

"an essential source of adventurous new music"
— Alex Ross, *The New Yorker*

Argento Chamber Ensemble Austrian Cultural Forum New York

present

The Argento Performers Series: Lunar Movements

A six-part concert series celebrating the centennial of Arnold Schoenberg's *Pierrot Lunaire*

featuring

Paula Robison in *Pierrot Lunaire*
Conducted by Michel Galante



Austrian Cultural Forum New York
11 East 52nd Street, New York, NY

Tickets: suggested donation \$10. No reservation necessary

Audience discussions with performers and composers at each concert

Saturday, December 8, 2012, 7:30 PM

Pierrot Lunaire + music of Morton Feldman, Lei Liang, and Jason Eckardt
with Joanna Chao, piano, and Stephanie Griffin, viola

Lei Lang – *Garden Eight* for solo piano

Jason Eckardt – *to be held...* for voice, viola & electronics

Morton Feldman – *The Viola in My Life 2* for viola & ensemble

Arnold Schoenberg – *Pierrot Lunaire*

Joanna Chao, piano, **Stephanie Griffin**, viola

Paula Robison, voice, **Michel Galante**, conductor

One hundred years ago, Arnold Schoenberg conducted the premiere of *Pierrot Lunaire*, a work that Pierre Boulez aptly described as an 'inexhaustible resource.' *Pierrot Lunaire* is divided into 21 short movements, some of them less than a minute long, but these movements, even today, continue to be a wellspring of ideas, techniques, and cultural references that surprise, challenge, and provoke listeners who hear it for the very first time—as well as those who spend a lifetime probing its secrets.

In *Pierrot Lunaire*, Schoenberg originally instructed his violinist to double on viola. Today, performances typically use two separate players to cover the part, effectively minimizing the violist's role. Considering this, Argento presents a program featuring the viola, the "forgotten" member of the *Pierrot* ensemble. Included is Feldman's seminal "viola-plus-*Pierrot*" composition, *The Viola in My Life 2*, along with a solo work for the instrument by Jason Eckardt.

Argento Chamber Ensemble launches *the Argento Performers Series: Lunar Movements*, a six-part concert series celebrating the centennial of the world premiere of *Pierrot Lunaire*, featuring performances of Arnold Schoenberg's masterpiece juxtaposed with recent and premiere compositions. This exciting series will showcase different aspects of the piece such as Schoenberg's approach to the human voice, the parallels between his music and visual art, and his approach to the Lieder. The *Performers Series* is part of Argento's ongoing mission to commission and perform new music that expands the range of possibilities for, and challenges conventional notions about contemporary classical music.