**Fandango!**

Eugenia Moliner, Flute Blaise Magnière, Violin Denis Azabagic, Guitar Cheng-Hou Lee, Cello

**Program**

Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741) (arr. Fandango!)

L'Inverno (Winter) from Le quattro stagioni (The Four Seasons)

Allegro non molto

Largo

Allegro

Luigi Boccherini (1743-1805) (arr. Fandango!)

Grave assai-Fandango, from Quintet for Guitar and Strings in D major

Miroslav Tadic (1959- ) (arr. Fandango!)

Three Balkan Pieces

Pajdushka

Zajdi, Zajdi

Gajdarsko Oro

Manuel de Falla (1876-1946) (arr. Fandango!)

Danza Española, from "La Vida Breve"

Intermission

Carlos Rafael Rivera (b.1970)

Plegaria y Canto (Al Bodre de la Mar)

Alan Thomas (1968- )

Fantasy on Themes from the Opera "Carmen"

Fandango appears by arrangement with Lisa Sapinkopf Artists, www.chambermuse.com

**About the Artists**

One of the most exciting groups on Chicago’s musical scene, **FANDANGO**! is a toe-tappingly spicy mix of Latin, Spanish, Sephardic, Balkan, and classical sounds founded by four multi-award-winning, globe-trotting virtuosi who hail from Spain, France, Bosnia, and Taiwan, and who have played, separately and together, on the world’s most prestigious stages. The group made their Washington DC début on the illustrious Dumbarton Oaks series, has appeared at Roosevelt University’s Ganz Hall in Chicago, the Bermuda International Festival, and has toured Hawaii, Florida, New Mexico, Arizona, Delaware, Iowa, Colorado, and nearly every region of the USA.

Founding members, Spanish flutist **Eugenia Moliner** and Bosnian guitarist **Denis Azabagic**, are a husband-and-wife team acclaimed worldwide as the Cavatina Duo. They have captivated audiences with their electrifying performances in such major venues and festivals as Ravinia (Chicago), Da Camera Society (Los Angeles), Aix-en-Provence Summer Festival (France), the National Concert Hall of Taipei (Taiwan), National Center for the Performing Arts in Beijing (China), National Flute Convention Gala Concert (USA), the Harris Theater (Chicago), Kolkata International Guitar Festival (India), Palau de la Musica (Spain), among many others. "If there is a finer flute and guitar duo in the world than Cavatina Duo, I have not heard them," raved Soundboard Magazine.

**Eugenia Moliner** was praised as “brilliant” by the British Flute Society magazine. She has performed with principal musicians from the Chicago Symphony, Rotterdam Philharmonic and Toronto Symphony orchestras and appeared with many renowned ensembles including the Chicago Chamber Musicians. Eugenia has been featured on radio and television programs in Europe, Asia and the USA. Her discography includes seven CDs.

A prize-winner in twenty-four international competitions, **Denis Azabagic** has been described as a “virtuoso with flawless technique” by Soundboard Magazine. He has appeared as soloist with orchestras such as the Chicago and Madrid Symphonies, among many others. His discography includes eleven CDs and two DVDs.

French violinist **Blaise Magnière** and Taiwanese cellist **Cheng-Hou Lee** are the first violinist and cellist, respectively, of the Avalon Quartet, which captured the top prize at the ARD Competition in Munich and 1st Prize at the Concert Artists Guild Competition in New York City. The quartet was described by the Chicago Tribune as “an ensemble that invites you—ears, mind, and spirit—into its music.” The quartet trained intensively with the Juilliard, Emerson and Vermeer Quartets.

**Blaise Magnière** has been praised for his “virtuosic skill” (Stage and Cinema) and “poised expression" (Chicago Classical Review). He has appeared at festivals such as Caramoor, Mostly Mozart, La Jolla, and Ravinia in the USA, and Bath and Aldeburgh in the UK. His performances and conversation have been heard on BBC, CBC (Canada), ABC (Australia) and France-Musique. He studied at the Yehudi Menuhin School in England during his high school years before attending the Cleveland Institute of Music, where he studied with Donald Weilerstein.

**Cheng-Hou Lee** won the Manhattan School of Music Concerto Competition, the Tuesday Musical Club Competition in Houston, and Taiwan's National Cello Competition. He has performed throughout the USA, Germany, Italy, Hong Kong and Taiwan. He has appeared as soloist with Chicago Chamber Orchestra and Illinois Philharmonic and performed for Lincoln Center's “What Makes It Great?” series and Jordan Hall’s 100th anniversary in Boston. He received his Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees from the Juilliard School, and his Doctorate of Musical Art from the New England Conservatory.

**Fandango!** takes its name from its signature piece, the last movement of the "Fandango" Quintet by Boccherini. The *fandango* is best known as a passionate Spanish dance, but its origin is subject to debate; it was either created in Rome, Spain, or Latin America (while colonized by Spain). The origin of the name is also unclear, but some think it comes from the Bantu language of Africa.

The *fandango*, popular in Mexico, developed into the Veracruz *huapango,* with both African and Spanish influences. It became part of European culture, being used not only by Boccherini but by composers from Mozart (in *The Marriage of Figaro*) to Gluck and Rimsky-Korsakov.

A curious piece of history: soon after its introductionin Spain, the *fandango* was condemned by the church authorities as a "godless dance." Just as they were about to prohibit it, one of the judges remarked that it was not fair to condemn it unheard. Two celebrated dancers were accordingly introduced to perform the *fandango* for the assembly. This they did with such effect that "everyone joined in, and the assembly hall was turned into a dancing saloon." No more was heard of the condemnation of the *fandango*.