

About Us

Silver Roots shapes the continuum between classical and world music. Founded by Juilliard graduates Shawn Wyckoff (flute) and Maria Millar (violin), *Silver Roots* performs revolutionary, customized programs that draw from a mix of classical and world music, improvisation and ground-breaking original works. Communication is the driving force behind *Silver Roots*, whether through masterful execution and interpretation, conversations with the audience, sharing the history behind the music or even song & dance! By utilizing every part of the performer – the fingers, the mind, the voice and the story – *Silver Roots* redefines the concert-going experience.

Silver Roots' performance highlights include concerts for Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts (NYC), The Cathedral of St. John the Divine (NYC), Embassy of Japan in Canada (Ottawa), Japan Foundation (Toronto), United Nations (NYC), Discovery Times Square Exposition (NYC), The Juilliard School (NYC) and University of Calgary. In 2010, *Silver Roots* embarked on a six-week tour of 10 states/provinces, presenting concerts and workshops in libraries, arts centers, universities, concert halls, even a bank! The tour connected with local communities in unique and non-traditional settings via *Silver Stage*, an initiative that encourages audiences to participate in concerts through storytelling, poetry writing, improvisation, roundtable discussions and musical requests. Most recently, *Silver Roots* was selected as 1 of 8 chamber ensembles across the US to receive the Chamber Music America Residency Grant.

Biographies



Violinist, singer and composer **Maria Millar** has performed as a soloist throughout Canada, Ireland, China, Japan and the US; The Canadian, British and American Broadcasting Corporations as well as The WB's *One World Jam*, CBS Sunday Morning and CBS The Early Show have aired concerts, interviews and clips of her work. 170 performances in the principal role of Solo Dancing Fiddler in *Riverdance On Broadway* and the North American and Asian Tours of *Riverdance: The Show* included 4 center stage numbers of improvised solos and simultaneous fiddling and dance. Maria also performed in Radio City Music Hall's *One World Jam* and premiered her creation for 5 prerecorded violin tracks and 1 live dancing violinist, *All for One*, on CBC's nationally televised *The Great Canadian Music Dream*. Maria has toured North America with her one-woman show of original works for violin, voice and dance, playing venues such as The Kennedy Center and The Library & Archives of Canada. In 2006, Maria founded *Kilterclash*, a world music rock trio steeped in classical music tradition comprising vocals, violin, bass and drums. Canada Council for the Arts, Alberta Foundation for the Arts and the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council have awarded Maria with compositional and space grants; *Samson* sponsors Maria, providing audio, wireless and effects processing equipment specific to her roles as singer, acoustic/electric violinist and dancer. Beyond performing her creations, Maria lives to improvise: her arrangements and aural transcriptions of Japanese, Chinese, Celtic, Gypsy, Klezmer, Tango, Turkish, blues, jazz, pop, rock and classical music have laid the foundation for fearless ad-libbing in any setting. Maria holds accelerated BM/MM's in Violin Performance from The Juilliard School.

Silver Roots

Flutist **Shawn Wyckoff** is an avid solo and chamber musician who has been featured in performances at Carnegie Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, Alice Tully Hall, the Kennedy Center Concert Hall, Weill Recital Hall, Merkin Concert Hall, The Library of Congress, Bargemusic, Lincoln Center, Cathedral of St. John the Divine, The Museum of Modern Art, The Guggenheim Museum and the United Nations. Shawn is the artistic director, flutist and musical arranger for *TetraWind*, a classical ensemble whose interactive presentations feature compositions and arrangements for woodwind quartet with an emphasis on American music written throughout the last century. Shawn's orchestral work includes concerts with conductors Pierre Boulez, Leonard Slatkin, Kurt Masur and, most recently, performing as a member of Continuum, One World Symphony and The Harmonia Opera Company. Shawn is a First Prize winner of The Judith Lapple National Flute Competition, the Flute Society of Washington Competition and The Friday Morning Music Club Woodwind Competition. For his leadership in the arts, he was named a Maryland Distinguished Scholar of the Arts and received the Stephen Brewster Award (as chosen by a panel of National Symphony Orchestra musicians), the John Philip Sousa Award and the National Alliance for Excellence Award. Shawn holds a BM in Flute Performance from The Juilliard School.



Cellist **Adrian Daurov** was born in St. Petersburg, Russia, where he studied at the St. Petersburg Conservatory. As a soloist, Adrian has appeared on the main concert stages of St. Petersburg, Moscow, Europe and the U.S. He made his orchestral debut in 1997 with the St. Petersburg Symphony Orchestra, and received First Prize at International Music Competitions in Dobrich (Bulgaria), the Peter De Grote Festival in Groningen (The Netherlands) and the LISMA Foundation Competition in NY. In 2004, Adrian toured Germany as a soloist with the St. Petersburg Chamber Orchestra and was appointed Principal Cellist of the Bayreuth Festival Youth Orchestra under conductor Peter Gulke. Adrian was also appointed Principal Cellist of The Chamber Orchestra of New York under conductor Salvatore Di Vittorio. He recently performed the World Premiere of Behzad Ranjbaran's *Fountains Of Fin* at Bargemusic in New York, and was also featured in the gala *In Celebration Of Russia's Independence Day* at Carnegie Hall. Adrian holds a BM and MM in Cello Performance from The Juilliard School.

