

For Immediate Release January 2013
Press contact: John Orlando, [1-831-539-0000](tel:1-831-539-0000) joorland@gmail.com
www.distinguishedartists.org

distinguished ARTISTS
concert series

Distinguished Artists Concert Series

Now in its 28th year, The Distinguished Artists Concert Series proudly presents



Amit Peled, Cellist

Sunday, March 17, 2013, 3 PM

Resurrection Church, 7600 Soquel Drive, Aptos

TICKETS: on sale now \$ ____

BrownPaperTickets.com www.distinguishedartists.org/ or at the door 831-539-000

On what is probably the most famous cello in the world, Amit Peled will touch his skilled fingers on the fingerprints of music legendaries for the March 17 Distinguished Artists concert in Aptos.

The cello was Pablo Casals, the world's most famous cellist of last century (*see attached article*). Peled, has earned international critical praise as a musician of profound artistry and charismatic stage presence. The New York Times described his music as having a "glowing tone, a seductive timbre and an emotionally pointed approach to phrasing." He is a professor at The Johns Hopkins University and been featured on television and radio stations throughout the world, including NPR's "Performance Today," WGBH Boston, WQXR New York, WFMT Chicago, Deutschland Radio Berlin, Radio France, Swedish National Radio & TV, and Israeli National Radio & TV.

Peled has performed as a soloist at Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, New York; Salle Gaveau, Paris; Wigmore Hall, London; Konzerthaus, Berlin; and Tel Aviv's Mann Auditorium. In Chicago's Millennium Park, Peled joined the legendary Krzysztof Penderecki for his cello concerto; performed with Maestro Michael Stern and the IRIS Orchestra; the San Francisco Opera Orchestra; and with the Israel Chamber Orchestra. Peled released his third Centaur Records CD "Reflections" in the summer of 2012, Mr. Peled is also a frequent master teacher at many prestigious summer music festivals



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This project/program is funded in part by a grant from the Cultural Council of Santa Cruz County. **For more information visit**

www.distinguishedartists.org/ *Distinguished Artists Concert Series (DACs)* is a non-profit affiliate of Aptos Community Foundation, Aptos, California ###

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Pablo Casals was the world's most famous cellist of last century. His widow recently bequeathed his cello to Peled, an Israeli cello professor and performer who has earned international critical praise as a musician of profound artistry and charismatic stage presence. (*see attached article for story*)

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During the 2011–12 season, Mr. Peled toured extensively in the US and Germany with the Northwest Philharmonie visiting nineteen different cities, performing both Shostakovich Concerto No. 1 and Victor Herbert’s Cello Concerto,.

in Chicago’s Millennium Park, Peled joined the legendary Krzysztof Penderecki for his cello concerto; performed the Elgar and Shostakovich concertos with Maestro Michael Stern and the IRIS Orchestra; performed Haydn’s C Major Cello Concerto with Nicola Luisotti and the San Francisco Opera Orchestra; and performed the Schumann Concerto with the Israel Chamber Orchestra. After his enthusiastic recital debut at the Kennedy Center, Mr. Peled will return to that prestigious stage in the 2012–13 season.

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Distinguished Artists Concert Series (DACS) is a non-profit affiliate of the Aptos Community Foundation in Aptos, California

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Cellist Amit Peled inherits historic cello

Jan 2, 2012

by **Peggy Pollard**

"I felt I'm disturbing it, in a way, like waking up an old man," said Amit Peled to his audience, as he drew his bow across the strings of the antique cello.

It was a famous cello.

His audience was a woman -- a very sophisticated, 83-year-old woman.

Amit had grown up on a farm in Israel, a countryside kibbutz "in the middle of nowhere." At age 10, his dream in life was to play basketball, not music, until his father brought him cassette tapes of this particular cello's sounds.

And not only he, but a generation of musicians have grown up on this one cello's enchanting voice, had found their heart inspiration from its mesmerizing tones.

So now he found himself in front of this woman. A friend of his had arranged this private audition with the lady in her home because he thought "she should hear you."

First, for two hours, she listened intently to Amit perform on his own cello.

Although he is a music professor at The Johns Hopkins University and world class soloist, the woman turned his audition into a music lesson, giving him helpful critique, punctuated with pauses for conversation and glasses of wine.

She was Marta **Casals Istomin**, director of the [John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts](#) in [Washington, D.C.](#) The cello had belonged to the woman's husband, now dead these 40 years.

It was a 1733 Goffriller, acquired in 1913 -- 100 years ago -- by her husband, Pablo Casals, the most famous cellist of the last century and probably of all time. So it was on the cello's 100th anniversary that Marta listened to this young cellist play it.

Alongside her husband Pablo, and after his death, Marta has become a global arts legend, a world-renowned leader for arts, director of many festivals and top-level international performance institutions.

“I was a little nervous at first,” Peled says. “She’s such a legend, a very formal and classy lady, both in music and entrepreneurship. She has been everywhere. But she is very honest as a musician. She cares about how you make a phrase convey musicality.”

And after two hours, she was satisfied.

She had found the right heir for her husband’s legacy. That day she bestowed upon Peled her husband’s famous cello, on a long-term loan for him to perform for world audiences.

“I never dreamed it was possible. I couldn’t believe it!” he recalls.

She watched Peled’s hands caressing the antique, gleaming wood burnished by her husband’s hands for 60 years. She watched as Peled drew his bow across its strings with the delicacy of a brain surgeon, his touch sensing the perfect amount of pressure to make tones that cut into their minds with a razor-sharp blade of sound.

Peled knows what a huge historical legacy he has inherited. As a young musician, Pablo Casals played before Johannes Brahms (yes, that lullaby guy!).

And now Casals’ instrument is in Peled’s hands, for him to carry as a musical torch to the next generation of listeners.

“The cello’s special sound is more like a human voice than other cellos,” he explains. “It shapes words with its music; it suggests colors to you that you didn’t know existed. It’s a more sophisticated tool, like a handcrafted Rolls Royce instead of a Toyota.”

He feels the weight of more than 100 years of genius on his shoulders. “It’s a lot responsibility” he says with an incredulous laugh. His new mission in life -- to tour internationally with the cello, bringing “its link of music history to as many people in the world as possible” until his few years with it are up.

Then it will be put in a glass box in a museum in Madrid, to be admired but no longer played, he explained.

So, until then, he's bringing its sounds back life for global audiences. Since receiving Casal's Gofriller cello in July, Peled has already played it for thousands of people in concerts from San Francisco to Istanbul.

"This winter I'll be driving a long way in the Midwest, so I debated bringing it" Peled says. "But for the time I have it, I need to make sure as many people hear it as I can."

Two weeks ago Peled performed with it in D.C. Casals Istomin was in the audience. She was still smiling at the end. "It couldn't be in better hands" she told him.

**Amit Peled performs on Casal's Gofriller cello, with Alon Goldstein pianist
March 17, 3 p.m. Aptos Resurrection Church 7600 Soquel Drive, Aptos, CA 95003**

PROGRAM:

- *Beethoven's variations on the theme from the Magic flute, and Brahms sonatas.*
- *Chopin's Sonatas.*

<http://amitpeled.com>

<http://hosted-p0.vresp.com/363574/e28492f862/ARCHIVE>

<http://youtu.be/rTso0wYH4f4>

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