Announcing the program for Bank of America Chamber Music

Eleven programs—each performed three times—feature new works and arrangements by Mark Applebaum, Steven Banks, Paul Wiancko, and Stephen Prutsman

Plus: a new scenic backdrop, to be revealed

May 27 – June 12 · 11:00am and 1:00pm · Dock Street Theatre

May 3, 2022 (Charleston, SC) — Geoff Nuttall, the Charles E. and Andrea L. Volpe Director of Chamber Music, announced the full program for the 2022 Bank of America Chamber Music series at Dock Street Theatre.

A linchpin of Spoleto since its inaugural season, the Bank of America Chamber Music series continues to be one of the most beloved artistic elements of the Festival. "So much of what makes this series universally renowned is due to Geoff Nuttall’s careful curation of each of the 11 programs,” says Spoleto Festival USA General Director Mena Mark Hanna. “He’s ambitious and wild—pairing Mozart with Caroline Shaw or Heinrich Biber with Paul Wiancko, for instance—drawing connections between such seemingly disparate works that can wow established musicologists and entice and engage more novice listeners at the same time.”

Following a season cancellation in 2020 and a drastically scaled-down 2021 season, this year promises a return to full capacity, with audiences brimming with enthusiasm for Nuttall and his merry band of top international talent. “There are few theaters worldwide in which I feel as supported and energized as I do in Dock Street and at Spoleto” says Nuttall, whose jovial and captivating emceeing of the concerts is a large reason for the routinely full audiences. “On top of that, I’m playing alongside my friends and exceptional musicians who inspire me most—those who are creating incredible new works and playing older masterpieces extraordinarily.”
Audiences will be surprised to see a new scenic backdrop onstage. The Festival commissioned Charleston-based artist Fletcher Williams III to create a work of art. His piece, titled *Dusk*, a 50- x 38-inch acrylic on paper, will be transferred to the fabric and revealed on May 27. This is the first time since Christian Thee’s 35- by 20-foot proscenium, created in 1983, that musicians will be framed by a new curtain. The work, notes Williams, takes inspiration from the South, which he describes as a “labyrinth. It’s whimsical, sacred, and spirited; the ground hallow and air heavy with salt. When peering into its dense canopies of Spanish moss or tunnels of azaleas, I sense something elusive and wild, indescribable. *Dusk* is a memory of this place, which floats above the ground and reflects below the water’s surface.”

On the 2022 program, more than 340 years span between the earliest Renaissance piece and most contemporary composition—a world premiere from Mark Applebaum, a 2015 Bank of America Chamber Music composer in residence. The season also features its signature mix of returning and new artists. Among the series’ first timers are pianist Julia Hamos, Adam Cockerham on theorbo, violinist Alexi Kenney, recorder virtuoso Tabea Debus and the series’ first-ever saxophonist and composer Steven Banks. Two of Banks’s new works, *Cries, Sighs, and Dreams* and *As I Am*, can be heard on Program II and III.

In addition to Nuttall’s St. Lawrence String Quartet, the Castalian String Quartet—which was set to appear during the 2020 season before cancellation—will perform throughout the series. The Castalian Quartet, formed in 2011 and named the inaugural Hans Keller String Quartet in Residence at Oxford University in 2021, is garnering recognition as a dynamic ensemble, having made critically acclaimed debuts at Lincoln Center, Banff International String Quartet Festival, the Vancouver Recital Series, and The Philips Collection in Washington, DC.

Also joining the group for the first time is Grammy Award winning tenor Karim Sulayman, whose world premiere opera *Unholy Wars* premieres this season, also at Dock Street Theatre (May 29, June 1, June 3, June 6). On program VI, Sulayman performs “Where’er you walk” from George Frideric Handel’s *Semele*.

