

Flutist Paul Fried/Harpist Maria Casale/Virtuosi de Los Angeles

## New CD of Mozart Concerti

Los Angeles-based flute virtuoso Paul Fried has held several principal positions with orchestras around the world during his distinguished career in professional music, including posts with the Boston Symphony, Boston Pops, and the Pittsburgh Symphony. He was given the opportunity as a young man in 1976 to perform as guest principal flute with

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the Berlin Philharmonic under Herbert van Karajan and since moving to Los Angeles from the East Coast in 1985 has enjoyed a busy Hollywood studio

career, playing flute on more than 200 movie scores and working with some of the industry's greatest film conductors, like John Williams and David Newman. For the past 20 years he has served as principal flute of the Los Angeles-based New West Symphony Orchestra.

Born into an especially talented musical family, including his father and two siblings, Fried's professional career



began at the age of eight, when the world famous flute virtuoso Julius Baker heard and accepted him as a student at Juilliard. In an incredible fluke of genetic fate, Paul's older brothers were accepted to Juilliard at the same time on oboe and bassoon. Fried's violinist son Alexander, already an experienced concerto soloist at 12, is clearly following in the footsteps of his father, uncles, and grandfather.

Paul Fried's [latest CD release](#) the ninth in a series of flute-centric recordings over the past several years, is devoted to concerti for the instrument by Mozart including the *Concerto No. 1 in G Major, K. 313*; the *Concerto No. 2 in D Major, K. 314*; and the *Concerto for Flute & Harp K. 299* with principal harp of the New West Symphony, Maria Casale. All three concerti were composed in 1778 when Mozart was in his twenties and bubbling with youthful vigor and bright optimism.

The accompanying artists on this CD are the Virtuosi de Los Angeles, a one-player-to-a-part chamber ensemble made up of some of the best professional musicians in the business, including violinists Roger Wilkie, Armen Anassian, and Rafael Rishik; violists Evan and Elizabeth Wilson; Dennis Karmazyn cello; Nicholas Philippon bass; Allan Vogel and Francisco Castillo oboes; Carol Drake and John Mason horns; and flutists Salpy Kerkonian and Suzanne Duffy. The disk can be purchased at the artist's web site, [www.paulfriedflutist.com](http://www.paulfriedflutist.com).

There is no mistaking Paul



Fried's virtuoso playing in the G Major and D Major solo concerti, which are first up on the disc. His tone is clean and bright throughout, with particularly satisfying cadenzas, his own, ramping up the excitement of both works. Microphone placement and ensemble balances, a little murky in the *G Major Concerto*, are better realized in the *D Major Concerto*, lending a much leaner sound quality to the 13 players of Virtuosi de Los Angeles.

Without doubt the highlight of the CD is the performance by Fried and harpist Maria Casale of the popular *Concerto for Flute and Harp in C Major, K. 299*. Casale has performed with most of the major orchestras in the region including the Los Angeles Philharmonic and Hollywood Bowl Orchestra and is a powerful presence on the CD, excelling in versatile technique and confident playing, while also bringing sparkle and energy to the performance. Fried's playing, as always, impeccable. Balance between flute, harp, and the Virtuosi is excellent, though the orchestra at times sounds a little distant. In all, a charming and lighthearted recording of Mozart masterpieces.

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[Daniel Kepl](#) has been writing music, theatre, and dance reviews since he was a teenager. His professional expertise is as an orchestra conductor. Emeriti Philharmonic just finished its first tour of Cuba June 23 to July 8 2017 and a two week tour of Portugal is planned for late August/early September 2018. For more information visit [www.emeritiphilharmonic.com](http://www.emeritiphilharmonic.com).

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