

## DOLCI BY THE BAY CONCERT NO. 14

*Dolci: Ted Rust, oboe and oboe d'amore; Viva Knight, piano*

### Sonata in C minor, RY 53

**Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)**

*Adagio — Allegro — Andante — Allegro*

Antonio Vivaldi was a priest in Venice. He was famous throughout Europe as a virtuoso violinist and a leading composer. His set of violin concertos, *The Four Seasons* is still widely performed. His lifelong employer was the *Ospedale della Pietá*, a church orphanage for illegitimate daughters of privileged Venetians, where he directed a superb student orchestra. This sonata is in the four-movement *Sonata da chiesa* form often used by Vivaldi's great teacher Arcangelo Corelli (1653-1713), so it probably dates from early in his career. It differs from Corelli's sonatas in its longer phrases, more overt emotionality, and surprising twists of harmony, as well as its more demanding instrumental parts.

### Concerto in A major for Oboe d'amore and strings

**Georg Philipp Telemann (1681-1767)**

*Siciliano — Allegro — Largo — Vivace*



Telemann was educated at the University of Leipzig, where he was sent to study law but found music to be his true vocation, much to his parents' distress. He founded the University's *Collegium Musicum* (it met in coffee houses) which hosted amateur performances like the one satirized

in this 18<sup>th</sup>-century cartoon. In his long career Telemann wrote a huge quantity of successful church, theatrical and chamber music. He composed chamber music on a subscription basis for rich amateurs all over Europe. He was adept at keeping up with the trends and fashions of his time, writing in styles that extended from the late Baroque of Bach into the *style galant* of Haydn and early Mozart. Unlike Bach and Vivaldi, he became wealthy from his compositions and lived a long, comfortable life.

The opening *Siciliano* of this concerto is a traditionally slow shepherd's dance, with the oboe d'amore representing a shepherd's bagpipe. It is followed by a quick, syncopated dance in triple meter, *Allegro*. The *Largo* is a sad meditation on the night's excess, but the concluding *Vivace* wakes us up with imitation horn calls for a headlong Sunday morning chase after the wily fox.