Current Programs

Ancient Dances (Flute, Violin & Cello – Coming in 2010/11)

Ancient Dances takes its cue from the dances and traditional music of Europe; up-tempo dance tunes from Sweden, Denmark, Norway, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Hungary are presented with classic *Silver Roots* flair. Solo works by JS Bach introduce Irish traditional tunes of like rhythm and step. Composers from Renaissance England are contrasted with modern American masters Cowell, Harrison and Cage. Shawn's musical arrangements and eclectic tastes pave the way for a mind-bending, sonic adventure!

Notes from a Canadian Life (Flute, Violin & Cello – Coming in 2010/11)

Notes from a Canadian Life is a theatrical extravaganza that takes you on a journey of Canada through musical vignettes. Poetry, storytelling, song and dance accent a full-length program of solo and chamber music works by Maria for flute, violin and cello. Each piece is inspired by a musical genre, folktale, historical figure or event: the Inuit vs. the Vikings, British privateers, lumberjack Jos Montferrand, feminist Nelly McClung, Japanese internment, Cape Breton céilidhs and Plains Tribe pow-wows are but some of the Canadian stories that come to life in vivid, acoustic splendor.

Japan Meets World (Flute, Violin & Cello)

An exploration of the intersection between Japanese music and the Western World, *Japan Meets World* showcases classical and traditional music from both hemispheres as well as works by Maria for violin, flute, cello, voice and dance. Highlights include Maria's *Tsuru* for solo dancing violinist with fabric, Katherine Hoover's *Kokopeli* for solo flute and Toshitsugu Ogihara's *Trio*.

"I enjoyed today's music very, very much! The presentation by these three great musicians so successfully represents Japan today: not only beautiful, refined, exotic but also dynamic, inclusive, powerful and fresh."

- Ambassador Nishida, Japanese Ambassador to Canada

Echoing Voices: A Musical History of America (Flute, Violin & Cello)

Echoing Voices presents music from the homelands of immigrants through their stories and history of coming to America. The music of 10 regions – the Netherlands, England, Ireland, Germany, Russia, Italy, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Egypt and China – is featured alongside interactive activities for audience members of all ages. *Echoing Voices'* debut run as part of Lincoln Center's 2009/10 *Meet the Artist* series in New York City sold out so quickly that additional shows had to be booked to accommodate demand! The show returns to Lincoln Center in 2010/11.

"Your ability to showcase virtuosic performance coupled with a palpable connection to your audience results in an absolutely riveting experience. I personally have learned so much about the cultures whose music you feature and the emotion with which each piece was composed..."

- Hillary McAndrew, Senior Manager, Meet the Artist, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Inc

Current Programs (Continued)

Classical and Folk Music of the Western World (Flute & Violin)

An investigation of the ties between folk and classical music from the European and American traditions, including dance rhythms, lively sing-alongs, a Q & A session, and historical commentary on each work performed. Program toured throughout the US and Canada in New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Washington DC, Montana, North Dakota, Wyoming, Utah, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, Minnesota, Illinois and Alberta.

Workshops

Since 2008, *Silver Roots'* members have presented workshops, masterclasses and outreach programs for students and audiences of conservatories, universities, schools (Grade 3 -12), cultural centers, libraries and youth orchestras, including Lincoln Center, The Juilliard School, University of Alberta, University of Calgary and Irish Arts Center in NYC. Participants' ages have ranged from under 5 to over 65 with skill sets ranging from no musical experience to professional classical or folk musician. The following are synopses of some of these workshops:

Introduction to Improvisation

Learn basic tools that allow you to instantly unleash your inner improviser! Audience members participate in simple solo and duo exercises that develop the ability to turn ideas into on-the-spot compositions while improving their instrumental technique, aural acuity, rhythm, collaborative ability and problem-solving skills.

How to Present and Produce Your Own Concert

Silver Roots walks you through the steps involved in successfully producing your own concert, including seeking out a venue, creating a preparation timeline, structuring a program, speaking in front of an audience, and documenting/disseminating your work via audio and video recordings to review your performance and generate future opportunities.

Technique for String and Woodwinds

Learn how to play your instrument better! With simple answers to even the most complex questions, *Silver Roots* addresses all technical issues and obstacles that confront string and woodwind players.

Playing Your Instrument with Artistry

With a focus on rhythm, phrasing, harmonic/melodic direction and stage presence, *Silver Roots* helps players turn their musical and artistic ideas into performance reality.

The Art of Collaboration

Silver Roots shares tips and provides exercises that heighten your awareness through sharper listening, tighter rhythm, better intonation and faster sight reading.