Returning musicians include oboist James Austin Smith, violinist Livia Sohn, violist Ayane Kozasa, cellists Paul Wiancko and Nina Lee, bassist Anthony Manzo, pianists Pedja Muzijevic and Inon Barnatan, and tenor Paul Groves. Clarinetist Todd Palmer, who first performed at the Festival in 1994, premieres a new arrangement of the Overture from Mozart’s *Le Nozze di Figaro*, performed for 10 instrumentalists on program XI. On program VIII, pianist Stephen Prutsman debuts a selection of five Stevie Wonder songs, performed by tenor Paul Groves and accompanied by Prutsman himself on piano.

Again in 2022, South Carolina Public Radio will record and broadcast each of the series’ concerts on the program “Sonatas and Soundscapes,” weekdays at 11:00am. Hosted by Bradley Fuller, the concerts—released in full—are interspersed with Festival artists interviews, providing illuminating peeks into the
performers’ practices and approach to the music. Those outside of South Carolina can stream the program live at scpublicradio.org.

The full program, with all concert details, follows. Tickets to the Bank of America Chamber series can be purchased online at spoletousa.org or by calling the Spoleto box office at 843.579.3100. In-person box office sales begin Monday, May 2, at the Charleston Gaillard Center (Monday through Friday, 11:00am to 6:00pm; beginning May 27, hours are Monday through Sunday 11:00am to 6:00pm.)

BANK OF AMERICA CHAMBER MUSIC

Bank of America’s title sponsorship of Spoleto Festival USA’s chamber music series began in 2000. Says Mark Munn, President of Bank of America Charleston: “At Bank of America, we believe in the power of the arts to help economies thrive, to educate and enrich societies, and to create greater cultural understanding. Being a part of Spoleto and the presenting sponsor of the Bank of America Chamber Music series for nearly 30 years is just one example of the bank’s leadership in helping the arts flourish across the Lowcountry and around the world.”

FLETCHER WILLIAMS iii

Fletcher Williams III (b. 1987) is a Charleston-based interdisciplinary artist working in painting, sculpture, and site-specific installation. He received his BFA in 2010 from The Cooper Union and returned to the Lowcountry in 2013. During this time, Williams has developed an experimental and material-based practice that fuses Charleston’s natural and built environments. As an independent artist, Williams has produced numerous solo exhibitions within the Charleston area and participated in group exhibitions throughout the United States. In 2021, South Arts named Williams the South Carolina State Fellow and Southern Prize Finalist. For more information, fletcher3.com.

SPOLETO FESTIVAL USA

Spoleto Festival USA was founded in 1977 by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Gian Carlo Menotti, who sought to create an American counterpart to the annual Festival of Two Worlds in Spoleto, Italy, that he had founded in 1958. Now in its 46th year, Spoleto Festival USA is internationally recognized as America’s premier performing arts festival. For 17 days and nights each spring, Spoleto Festival USA fills Charleston’s historic theaters, churches, and outdoor spaces with performances in opera; theater; dance; and chamber, symphonic, choral, and jazz music. Spoleto’s mission is to present programs of the highest artistic caliber while maintaining a dedication to young artists, a commitment to all forms of the performing arts, a passion for contemporary innovation, and an enthusiasm for providing unique performance opportunities for established artists. Beyond its role as a launching pad for young talent, Spoleto also serves as a catalyst for cultural change and has aided in Charleston’s flourishing as a top arts and culture destination. With General Director Mena Mark Hanna at its helm, the 2022 season takes place May 27 to June 12 in various locations on the downtown peninsula. Spoleto Festival USA is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization.

Images: A selection of high-resolution images can be found in Spoleto Festival USA’s online gallery. For more information, visit the press room.
BANK OF AMERICA CHAMBER MUSIC
2022 Programs, May 27 – June 12

Geoff Nuttall, The Charles E. and Andrea L. Volpe Director of Chamber Music
Livia Sohn, Assistant Director of Chamber Music

Artists

- Saxophone/Composer: Steven Banks
- Recorders: Tabea Debus
- Oboe: James Austin Smith
- Clarinet/Arranger: Todd Palmer
- Violin: Alexi Kenney
- Violin: Livia Sohn
- Viola: Ayane Kozasa
- Cello/Composer: Paul Wiancko
- Cello: Nina Lee
- Double Bass: Anthony Manzo
- Piano/Harpsichord: Pedja Muzijevic
- Piano/Arranger: Stephen Prutsman
- Piano/Arranger: Inon Barnatan
- Piano: Julia Hamos
- Tenor: Paul Groves
- Tenor: Karim Sulayman
- Theorbo: Adam Cockerham

