

Hunstein Artist Services  
Press Contact: DeeAnne Hunstein  
Tel: (212) 724-2693  
Email: DeeAnne@HunsteinArtists.com  
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**German Violin Virtuoso**  
**BORIS KUCHARSKY**  
**Introduces new works at Carnegie Hall Debut**  
**with pianist Melissa Marse**

**Friday, January 11, 2008 at 8:00 PM, Weill Recital Hall**

**Works by Brahms, Saint-Saëns,**  
**New York premiere of Eugen Suchon's Sonatina,**  
**and Carolinian Dances by Robert Aldridge,**  
**composer of the new opera "Elmer Gantry"**

In addition to playing staples of the violin repertoire, Kucharsky will introduce audiences to little known works by two important composers who have particular significance to the artist, American composer **Robert Aldridge** and Slovakian composer **Eugen Suchon** (1908-1993). Aldridge and Kucharsky developed an abiding friendship when their paths crossed at Yale University, and Kucharsky will be playing two pieces written for him by Aldridge. Suchon, who is widely considered modern Slovakia's most important composer, is related to Kucharsky's Slovakian family. Suchon's violin concerto "Fantasia and Burleska" is dedicated to Kucharsky and has been recorded by him with the Radio Symphony Orchestra, Bratislava. This recording, which was named Best Classical Recording of the year in 1999 by Slovak National Radio, will shortly be released in the West. On his recital Kucharsky will perform the New York premiere of Suchon's Sonatina for violin and piano.

Of Russian, Slovakian, and German descent, the artist began violin studies at the age of 7 and in 1984 was admitted to the Menuhin School in London. So began the relationship that was to have a profound influence on Boris Kucharsky: **Yehudi Menuhin** became his teacher and mentor, partnering him in double concertos and directing the orchestra with Kucharsky as soloist. It was Menuhin who in 1990 conducted the performance of Beethoven's Violin Concerto that first laid the foundation for Boris Kucharsky's reputation as one of the outstanding violinists of his generation. Menuhin said of Kucharsky, "he is a beautiful violinist, sensitive musician and deeply moving to listen to. Impeccable taste and polish as well as deep feeling mark his performance." Other important contributors to Kucharsky's development were Igor Ozim at the Academy of Music in Cologne and Erick Friedman at Yale University.

Kucharsky's repertoire encompasses the whole spectrum from Baroque to Contemporary music. His recent concert series in Munich and Bochum, Germany, of the complete cycle of Beethoven's violin sonatas was recorded and released on disc to critical acclaim on the Ars Produktion label. Kucharsky has appeared as soloist with such orchestras as the European Chamber Orchestra, Slovak Philharmonic, Staatskapelle Schwerin, Suk Chamber Orchestra, Dortmund Philharmonic, Karlsbad Symphony Orchestra, Kammerakademie Neuss and the Prague Chamber Orchestra. He has given recitals at many of the major European festivals, including Schleswig Holstein, Gstaad, Lichfield, Dvorak, and the BHS Slovakia festivals. His busy trans-European schedule is interspersed with regular visits to the USA and the Far East, where he is a much sought-after guest in both concert halls and recording studios. Kucharsky is now based in Switzerland.

Boris Kucharsky plays the famous "Baron Knoop" violin by Carlo Bergonzi, Cremona 1735.



**Melissa Marse** has been featured in New York venues including Alice Tully Hall, Merkin Hall, Pierpont Morgan Library, and Carnegie Hall as well as the Ford Centre for the Performing Arts in Toronto and the Gardner Museum in Boston. Her solo and chamber music performances are being met with critical acclaim throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, and Asia. She has played under the baton of such conductors as James Conlon, James DePriest, Jahja Ling, Lawrence Leighton Smith, Yuri Temirkanov, Michael Tilson Thomas, and Gerhardt Zimmermann. Ms. Marse completed Professional Studies at The Juilliard School. Prior to that she obtained a Masters Degree at Yale University as a scholarship student of Claude Frank. Her Doctorate was awarded by the New England Conservatory.

**Robert Aldridge** has written over sixty works for orchestra, opera, music-theater, dance, string quartet, solo and chamber ensembles. His music has been performed throughout the United States, Europe and Japan. His new opera, “**Elmer Gantry**,” based on the novel by Sinclair Lewis with a libretto by Herschel Garfein, received its full-stage world premiere by Nashville Opera in November 2007. Excerpts from “Elmer Gantry” were performed by New York City Opera at its 2007 VOX Festival. The opera will be performed in its entirety at Montclair State University the last weekend of January 2008. Aldridge has been Composer-in-Residence at the Brevard Music Festival since 2006. Currently, he is Director of the John J. Cali School of Music at Montclair State University, where he is also an Associate Professor of Music Composition and Theory.

**Eugen Suchon** is widely regarded as one of the most important Slovakian composers and a true representative of modern Slovak musical culture. Born in 1908, he studied piano at the Bratislava School of Music from a young age and continued his studies at the Prague Conservatory and the newly established Academy of Music in Bratislava, where he was later appointed a professor of composition. Suchon’s pre-war works became the key to the new Slovak musical culture, which was heavily influenced by folk elements, as in his cycle of male choral songs “Of Mountains,” and his Balladic Suite. His first opera, “Krutnava,” (The Whirlpool) was the pioneer of modern Slovak opera and the first Slovak opera performed on foreign stages. His second opera, based on the historical King Svatoopluk from the period of the great Moravian Empire, was given its premiere in 1960, after which Suchon wrote mostly chamber and orchestral works, including the Rhapsodic Suite for piano and orchestra, Concertino for Clarinet and Orchestra and Symphonic Fantasy on B-A-C-H.

**Tickets at the Carnegie Hall Box Office**  
**57<sup>th</sup> Street and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, New York, NY**  
**or call CarnegieCharge at (212) 247-7800, or**  
**at [www.CarnegieHall.org](http://www.CarnegieHall.org)**  
**General Admission: \$20, \$35**  
**Students and Seniors: \$15**



***Boris Kucharsky, violin***  
***Melissa Marse, piano***

**Friday, January 11, 2008 at 8:00 pm**  
**Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall**

**Program**

**Eugen Suchon**

*Sonatina, Op. 11*

Allegretto con agitazione

Largo sostenuto

Allegro assai

**Camille Saint-Saëns**

*Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso*

**Robert Livingston Aldridge**

*Tango for Gabriela*

*Intermission*

**Johannes Brahms**

*Sonata No. 3 in d-minor, Op. 108*

Allegro

Adagio

Un poco presto e con sentimento

Presto agitato

**Robert Livingston Aldridge**

*Carolinian Dances*

**Johannes Brahms**

*Hungarian Dance No. 2 in d-minor*

