

QUASAR TRIO

Eva León, violin
José Franch-Ballesters, clarinet
Jon Klibonoff, piano

The Quasar Trio brings creative energy to the exploration of chamber music, new and old. Three established musicians, each with a sterling international reputation, have forged an ensemble that is steeped in a wide, varied repertoire and fluent in diverse cultural idioms.

As soloists, these players have won praise for their “astonishing vitality and energy” (*La Vanguardia*, Spain), “technical wizardry,” and “perpetual motion” brilliance (*New York Times*). As an ensemble, they bring the same expertise and dedication, yet are freer to offer bold, innovative programming, featuring music by both established and emerging composers and leading audiences down roads less traveled.

The trio is committed to artistic collaborations that go beyond the usual boundaries of chamber music, teaming up with other musicians and launching cross-genre projects that produce visually engaging performances. In short, the Quasar Trio brings new energy to NYC’s music scene and expands the universe of offerings available to its audiences.

Artists



Hailed by critics as a violinist who “has the power to captivate the five senses of her audience” *La Vanguardia* (Spain), and described as a “charismatic violinist who possesses, along with her musical talent and tremendous aura, a gift for expression” *Neue Press* (Germany), **Eva León** has become one of the most successful violinists of her generation. A native of The Canary Islands, Ms. León has won the major Spanish violin competitions and several international competitions, including top prize at the Michaelangelo Abbado International Violin Competition, and Laureate at The Maria Canals International Violin Competition. In 2006, Eva León won the 33rd Artists International Annual Debut Prize in New York which led to her debut at Carnegie Hall.

Ms. León has successfully appeared on tour in some of the most prestigious music halls and festivals throughout Europe, the United States, the Middle East and Latin America to great audience and critical acclaim. A few of the many orchestras with whom she has performed internationally as a soloist include the Mexico State Symphony Orchestra, the Moldavia National Philharmonic, the Boston Classical Orchestra, the Colombia National Symphony, the Champaign-Urbana Symphony, the Arthur Rubinstein Philharmonic, the Rockford Symphony, the Castilla y León Symphony, the Bratislava Chamber Orchestra, the Galesburg Symphony, the Las Cruces Symphony, the Alter Musici Camerata, the Gran Canaria Philharmonic, the Tenerife Symphony Orchestra, the Del Empordà Chamber Orchestra, the Del Vallès Orchestra, the Cologne Ensemble Orchestra, among others.

She has recorded three critically acclaimed albums for Naxos, with music by Joaquín Turina, Xavier Montsalvatge and Joaquín Rodrigo. She has also done numerous recordings for TV and for radio including the American National TV, Spanish National TV, Japanese National TV, the American National Radio, the Mexico National Radio, and the Spanish National Radio. Eva currently lives in New York City.



The multi-award-winning Spanish clarinetist **José Franch-Ballester** is considered one of the finest classical soloists and chamber music artists of his generation. He has been hailed for his “technical wizardry and tireless enthusiasm” (*The New York Times*), and his “subtle and consummate artistry” (*Santa Barbara Independent*). The recipient of a prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant in 2008, and winner of both the Young Concert Artists and Astral Artists auditions, he is a solo artist and chamber musician in great demand.

Mr. Franch-Ballester regularly appears with The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center in New York, and also performs as the Principal Clarinetist at Camerata Pacifica in Santa Barbara, California. As a concerto soloist, he has performed with orchestras such as the BBC Concert Orchestra, Louisville Orchestra, Santa Barbara Chamber Orchestra, Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra, Orquesta Sinfonica Nacional of Mexico, I Musici Montreal, and Orquesta of the Radio Television in Spain, among others. He collaborates regularly with chamber music festivals around the globe such as Music@Menlo, Mainly Mozart, Chamber Music Northwest, Nexus Festival Tokyo, Westport Festival Ireland, Kon-Tiki Festival Norway and the Dresden Music Festival.

Born in Moncofa into a family of musicians, Mr. Franch-Ballester graduated from the Joaquin Rodrigo Music Conservatory in Valencia, continuing his studies at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, where he studied with Donald Montanaro and Ricardo Morales. As a recording artist, he has appeared on labels such as Deutsche Gramophon, Harmonie Mundi and Warner Music. He is currently on the faculty of the University of British Columbia (Vancouver, Canada) as assistant professor of clarinet and chamber music.



A versatile recitalist, orchestra soloist and chamber musician, Jon Klibonoff has performed extensively throughout the U.S. and abroad. His various honors include first prizes in the Kosciuszko Chopin Competition and the silver medal in the 1984 Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition. Klibonoff has appeared as soloist with the Utah, Baltimore, Richmond, Denver, New Orleans, Oakland, Syracuse, and North Carolina symphonies, as well as the Buffalo Philharmonic and the Denver Chamber Orchestra. Mr. Klibonoff is a past recipient of a NEA solo recitalist's grant and has been sponsored by the Pro Musicis Foundation in recital throughout the world. A founding member of the acclaimed ensemble, Trio Solisti, he has performed in major venues such as Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, and at numerous colleges and universities throughout the United States. He has appeared at many significant music festivals including Caramoor, Moab Music Festival, Norfolk Music Festival, Juneau Music Festival, Grand Canyon Music Festival and Bridgehampton. His numerous guest appearances in chamber music include the Lark Quartet, Shanghai Quartet and members of the Tokyo and Emerson string quartets. Mr. Klibonoff is also a principal member of Associated Solo Artists, an organization that performs concerts, educational programs and corporate events. Klibonoff has recorded for BMG, Bridge, and Naxos records. He holds a Bachelor of Music from the Manhattan School of Music and a Masters Degree in Music from The Juilliard School and has served on the music faculties of Purchase College Conservatory, Hunter College and Manhattanville College. Mr. Klibonoff is currently a member of the faculties of the Manhattan School of Music and Concordia Conservatory of Music.