St. Lawrence String Quartet

- Violin: Geoff Nuttall
- Violin: Owen Dalby
- Viola: Lesley Robertson
- Cello: Christopher Costanza

Castalian String Quartet

- Violin: Sini Simonen
- Violin: Daniel Roberts
- Viola: Ruth Gibson
- Cello: Christopher Graves
PROGRAM I        May 27, 1:00pm; May 28, 11:00am and 1:00pm

String Sextet from Capriccio, op. 85
St. Lawrence String Quartet; Ayane Kozasa, viola; Paul Wiancko, cello

Limestone & Felt
Ayane Kozasa, viola; Paul Wiancko, cello

String Sextet in E-flat major, K. 428
St. Lawrence String Quartet

* This chamber music concert has been endowed though the generous support of Ann and Andrew Barrett.

PROGRAM II       May 29, 11:00am and 1:00pm*; May 30, 11:00am

Passacaglia
Alexi Kenney, violin

Cries, Sighs, and Dreams
Steven Banks, saxophone; St. Lawrence String Quartet

Sonata in Three Parts in G minor, Z.790
Alexi Kenney, violin; Ayane Kozasa, viola; Paul Wiancko, cello

Tiny Doors to Big Worlds
St. Lawrence String Quartet; Paul Wiancko, cello

* This chamber music concert has been endowed though the generous support of Ann and Michael Tarwater.

PROGRAM III        May 30, 1:00pm; May 31, 11:00am and 1:00pm

As I Am
Steven Banks, baritone saxophone; Pedja Muzijevic, piano

Außer Atem for three recorders and one player
Tabea Debus, recorders

String Quartet in D minor, op. 76 no. 2, “Quinten”
St. Lawrence String Quartet

Ever Yours
St. Lawrence String Quartet; Livia Sohn, violin; Alexi Kenney, violin; Ayane Kozasa, viola; Paul Wiancko, cello

^ This chamber music concert has been endowed though the generous support of Ann and Andrew Barrett.
PROGRAM IV

**Die Romantiker, op. 167**
Geoff Nuttall, violin; Alexi Kenney, violin; Ayane Kozasa, viola; Anthony Manzo, double bass

**Recorder Concerto in C major, RV 443**
Tabea Debus, recorder; Geoff Nuttall, violin; Alexi Kenney, violin; Ayane Kozasa, viola; Paul Wiancko, cello; Anthony Manzo, double bass; Pedja Muzijevic, harpsichord

**“The War Below” from Prospects of a Misplaced Year**
Pedja Muzijevic, piano; Geoff Nuttall, violin; Alexi Kenney, violin; Ayane Kozasa, viola; Paul Wiancko, cello

**String Quartet in F minor, op. 80**
Castalian String Quartet

*This chamber music concert is dedicated in loving memory of Mary and Marion Field.*

PROGRAM V

**Brandenburg Concerto in F major, BWV 1047**
Alexi Kenney, violin; Tabea Debus, recorder; James Austin Smith, oboe; Todd Palmer, clarinet; Castalian String Quartet; Anthony Manzo, double bass; Pedja Muzijevic, harpsichord

**Children of The Fire**
James Austin Smith, oboe; Todd Palmer, clarinet; Sini Simonen, violin; Ruth Gibson, viola; Anthony Manzo, double bass

**La Monica Renaissance set**
Tabea Debus, recorder; Adam Cockerham, theorbo

**Two and a Half Minutes to Midnight**
Tabea Debus, recorder

**Piano Quartet in E-flat major, op. 47**
Stephen Prutsman, piano; Alexi Kenney, violin; Ayane Kozasa, viola; Paul Wiancko, cello

