

# ARTolerance

**FOR RELEASE**

**ARTolerance**

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**Photos** available upon request.



**ARTolerance & St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church present**  
**VOYAGES OF WINDS**  
**An Armenian Remembrance & Celebration**

On Sunday, November 14 ARTolerance & St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church present an afternoon dedicated to Armenia. Program will feature the World Premiere of Voyages of Winds by Vartan Adjemian for Duduk and Wind Quintet with members of the Philadelphia Orchestra: Peter Smith, Angela Anderson Smith, Patrick Williams, Socrates Villegas and Ernesto Tovar Torres. Special Guests include Zula, Armenian-American women magical vocal trio, Ara Dinkjian, Oud virtuoso and composer, and Udi Bar-David, Cellist & ARTolerance Artistic Director.

Event will be ticketed: \$25 Adults and \$10 Students. Reservations can be made by calling St. Gregory Armenian's church office at 215-482-9200.

## PERFORMANCE & EVENT DETAILS

### Voyages of Winds

Date: Sunday, November 14, 2021  
Time: 2:00pm EST  
Location: St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church  
8701 Ridge Avenue Philadelphia, PA

Price: \$25 Adults // \$10 Students  
\*Please call church office at 215-482-9200 for reservations.

## MEDIA

### Follow ARTolerance...

Website <https://artolerance.org/>  
<https://www.saintgregory-philly.org/>  
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/artolerance/>

## PRESENTERS

### ARTolerance

ARTolerance mission is to advance the role of the arts in dialogues, transcend communication boundaries and explore common ground, through performances, events, conferences and workshops.

Visit, <https://artolerance.org/>

### St. Gregory Church of Philadelphia

This church was originally in downtown Philadelphia, at the corner of 16th and Oxford Streets. The new church on 8701 Ridge Ave. was consecrated in 1967. This Church has been serving the Armenian community of the Delaware valley since 1927.

Visit, <https://www.saintgregory-philly.org/>

## ARTISTS

### Vartan Adjemian - Composer

Vartan Adjemian is an Armenian composer of orchestral, operatic and chamber music whose works have been performed worldwide. Vartan Adjemian studied composition with Lazarus Saryan (1920-1998) at the Yerevan Komitas State Conservatory from 1973 to 1981. In 1987, he received the National Prize of Armenia for his Symphony No. 1. He has written many orchestral, chamber, vocal, and instrumental music as well as for piano. He is regarded as being one of the most gifted composers of his generation whose works are successfully performed worldwide.

## **Philadelphia Orchestra**

The Philadelphia Orchestra is one of the world's preeminent orchestras. It strives to share the transformative power of music with the widest possible audience, and to create joy, connection, and excitement through music in the Philadelphia region, across the country, and around the world. Through innovative programming, robust educational initiatives, and commitment to the community, the ensemble is on a path to create an expansive future for classical music, and to further the place of the arts in an open and democratic society.

### **Peter Smith - Oboe**

Associate Principal Oboe Peter Smith has been a member of The Philadelphia Orchestra since 1991. He played with the Atlanta Symphony as acting principal oboe for a series in 2007 and was principal oboe with the Colorado Festival Orchestra in its 1991 season. A graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music, he studied with Richard Woodhams. He has also studied with Louis Rosenblatt.

Mr. Smith was a soloist in The Philadelphia Orchestra's performances of Mozart's Sinfonia concertante for winds and orchestra in 2010 at the Mann Center and at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center. He was featured with the Orchestra in its Absolutely Mozart Festival at the Kimmel Center from 2002 to 2004. He was also a soloist with the Orchestra in the summers of 1992, 1994, and 2006. Over the last two decades, Mr. Smith has been featured numerous times in The Philadelphia Orchestra's Chamber Music Series.

From 1986 to 2011 Mr. Smith has appeared as soloist with the Lower Merion Symphony, the Bucks County Symphony, the Newark (DE) Symphony, the Colorado Festival Orchestra, the Curtis Symphony Orchestra, the Camerata Classica, and the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia. He is currently on the faculty of Temple University, where he is a member of the Conwell Woodwind Quintet.

### **Angela Anderson Smith- Bassoon**

Angela Anderson Smith has been a member of The Philadelphia Orchestra since 1997. Her previous orchestra memberships include the San Jose Symphony, where she served as second bassoon, and the San Antonio Symphony, where she was assistant principal/second bassoon.

Ms. Smith frequently performs in the Philadelphia Orchestra Chamber Music Series, and she is a member of the Network for New Music and the Conwell Woodwind Quintet, an ensemble made up of Temple University faculty members.

