Dr. Andrey Kasparov was born in the former Soviet Union to a family of Armenian descent. At fifteen, he moved to Moscow, where he later entered the Moscow State Conservatory, graduating with honors in Music Composition and Piano in 1989 and 1990, respectively. He also holds a Doctor of Music degree in Music Composition from the Indiana University School of Music in Bloomington. Presently, Kasparov is Professor of Music at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. He is also Artistic Co-Director of the Norfolk Chamber Consort and, together with Oksana Lutsyshyn, a founding member of the award-winning Invencia Piano Duo.

In addition to the New Music Ensemble, that he founded, Kasparov teaches undergraduate and graduate Music Composition, Piano, and all levels of undergraduate Music Theory. He also coordinates the departments of Composition, Piano and Music Theory.

Kasparov’s works have been performed at Moscow Autumn; International Forum of Composers in Kiev, Ukraine; Internationale Ferienkurse für Neue Musik in Darmstadt, Germany; the Encuentros festival in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and many other festivals and venues in Moscow, New York, Paris, Yerevan, Ottawa, Chicago, Cleveland, San Francisco, and other cities in the world.

Kasparov has appeared in concerts as a recitalist, soloist with orchestras and chamber musician throughout the former Soviet Union, Europe and the Americas. In 1994, he was a soloist with the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic in the world première of the newly discovered revised edition of Béla Bartók’s Piano Concerto No. 3. Music critics describe Kasparov’s solo and chamber performances as “flawless,” “phenomenal,” “dazzling,” “electrifying” and “authoritative.” Reviewing the CD Hommages musicaux in the American Record Guide, James Harrington wrote, “Hats off to the Kasparov-Lutsyshyn piano duo team for bringing these fascinating pieces to us in their original forms.” Kasparov’s and Lutsyshyn’s CD with piano music by Adolphus Hailstork was released by Albany Records in May 2009 and recognized by the Fanfare Magazine as “a significant release.” He and Lutsyshyn have recently recorded the entire works by Florent Schmitt for piano duo. Released by Naxos Records, this set has been met with more than 30 laudatory reviews in four languages around the world. The two pianists have recently completed the works by Paul Bowles for piano solo and duo, due for release on Naxos in March and June of this year, respectively.

Kasparov has won prizes at numerous composition and piano competitions such as the Second Prize at the Sergei Prokofiev International Composition Competition in Moscow and the Albert Roussel Prize at the Orléans International Piano Competition. He has been a recipient of various awards, including ASCAP, the Indiana Arts Commission Fellowship and a grant from the Yvar Mikhashoff Trust for New Music.

In addition to Albany Records, Kasparov’s music and performances are featured on labels such as Atlantic Music Artist Agency in Ukraine, Vienna Modern Masters, and Contemporary Record Society. His compositions and articles have been published by the Kompozitor Publishing House in Moscow, Russia and Hungarian Music Quarterly in Budapest, Hungary, among others.
Program

Music for Solo Cello (1982)
Allan Blank (1925-2013)
Malachi Brown, cello

A Set of Opposites (2000)
I. Expansive
II. Calm, introspective
III. (Solo Cello)
IV. Driving
Malachi Brown, cello
Andrey Kasparov, piano

Quodlibetudes (1988)
Harvey Sollberger (b. 1938)
II. Undulating
III. Drumming
V. Ticking
Tiffany Sitton, flute

Duo Concertante (2008)
Tiffany Sitton, flute
Andrey Kasparov, piano

The Great Train Race (1993)
Tiffany Sitton, flute

Songs of Kalbasi (2015)
John Allgood (b. 1994)
I. Possession
II. Dancing Tango
Cailin Gwaltney, soprano

Five Sketches (2009)
I. Greetings
II. Reflective
IV. Level-headed
III. Active
Benjamin Glosser, alto saxophone

Two Pieces for Alto Saxophone and Piano (1997)
I. Reverie
II. Awakening
Benjamin Glosser, alto saxophone
Nichole Dorobanov, piano

ODU New Music Ensemble

Allan Blank
(1925-2013)
Malachi Brown, cello
Nichole Dorobanov, piano
Benjamin Glosser, alto saxophone
Cailin Gwaltney, soprano
Tiffany Sitton, flute
Andrey Kasparov, piano

Songs of Kalbasi
Possession by Sheema Kalbasi

The world of dreams and the world of reality. They collide and separate but never disconnect. They now embrace one another in sensuality. The warmth and profound feelings in admiration of each for the other. They no longer need to approach. They do not fear abundance or flammability. They are dance partners seeking possession.

Dancing Tango by Sheema Kalbasi

Oh, Orlando!
Remember the night we danced quietly on the sands where music was played? Your words were wanderers, said quietly in the pockets of my ears.

Oh, Esphahan!1
With your turquoise blue mosques and lovers hiding under the sands by the Zayandehrood2 and its haunting blue skies. Still the words did wonders when they were said quietly in the pockets of my ears.

Time is eternity, my dignity resides in yours and your words are wonders that I count as precious coins kept quietly in the pockets of my tears.

(These texts are used with the permission from the poet)

1 Esphahan is a city in Iran
2 Zayandehrood is a river in Esphahan