PROGRAM VI

**Concerto a quattro for Recorder, Oboe, Violin, and Continuo in G major, TWV 43:G6**
Tabea Debus, recorder; James Austin Smith, oboe; Alexi Kenney, violin; Paul Wiancko, cello; Pedja Muzijevic, harpsichord
“Where’er you walk” from Semele, HWV 58
George Frideric Handel (1685 – 1759)
Karim Sulayman, tenor
Geoff Nuttall, violin; Alexi Kenney, violin; Sini Simonen, violin; Daniel Roberts, violin;
Ayane Kozasa, viola; Ruth Gibson, viola; Paul Wiancko, cello; Christopher Graves,
double bass; Anthony Manzo, double bass; Pedja Muzijevic, harpsichord

Sextet in B-flat major, op. 18
Johannes Brahms (1833 – 97)
Castalian String Quartet, Ayane Kozasa, viola, Paul Wiancko, cello

^ This chamber music concert has been endowed through the generous support of Gary and Mary Becker.

PROGRAM VII
June 5, 1:00pm; June 6, 11:00am and 1:00pm

Première Rhapsodie
Claude Debussy (1862 – 1918)
Todd Palmer, clarinet; Stephen Prutsman, piano

More or Less for pre-recorded and live violin (world premiere)
Mark Applebaum (b. 1967)
Livia Sohn, violin

Oboe Concerto in D minor, op. 9 no. 2
Tomaso Albinoni (1671 – 1751)
James Austin Smith, oboe; Castalian String Quartet; Anthony Manzo,
double bass; Pedja Muzijevic, harpsichord

Piano Quintet in A minor, op. 30
Louise Farrenc (1804 – 75)
Julia Hamos, piano; Alexi Kenney, violin; Ruth Gibson, viola; Nina Lee, cello;
Anthony Manzo, double bass

PROGRAM VIII
June 7, 11:00am and 1:00pm; June 8, 11:00am

Ten Blake Songs (selected)
Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872 – 1958)
I.  “Infant Joy”
III. “The Piper”
VI. “Ah! Sun-flower”
IX. “The Divine Image”
X. “Eternity”
Paul Groves, tenor; James Austin Smith, oboe

Symphonic Dances, op. 45: III. Lento assai – Allegro vivace
Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873 – 1943),
arr. Inon Barnatan
Inon Barnatan, piano

Sonata for Clarinet and Cello
Francis Poulenc (1899 – 1963)
Todd Palmer, clarinet; Nina Lee, cello

Steve’s Wonder
arr. Stephen Prutsman
Five Stevie Wonder songs for tenor and piano
Paul Groves, tenor
Stephen Prutsman, piano
PROGRAM IX

Three Romances, op. 22
James Austin Smith, oboe; Pedja Muzijevic, piano

String Quartet, “Kreutzer Sonata”
Castalian String Quartet

Piano Trio in B major, op. 8
Inon Barnatan, piano; Livia Sohn, violin; Nina Lee, cello

PROGRAM X

Keyboard Concerto in E-flat major, op. 7 no. 5, WC59
Pedja Muzijevic, piano; Geoff Nuttall, violin; Livia Sohn, violin;
Nina Lee, cello; Anthony Manzo, double bass

Sonata for Double Bass and Piano
Anthony Manzo, double bass; Inon Barnatan, piano

Clarinet Quintet in F-sharp minor, op. 10
Todd Palmer, clarinet; Castalian String Quartet

* This chamber music concert has been endowed though the generous support of Deborah Chalsty.

PROGRAM XI

Le Nozze di Figaro: Overture, Act I (world premiere)
Castalian String Quartet, Geoff Nuttall, violin; Livia Sohn, violin; Nina Lee, cello;
Anthony Manzo, double bass; James Austin Smith, oboe; Todd Palmer, clarinet

Trio Sonata in C minor, HWV 386a
James Austin Smith, oboe; Geoff Nuttall, violin; Nina Lee, cello;
Pedja Muzijevic, harpsichord

The Rite of Spring for two pianos
Inon Barnatan, piano; Pedja Muzijevic, piano