Ms. Smith has won prizes at such competitions as the Carmel and Coleman chamber music competitions, and she has participated in the Yale Summer School of Music and Art, the Music Academy of the West Summer Festival, and the Midsummer Mozart Festival, where she was second bassoon in the Festival Orchestra for two seasons.

Currently a faculty member of the Esther Boyer College of Music at Temple University, Ms. Smith has previously taught at the University of Texas at Austin, the University of Santa Clara, and Southwest Texas State University. She graduated from the University of New Mexico with a Bachelor of Music in 1988 and received a Master of Music from the University of Southern California in 1991. Her teachers have included Artemus Edwards, Norman Herzberg, Dennis Michel, and Matthew Karr.

### **Patrick Williams- Flute**

Patrick Williams was appointed associate principal flute of The Philadelphia Orchestra in 2018 by Yannick Nézet-Séguin. He was previously principal flute of the Louisiana Philharmonic and co-principal flute of the Hyogo Performing Arts Center Orchestra in Nishinomiya, Japan. He has also performed in such ensembles as the Chicago Symphony, the Pittsburgh Symphony, the Columbus Symphony, the Fort Worth Symphony, the Princeton Symphony, and the Pacific Music Festival Orchestra in Sapporo, Japan. During the 2010 and 2011 seasons he was the Flute Fellowship recipient at the Aspen Music Festival, mentored by Mark Sparks. Conductors with whom Mr. Williams has collaborated include Simon Rattle, Vladimir Jurowski, Fabio Luisi, Neville Marriner, Robert Spano, Michael Stern, Rossen Milanov, and Otto-Werner Mueller.

Hailed for his artistry in concerto performances with the Curtis Symphony, Music at Angel Fire, and the Steamboat Orchestra, Mr. Williams compliments his passion for orchestral performance with concerto, chamber music, and recital performance. Many of his live performances have been recorded and released online via Instant Encore and on WHY?Y's television program On Stage at Curtis.

Mr. Williams currently serves on the faculty of Temple University's Boyer College of Music. He has served as adjunct instructor of flute at Xavier University of Louisiana in New Orleans and has been a clinician at the Interlochen Arts Academy, Loyola University of New Orleans, and Louisiana State University. In addition to teaching he has regularly participated in youth concerts and outreach programs for the Louisiana Philharmonic, the Hyogo Performing Arts Center, the New York Pops, Music at Angel Fire, and the Curtis Institute of Music.

A proud Colorado native, Mr. Williams began studying the Suzuki flute method in Steamboat Springs. After just one year of study, he traveled to Nagano, Japan, to perform with thousands of Suzuki students in a multicultural celebration during the 1998 Olympics. He attended the Interlochen Arts Academy High School, studying with Nancy Stagnitta, and graduated with a distinguished award for excellence in flute performance. At the Oberlin College and Conservatory of Music, he studied with Michel Debost while pursuing a double degree in flute performance and environmental studies. Mr. Williams received his performance degree at the Curtis Institute of Music under the tutelage of Philadelphia Orchestra Principal Flute Jeffrey Khaner. Find out more at [www.patrickwilliamsflute.com](http://www.patrickwilliamsflute.com).

### **Socrates Villegas - Clarinet**

Mexican-born Socrates Villegas was appointed second clarinet of The Philadelphia Orchestra in 2016 by Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin. His numerous awards include two consecutive first place prizes at the Mexican National Clarinet Contest (2003 and 2004), a First Prize at the 14th European Music

Competition at Amiens, France (2008), Second Prize at the 2008 Young Artist Competition (International Clarinet Association), and First Prize at the Temple University Concerto Competition in 2015.

Mr. Villegas holds a Master of Music degree from Temple University, where he studied with Ricardo Morales, principal clarinet of The Philadelphia Orchestra; a unanimous first prize for excellent from the Versailles Conservatory in France, where he studied with Philippe Cuper, principal clarinet of the Paris Opera; a Bachelor of Music degree from the National Conservatory in Mexico City, where he studied with Marina Calva; and a New Horizon fellowship at the Aspen Music Festival and School, where he studied with Joaquin Valdepeñas, principal clarinet of the Toronto Symphony. Mr. Villegas has previously held positions with the Orchestre de la Cité Internationale Universitaire de Paris, the Orquesta Filarmónica de Toluca, the Orquesta Filarmónica de Jalisco, the Orquesta Sinfónica de Minería, and the Orquesta Filarmónica de la UNAM in Mexico City.

Mr. Villegas has a passion for teaching and empowering future generations of musicians with opportunities to study and perform. He is currently the founder and director of the Festival de Música de Coyotepec, a summer music festival and school in his hometown, Coyotepec, State of Mexico, Mexico. He plays on Zenit clarinets by A. Uebel, Germany.

