Amit Peled *and* Noreen Cassidy-Polera

Sunday, November 6 at 7 p.m.
Monday, November 7 at 8 p.m.

Friends of Music at Dumbarton Oaks

Amit Peled, *cello*

and

Noreen Cassidy-Polera, *piano*

November 6 & 7, 2011

Pièces en Concert for cello and piano
François Couperin (1668–1733)
Prélude | *Siciliène* | *La Tromba* | *Plainte* | *Air de Diable*

Fünf Stücke im Volkston, op. 102
Robert Schumann (1810–1856)
Mit Humor | *Langsam* | *Nicht schnell* | *Nicht zu rasch* | *Stark und markiert*

Kaddish for cello and piano
Mark Kopytman (b. 1929)
Largamente, un poco rubato | *Andantino, lontano* | *Lento, quasi recitativo*

Intermission

Sonata for cello and piano in g minor, op. 65
Frédéric Chopin (1810–1849)
Allegro moderato | *Scherzo (Allegro con brio)* | *Largo* | *Finale (Allegro)*

Around the world, Israeli cellist **Amit Peled**, a musician of profound artistry and charismatic stage presence, is acclaimed as one of the most exciting instrumentalists on the concert stage today. Mr. Peled, who was recently described by the *American Record Guide* as "having the flair of the young Rostropovich," has performed as a soloist with many orchestras in the world's major concert halls, including Carnegie Hall and Alice Tully Hall, New York; Salle Gaveau, Paris; Wigmore Hall, London; Konzerthaus, Berlin; and Tel Aviv's Mann Auditorium. Following his enthusiastically received Alice Tully Hall concerto debut playing the Hindemith Cello Concerto, the *New York Times* described his playing as having a "glowing tone, a seductive timbre and an emotionally pointed approach to phrasing that made you want to hear him again." Peled's last season culminated with a much anticipated recital debut at the Kennedy Center in Washington and two performances of Krzysztof Penderecki's Cello Concerto in Chicago's Millennium Park with the legendary composer conducting.

In the 2011–2012 season Mr. Peled will perform ten different concertos with many orchestras around the world. One of the highlights will be a United States and Germany tour with the Nordwest Philharmonie, performing both the Shostakovich Concerto No. 1 and the Herbert concerto in nineteen different cities. This season Peled will also perform the Britten Symphony for Cello and Orchestra with Maestro Michael Stern, the Elgar concerto in Chicago, the Schumann concerto with the Israel Chamber Orchestra, and the Boccherini Concerto in B-flat with Maestro Nicola Luisotti and the San Francisco Opera Orchestra.

As a recording artist, Mr. Peled has just released two critically acclaimed CDs: *The Jewish Soul* and *Cellobration* under the Centaur Records Label. In the summer of 2011 Peled's third Centaur Records CD was released with both the Elgar concerto and Bloch's *Schelomo*.

Mr. Peled is also a frequent guest artist, performing and giving master classes at prestigious summer music festivals such as the Marlboro Music Festival, the Newport Music Festival, the Seattle Chamber Music Festival, the Heifetz International Music Institute, the Schleswig-Holstein Festival and Euro Arts Festival in Germany, the Gotland Festival in Sweden, the Prussia Cove Festival in England, the Violoncello Forum in Spain, and the Mizra International Academy and Festival in Israel. Amit Peled has been featured on television and radio stations throughout the world, including NPR's *Performance Today*, WGBH Boston, WQXR New York, WFMT Chicago, Deutschland Radio Berlin, Radio France, Swedish National Radio & TV, and Israeli National Radio & TV. One of the most sought after cello pedagogues in the world, Mr. Peled is a Professor at the Peabody Conservatory of Music of the Johns Hopkins University.

Pianist **Noreen Cassidy-Polera** ranks among the most highly-regarded and diverse chamber artists performing today, and maintains a career that has taken her to every major American music center and to Europe, Russia, and the Asian centers of Hong Kong, Shanghai, Beijing, and Seoul. Recent performances include those at Alice Tully Hall, Zankel Hall, Weill Recital Hall, the 92nd Street Y, Jordan Hall, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, the Kennedy Center, Salle Cortot, and appearances at the Caramoor, Bard, and Grand Teton festivals, as well as engagements at the Chamber Music Societies of Philadelphia and La Jolla. She has recorded for EMI, Audiophon, and Centaur Records.

Noreen Cassidy-Polera has collaborated with leading soloists including David Shifrin, Matt Haimovitz, Carter Brey, Antonio Menesis, Aurora-Natalie Ginastera, Yo-Yo Ma, and Leonard Rose. Winner of the Accompanying Prize at the Eighth International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow, she regularly collaborates with laureates of the Queen Elisabeth, Tchaikovsky, and Naumburg international competitions.

Ms. Cassidy-Polera's mastery and affection for the complete standard cello-piano repertory are well-known, as are her attention and dedication to the works of living composers. In recent seasons she performed Elliott Carter's venerable Sonata for Cello and Piano on tour in Paris, New York, and Philadelphia, along with new works by Lowell Liebermann, Benjamin C. S. Boyle, and Kenji Bunch, to critical acclaim. Her CD recording *Sound Vessels* (with cellist Scott Kluksdahl) features the recording premiere of Richard Wernick's *Duo* and the works of Robert Helps, Augusta Read Thomas, and Elliott Carter. Noreen Cassidy-Polera holds Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees from the Juilliard School, where she studied with Martin Canin.

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