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ART &
entertainment

phillip freeman | his bass trombone

anthony prisk | his trumpet



IN THE FOLLOWING PAGES, WE BLEND THE ART OF WENDY WAGNER, ELAINE BRADFORD AND TARA CONLEY WITH THE MUSICAL ARTISTRY OF VARIOUS MUSICIANS FROM THE HOUSTON SYMPHONY AND MERCURY BAROQUE WHOSE TALENT LEFT US SPEECHLESS.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SOFIA VAN DER DYS
ASSISTED BY AARON COURTLAND
ART DIRECTION BY ALEX ROSA & CARLA VALENCIA DE MARTINEZ
ART HANDLER BEATRICE VALENCIA
STYLED BY ALI MARIE KAHN
ALL CLOTHING AVIABLE AT NEIMAN MARCUS IN THE GALLERIA
MAKEUP AND HAIR BY CAROL WAGENER
Q & AS BY WIL CHINCHILLA



OLEG SULYGA

MERCURY BAROQUE VIOLIN II

PHOTOGRAPHED WITH WENDY WAGNER'S QWERKYS AND
TARA CONLEY'S HIPPO LOUNGER

N

ative of Moscow, Russia, Oleg Sulyga began his music education in Moscow Central Music School, later continuing it at SMU in Dallas; Paris, France; and the University of Houston under guidance of professor Emanuel Barak. Mr. Sulyga was a member of world-renowned ensemble "The Moscow Virtuosi" led by Vladimir Spivakov, with which he traveled extensively and performed in the world's most prestigious concert halls. As a chamber musician he performed with the principals of the Wiener Philharmoniker. As orchestral musician he has performed in the Chicago Symphony and the Houston Symphony. Currently Mr. Sulyga is a violinist of the Houston Grand Opera Orchestra, member of the Mercury Baroque and a frequent chamber musician. During the last few seasons he was an Affiliate Artist at the University of Houston, teaching violin and assisting in the quartet in residence program.

WHILE IN THE PHOTO SHOOT YOU SAID THAT YOU WOULD DO ANYTHING FOR THE ARTS. HOW PASSIONATE ARE YOU ABOUT THE ARTS?

Oh, I love it. That's my life and I try to incorporate and fit everything around it.

IS THE VIOLIN YOUR FAVORITE INSTRUMENT?

That's my primary instrument, that is what I play most of the time. I play a little bit of viola and a little bit of piano as well but violin is my favorite. It has such a charming appeal to the audience and I love to play it.

WHAT CAME TO MIND DURING THE PHOTO SHOOT?

As we were shooting I was playing *por una cabeza* by Carlos Garbel and it is a tango, and for some reason it came up as I was looking back at you guys as you were looking back at me.



ANA TREVINO- GODFREY

SOPRANO

PHOTOGRAPHED WITH WENDY
WAGNER'S QWERKYS AND TARA
CONLEY'S STARFLOWER FENCE



Captivating and versatile soprano Ana Treviño-Godfrey is a founding member of Mercury Baroque and has been singing with the ensemble since its inception, performing concerts and operas in both the US and abroad, including performances at the 2003 Cervantino International Music Festival in Guanajuato and Le

Mexico. Her kind nature and beautiful voice had OO2Houston staff in a perpetual chills during our photo session. Equally proficient with other styles of music, Ms. Treviño-Godfrey was a featured soloist with both the Houston Chamber Orchestra and Orchestra X. She has also sung on numerous occasions with the Houston Chamber Choir. Originally from Monterrey, Mexico, she has won many vocal competitions. Her opera roles include Galatea from *Acis and Galatea*, *Colette* from *Le Devin du Village*, *Serpina* from *La Serva Padrona*, *Grisostomo* from *Don Quixote*, *Gasparina* from *La Canterina*, *Adèle* from *Die Fledermaus*, *Adina* from *Elisir d'Amore*, *Zerlina* from *Don Giovanni*, *Susanna* from *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *Despina* from *Comedien Tutti* and *Belinda* from *Dido and Aeneas*. Ms. Treviño-Godfrey is currently pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts at Rice University where she is researching Mexican Baroque Music.

WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO BE A VOCALIST? NATURAL TALENT OR UNTIRING EFFORT?

I have been singing all my life! I love to sing. I did not pick to be a musician. When people ask this question, I always say that music selected me. It has been a part of my daily life since I was very young. I love to learn new works, and also to perform pieces I am very familiar with. To be a musician, you have to have natural talent. You can't decide to be one in college. It takes years of preparation and hard work. It is a profession that requires hard work but it is extremely rewarding. Music speaks to the mind and the soul! It is a wonderful language!!

IF YOU WEREN'T A VOCALIST, WHAT OTHER JOB WOULD YOU HAVE?

I would be a medical doctor. I have always LOVED anatomy and learning about how our body functions. I am amazed by the human brain!

YOU BROUGHT YOUR CHILD. ARE THERE HOPES FOR HIM TO BECOME A MUSICIAN?

Music is a part of my family. My husband, Jonathan Godfrey, is the concertmaster for Mercury Baroque and the Bach Society, as well as the assistant concertmaster for Houston Grand Opera and Houston Ballet Orchestra. One of us practices in front of our children every day. It is part of our daily life. Music is a part of the environment for our children. Our daughter Isabella (5 years old) plays piano. Sebastian (8 months) loves to be sung to. We will support our children if they choose to pursue music. Music is very comforting in our household. Both Jonathan and I are founding members of Mercury Baroque.

Wendy Wagner's art possesses a lighthearted curiosity and silliness. It was a natural progression for her as a painter to birth her characters into life. Wagner's QWERKYS™ for both children and adults are a collection of adorable, humorous creatures that travel to Earth through a portal from their nearby dimension. Tootie can be quite precocious. Ideas and creativity "toot" out of her spout when she gets excited. Tootie was born from a "Tootie Egg." She is used to getting her way and is well liked. Featured in the shoot are also Froggee, Miss Pretty and Mr. Look at Ma. Created by Kenneth Finch & Wendy Wagner, www.qwerkys.com or call 713.459.2120