### **Ernesto Tovar Torres - Horn**

Mexican-born hornist Ernesto Tovar Torres is the fourth horn of The Philadelphia Orchestra and is in high demand as a soloist and orchestral and chamber musician. Before his tenure in Philadelphia, he served as second horn for the Atlanta Symphony from 2015 to 2017.

Mr. Tovar has also performed with the Dallas Symphony, the Steamboat Springs String Festival, the Naples Philharmonic, the Bellingham Festival Orchestra (WA), and the Grand Rapids Symphony.

Major music festival engagements include the Eastern Music Festival (NC), the Texas Music Festival, the Banff Master Class for Strings and Winds, and Spoleto USA. Mr. Tovar was also a finalist in the 2013 International Horn Competition of America, where he performed the Glière Horn Concerto.

As an educator, Mr. Tovar has presented master classes at various colleges and conservatories around the United States and abroad. Recent engagements have included the Curtis Institute of Music, Wichita State University, the University of Georgia at Athens, and the Jerusalem Music Center in Israel.

Mr. Tovar received his training at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music, where he studied with William VerMeulen, international horn soloist and principal horn of the Houston Symphony. He holds a bachelor's degree in horn performance from Oklahoma State University, where he studied with Lanette Lopez-Compton and graduated with honors in May 2014.

Mr. Tovar currently resides in Philadelphia with his wife, Marde Meek, and their three dogs: Cleopatra, Samantha, and Francis. Together they enjoy cycling, cooking fine Mexican cuisine, and traveling (when they can find a dog sitter).

### **Zulal- Armenian-American women magical vocal trio**

Zulal, which means “clear water,” is a NY based Armenian a cappella trio that features Teni Apelian, Yeraz Markarian, and Anais Tekerian. The trio rearranges and reimagines traditional Armenian folk melodies for stage and recording. Performing since 2002, Zulal has sung at venues such as the Kennedy Center’s Millennium Stage, the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. In addition to performance and arrangement, Zulal also creates soundtracks for film and theater and offers educational workshops for young audiences. For more info visit, <https://www.zulal.org/>.

### **Ara Dinkjian- Oud virtuoso and composer**

Ara Dinkjian is an Armenian born in America in 1958. His earliest professional musical experience was accompanying his father Onnik Dinkjian, a renowned Armenian folk and liturgical singer.

Ara learned several Western and Eastern instruments (piano, guitar, dumbeg, clarinet) and in 1980 graduated from the Hartt College of Music, earning the country’s first and only special degree in the instrument for which he has become most well-known, the oud.

For over 40 years, he served as organist in the Armenian Apostolic Church. Throughout his musical life, Ara has continued to develop his highly personal compositional style which blends his eastern and western roots. Ara’s compositions have had a universal appeal. His songs have been recorded by world famous instrumentalists and singers in 16 different languages, demonstrating that music does indeed unite people and cultures.

Many of his compositions have appeared in movie and television soundtracks. Some of his pieces are even sung with ancient Hebrew texts during the Jewish High Holy Days. Ara Dinkjian is considered one of the finest oud players in the world. His style is a very personal one, with an emphasis on a uniquely beautiful tone. He has appeared throughout the world on concert stages, oud festivals, seminars, and master classes, performing in 24 different countries. He has also had historic collaborations with iconic artists such as Sezen Aksu and Eleftheria Arvanitaki. For Ara’s full bio visit, <https://www.aradinkjian.com/biography>.

### **Udi Bar-David - Cellist & Artistic Director of ARTolerance**

Udi Bar-David is widely considered one of the most versatile cellists in the world, performing on international stages with both classical and ethnic musicians. Udi studied in Tel-Aviv, with Leonard Rose at the Juilliard School, and Orchestral Conducting at Curtis Institute of Music.

Udi won the International Villa Lobos Competition in Brazil, and appeared as a soloist with numerous orchestras, including the Jerusalem Symphony and Philly Pops. He was featured on the *TODAY* show, and was represented by Astral Artistic Services and the Center for Jewish Culture and Creativity. He has served as principal cellist with many orchestras, and has been a member of the Philadelphia Orchestra since the late 1980s.

As a chamber musician, Udi has collaborated with Christoph Eschenbach, Leon Fleisher, Jaime Laredo, Rudolph Buchbinder, Emanuel Ax and others. As Founder and Artistic Director of Intercultural Journeys, he produced numerous events world-wide. Udi has recently created Artolerance – an important new effort to expand the crucial role music and the arts play in fostering understanding and tolerance.

Udi has toured the US, Europe, Palestine, Israel, Cuba and Asia, with world-renowned artists, including Jie Bing Chen, Nawang Khechog, Hanna Khoury, Wu Man, Diane Monroe, R. Carlos Nakai, Mandy Patinkin, and Simon Shaheen.