

duo parnas

Violinist Madalyn Parnas and cellist Cicely Parnas

Madalyn Parnas

American violinist Madalyn Parnas has firmly established her place on the concert stage as both a brilliant and charismatic soloist and a gifted chamber musician with a rare and exceptional sensitivity. Born in 1991, this young artist has already performed more than forty concertos in the US with orchestra, and is now preparing for her upcoming Russian, Swiss, and French debuts. With equal passion, Madalyn has devoted her energy to chamber music performing with sister cellist Cicely as duo parnas since 1997. Their extraordinary achievements include winning 1st prize in international chamber music competition at Carnegie Hall, releasing two internationally acclaimed CDs, and performing 21st century compositions written for them by award-winning composers. Lifelong study of piano trio literature prepared Madalyn and Cicely for collaboration with the great artist Peter Serkin which began in 2007. Mr. Serkin began performing numerous concerts with them as the Parnas/Serkin Trio shortly thereafter.

Madalyn's consummate musicianship was clearly evident at an early age. Singing in a children's choir at age four, she was recognized for her perfect pitch memory. By seven she had played Bach's fifteen two-part inventions on piano and received the highest rating at a NYSSMA adjudication. At ten performing on violin, she won 1st prize at the Berkshire Merit Competition, an award usually reserved for high school seniors. Madalyn has been featured in numerous national magazines and newspapers, and on many radio programs including WQXR's "McGraw-Hill Young Artist Showcase" and NPR's "From the Top." Critics have dubbed Madalyn "a dazzler", "a show-stopper" and "a musical phenom." Highlights of the 2010-2011 season include performances of the Barber *Violin Concerto*, Prokofiev's *Violin Concerto #2*, and the Brahms *Double Concerto*, and chamber music concerts in Sedona AZ, Ann Arbor MI, New York NY, Lenox MA, and elsewhere.

Madalyn, a recipient of the "Artistic Excellence Award" from Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, will begin her graduate studies with Jaime Laredo in the Artist Diploma Program this fall. Miss Parnas graduated summa cum laude with concentrations in Music and French from the College of Saint Rose. Madalyn is the granddaughter of legendary cellist Leslie Parnas, winner of the Tchaikovsky Competition and founding member of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. She performs on a 1715 Alessandro Gagliano violin made in Naples. (March 2010)

Cicely Parnas

Born in 1993, cellist Cicely Parnas is a unique presence on the concert stage recognized for her highly individualized sound, exquisite tone, and spontaneous creativity fueled by an affable fearlessness. Cicely began cello studies at age four, and made her orchestral debut at nine. Since then she has performed over thirty times as guest soloist with orchestra, including the New York String Orchestra conducted by Jaime Laredo, and David Alan Miller's Albany Symphony. Three of Cicely's concerto performances have been presented on WQXR's "McGraw Hill Young Artist Showcase" in New York. Cicely has claimed six 1st prizes in national and regional soloist competitions.

Cicely proves herself not only on the solo stage but also in the chamber setting. An early start playing duets with her sister, violinist Madalyn Parnas, soon became an intense collaboration. Recent Berkshire reviews compliment their "perfectly attuned musical

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ideas” and an ability to create music that becomes a “mesmerizing occasion as they trade virtuosic solos, as in a high stakes-tennis game between two pros” with “no one-upmanship, simply two mutually supportive performers” where “everything is for musical value.” duo parnas has earned 1st prize in an international chamber music competition at Carnegie Hall, released two CDs featuring 20th century duo literature, and inspired award-winning composers to write for them.

This exceptional groundwork in chamber music laid the foundation for meetings with pianist Peter Serkin, beginning in Summer 2007. Mr. Serkin began performing numerous concerts with them as the Parnas/Serkin Trio. This very successful collaboration of a “master artist and new musical leaders learning and exploring great chamber music together” reveals the living legacy of Marlboro. Parnas/Serkin Trio’s recent and forthcoming performances include Bennington College, The New School, Peoples’ Symphony Concerts, Brattleboro Music Center, and a return to Music Mountain Festival. A college sophomore majoring in Music and German, Miss Parnas will enter the Artist Diploma Program at Indiana University in the fall as a full-tuition scholar studying with Sharon Robinson. The granddaughter of world-class cellist Leslie Parnas, Cicely is a student of cellist Peter Wiley and performs on a 1790 William Forster violoncello. (March 2010)

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