

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 8, 2016

### AFINAT RECORDS ANNOUNCES INAUGURAL RELEASE: *PROKOFIEV: MUSIC FOR VIOLIN AND PIANO*

Debut violin-piano duo album by first violinist Jameson Cooper of the acclaimed Euclid Quartet, and pianist Ketevan Badridze, member of the renowned Toradze Piano Studio

The album celebrates the 125<sup>th</sup> birthday of Sergei Prokofiev in 2016



NEW YORK, NY – On September 23, 2016, the new boutique label [Afinat Records](http://www.afinat.com) will release its inaugural recording: *Prokofiev: Music for Violin and Piano* [AR1601], featuring British first violinist Jameson Cooper of the acclaimed Euclid Quartet, and Georgian pianist Ketevan Badridze, a member of the internationally renowned Toradze Piano Studio headed by Georgian pianist Alexander Toradze. The duo's debut album, dedicated to their parents, also celebrates the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of **Sergei Prokofiev** in 2016 and features the composer's *Five Melodies, Op. 35bis*, and the two *Violin Sonatas, No. 1, Op. 80 in f minor*, and *No. 2, Op. 94bis in D Major*.

"Prokofiev's f minor was the first sonata that Keti and I played together," Mr. Cooper says, "It was almost by chance, really, but led to a natural decision to begin a new duo partnership with Prokofiev." The two artists first

performed together in recital at Indiana University South Bend, where they both serve on the music faculty. Mr. Cooper is widely known as first violinist of the acclaimed Euclid Quartet, artist-in-residence at IUSB's Ernestine M. Raclin School of the Arts. Ms. Badridze is one of the most accomplished alumni of the internationally renowned Toradze Piano Studio, under the leadership of Georgian pianist Alexander (Lexo) Toradze, the Martin Distinguished Professor of Piano at IUSB.

Mr. Cooper says, "Russian literature and Prokofiev in particular is in the DNA of Lexo's very successful piano students. Frequently, as the quartet rehearses in our studio, we often hear a 'War Sonata' drifting down from upstairs. Prokofiev is not known primarily for his chamber music. But in his duo works and particularly in the f minor violin sonata, I believe he penned some of his most personal and meaningful music and we see that he was indeed master of intimate musical conversation and close synergy. Keti and I relished the opportunity to explore these terrific pieces and expound their chamber music qualities."

- Continued -

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Born in Sheffield, England, **Jameson Cooper** began studying the violin at age six. He went on to be concertmaster of the National Youth Chamber Orchestra before earning a bachelor's degree in violin and the Professional Performers Diploma from the Royal Northern College of Music. He continued his studies in the U.S. at the Aspen Music Festival with Dorothy Delay and Masao Kawasaki, then later with Roland and Almita Vamos. He holds master's degrees in violin performance and in orchestral conducting from Kent State University. As a founding member of the Euclid Quartet (in residence at Indiana University South Bend and the Rocky Ridge Festival in Colorado), Cooper has won numerous prestigious competition prizes, an award from the National Endowment for the Arts, and performed to critical acclaim throughout the U.S. in such venues as Carnegie Hall, The Library of Congress and the National Gallery of Art. Cooper has also performed as soloist in major halls in Europe and the U.S. including most recently at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. He is the dedicatee of several new works for violin and has performed many premieres of solo and chamber works. Cooper has given master classes at universities and colleges throughout the U.S. He regularly serves as a judge for the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition senior strings division. His other commercial recordings include the Béla Bartók string quartets, and String Quartets Nos. 1-4 by Hugo Kauder, all as first violinist of the Euclid Quartet, and an album of contemporary solo violin repertoire. He plays a violin by Gregg Alf.

Born in Tbilisi, Georgia, **Ketevan Badridze** is an award-winning classical pianist. Since her first performance with an orchestra at the age of ten, Badridze has appeared with Tbilisi National Symphony and Chamber Orchestras, Yerevan Philharmonic Orchestra, BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra, and South Bend Symphony Orchestra. She is a seasoned performer of solo and chamber music in United States, Georgia, France, Austria, Holland, Italy and Germany. Her collaborations include performances with Lisa Batiashvili, Alexander Korsantia, Gregory Fulkerson as well as Euclid and Georgian National Quartets. Badridze is a prizewinner of numerous international competitions, such as Newport International Piano Competition -UK, The World International Piano Competition – Cincinnati, New Orleans International Piano Competition, and the Bartok-Kabalevsky-Prokofiev International Piano Competition. She received her Master of Music and Postgraduate degrees from Tbilisi State Conservatory and in 1993 she was appointed to the piano faculty there. In 2000, Ketevan moved to the United States to study with Professor Alexander Toradze. She has appeared with the Toradze Piano Studio at numerous music venues around Europe and the United States, including Columbia University in New-York, Wigmore Hall in London, Academia of Santa Cecilia in Rome, Settimane Musicali di Stresa e del Lago Maggiore and Ravenna Festival in Italy, Ruhr Keyboard Festival in Germany, and the Irving S. Gilmore International Keyboard Festival as a part of "World Rising Stars" series broadcast on the National Public Radio (NPR). Since 2005, Badridze has been a Senior Lecturer of music at Indiana University at South Bend.

## ABOUT AFINAT RECORDS

**Afinat Records** is a new boutique record label created as a companion venture to artist management and public relations firm, **A440 Arts Group**. Afinat is operated by A440 partners: **R. Lee Streby**, who will serve as CEO, focusing on production and marketing, and **Paula A. Mlyn**, Vice President for A&R and promotion. Mr. Streby says, "Paula and I have worked together since 2010 and began strategizing about launching an in-house label two years ago. We chose the name 'afinat' from a Catalan word that means 'in tune,' which ties nicely with our A440 branding. Afinat's vision is not grandiose – we are guided by three little words: simply great music by deserving artists. When we heard Jamie and Keti's tour-de-force master, we knew it was the ideal project to launch our label. We intend to release selected projects one at a time, at least for the immediate future, so we can give our artists the complete focus and attention they deserve." For more information, visit [www.afinat.com](http://www.afinat.com) or [www.a440arts.com](http://www.a440arts.com).

Follow Afinat Records on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), or [Instagram](#).