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**Amici Chamber Ensemble presents  
Mother Russia, Rebels + Exiles - November 13<sup>th</sup> 3pm**

TORONTO, November 1, 2016— Amici presents Mother Russia, Rebel + Exiles, an extraordinary concert featuring the best of Russian chamber music in the last hundred years and its evolution through three generations of the greatest Russian composers. Amici is joined by the brilliant Russian violinist Ilya Kaler, and virtuoso accordionist Alexander Sevastian.

Russia has produced over the last two hundred years some of the most beautiful and heart-felt music in the world. The program will include titans of Russian repertoire Sergei Rachmaninoff (Trio élégiaque No.1 in G minor) and Igor Stravinsky (Three Pieces for Clarinet and Mardi Gras), as well as Sophia Gubaidulina (In Croce), Galina Ustvolskaya (Trio for violin, clarinet and piano) and Anton Arensky ( Piano Trio No. 1). Seth Gordon's Trio will also be featured as part of Amici's Young Composer Program.

**WHAT: Mother Russia, Rebels + Exiles**  
**WHEN: Sunday November 13, 3pm 2016**  
**WHERE: Mazzoleni Concert Hall, The Royal Conservatory of Music  
273 Bloor Street West, Toronto ON**  
**TICKETS: (416) 408-0208 OR [www.amiciensemble.com](http://www.amiciensemble.com)**

When asked about the upcoming Mother Russia concert... *"I think it's a very nice project, and it was unexpected when I was asked to do it because there is a strong Russian community here in Toronto but Russian music doesn't get played often in Canada. That's my opinion. Especially the selection of the composers who will be presented at the concert, as far as I know, it's a very rare opportunity. I think it is a premier of several of these composers in Canada. I've heard their music in Russia, but not here in Canada, so that's a big surprise."* – Alexander Sevastian

**About Amici's Guest Artists:**

Described by the Gramophone as the "magician, bewitching our ears" for his hauntingly beautiful sound, flawless command of the instrument and mesmerizing phrasing, **Ilya Kaler** is the world's only Gold Medal winner at the three most prestigious international violin competitions: the Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow (1986), the Sibelius Competition in Helsinki (1985), and the Paganini Competition in Genoa (1981). Kaler is considered to be one of the most outstanding personalities of the violin today, whose career ranges from that of a soloist, recording artist, chamber musician and professor.

**Alexander Sevastian** is an acclaimed soloist, as well as member of the prestigious Quartetto Gelato. Sevastian has toured the world both performing and recording. He is a winner of several prestigious competitions, including: Coupe Mondiale International (2007), The Oslofjord (Norway 1998), Cup of the North (Russia 2000) and Antony Gallarini (USA 2001). A native of Minsk, Belarus where he finished the Glinka College (class of Miron Boula) Alexander went to Moscow to study with famous Friedrich Lips. Sevastian is a featured soloist with several leading North America symphony orchestras, including The Toronto Symphony.

**About Amici Chamber Ensemble:**

Amici Chamber Ensemble has celebrated twenty-eight years as one of Canada's finest and most distinguished chamber music ensembles. Artistic Directors clarinetist **Joaquin Valdepeñas**, cellist **David Hetherington** and pianist **Serouj Kradjian** invite some of the finest musicians to join them in innovative and eclectic programming, celebrating friendship through music.

You can learn more about Amici Chamber Ensemble at [www.amiciensemble.com](http://www.amiciensemble.com)

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