paris in 2006. In addition, his experience as a collaborative pianist in orchestra has led him to perform under the batons of Peter Eotvos, Jean Deroyer, Thomoty Brock, Zolt Nagy and others.

Mr. Rafalimanana has participated in numerous summer festivals, among them are the Perlman Music Program and the Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival. He has collaborated with well known musicians such as Itzhak Perlman, Donald Weilerstein, Joseph Kalichstein, Kim Kashkashian, Gary Hoffman, Paul Katz, Roger Tapping and James Tocco.

Born in Lille, France, Mr. Rafalimanana studied at the Conservatory of Lille with Alain Raes and graduated with first prizes in Piano Performance and Chamber Music and Collaborative Piano Performance from the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris. Mr. Rafalimanana is currently pursuing his Graduate Diploma at the New England Conservatory, studying with Vivian Weilerstein.

PROGRAM

Claude Debussy
Cello Sonata

Alfred Schnittke
Sonata No. 1

Béla Bartók
Romanian Folk Dances

INTERMISSION

Zoltán Kodály
Sonata for Solo Cello