

Bank of America Chamber Music

Voice	Anthony Roth Costanzo Mahsa Vahdat
Flute	Tara Helen O'Connor
Clarinet	Todd Palmer
Saxophone	Steven Banks
Piano	Pedja Mužijević Soyeon Kate Lee Inon Barnatan Stephen Prutsman
Violin	Alexi Kenney David McCarroll Melissa White Geneva Lewis Daniel Phillips Daniel Chong Livia Sohn
Viola	Ayane Kozasa Celia Hatton Jessica Bodner
Cello	Paul Wiancko Gabriel Cabezas Jay Campbell Raman Ramakrishnan
Bass	Anthony Manzo
Composer-in-Residence	Mahsa Vahdat

DOCK STREET THEATRE

Friday, May 23 at 1:00pm
 Saturday, May 24–Wednesday, May 28 at 11:00am and 1:00pm
 Thursday, May 29 at 1:00pm and 6:00pm
 Friday, May 30–Tuesday, June 3 at 11:00am and 1:00pm
 Wednesday, June 4 at 1:00pm and 6:00pm
 Thursday, June 5–Sunday, June 8 at 11:00am and 1:00pm

Approximately 1 hour, 15 minutes

CONVERSATIONS WITH

Wednesday, June 4 at 3:00pm

Host and CBS News Correspondent
 Martha Teichner interviews Mahsa Vahdat
 at the Dock Street Theatre.



Sponsored by Bank of America.

The Chamber Music series is generously supported by Suzan D. Boyd and M. Edward Sellers, and Deborah Chalsty.

The following musicians' participation is generously sponsored by the individuals listed below: Ayane Kozasa is sponsored by Judith Green; Geneva Lewis is sponsored by Debra and Mitchell Sonkin; Inon Bartanan and Todd Palmer are sponsored by Miriam DeAntonio, M.D.; Steven Banks, Jay Campbell, Celia Hatton, Stephen Prutsman and Livia Sohn are sponsored by Erica Pascal and Michael Hostetler.

Additional support is provided by Dan Logan, Martin Morad, Drs. Angeleita Floyd and Scott Cawelti, The Robert and Janice McNair Foundation, and the Samuel Freeman Charitable Trust.

This series is made possible in part through funds from the Spoleto Festival USA Endowment, generously supported by BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina, Wells Fargo, and Bank of America.

PROGRAM I May 23, 1:00pm; May 24, 11:00am & 1:00pm

“Happy Days Are Here Again” / “He Touched Me” / “My Man”

(arr. Alex Fortes)

Anthony Roth Costanzo, *countertenor*; Melissa White, *violin*; Alexi Kenney, *violin*; Ayane Kozasa, *viola*; Paul Wiancko, *cello*; Pedja Mužijević, *piano*

Pequena Czarda for Saxophone and Piano

Pedro Iturralde (1929-2020)

Steven Banks, *saxophone*; Soyeon Kate Lee, *piano*

When The Night

Paul Wiancko (b. 1983)

Owls: Alexi Kenney, *violin*; Ayane Kozasa, *viola*; Gabriel Cabezas, *cello*; Paul Wiancko, *cello*

String Quartet No. 2 in D Major

Alexander Borodin (1833-1887)

David McCarroll, *violin*; Melissa White, *violin*; Celia Hatton, *viola*; Paul Wiancko, *cello*

The May 23 at 1:00pm performance of Program I has been endowed through the generous support of Ann and Andrew Barrett.

PROGRAM II May 25, 11:00am & 1:00pm; May 26, 11:00am

Reqs (arr. Owls)

Franghiz Ali-Zadeh (b. 1947)

Les Barricades Mystérieuses (arr. Owls)

François Couperin (1688-1733)

Owls: Alexi Kenney, *violin*; Ayane Kozasa, *viola*; Gabriel Cabezas, *cello*; Paul Wiancko, *cello*

“Sol da te mio dolce amore” aria from *Orlando furioso*

Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)

(Saxophone arr. Adam Estes)

“Sento in Seno” aria from *Tieteburga and Il Giustino*

Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)

“Crying”

Roy Orbison (1936-1988)

(arr. Stephen Prutsman)

Anthony Roth Costanzo, *countertenor*; David McCarroll, *violin*; Melissa White, *violin*; Celia Hatton, *viola*; Paul Wiancko, *cello*; Steven Banks, *saxophone*; Pedja Mužijević, *piano*

Piano Quintet in G minor

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912)

David McCarroll, *violin*; Melissa White, *violin*; Celia Hatton, *viola*; Gabriel Cabezas, *cello*; Soyeon Kate Lee, *piano*

The May 25 at 1:00pm performance of Program II has been endowed through the generous support of Ann and Michael Tarwater.

PROGRAM III May 26, 1:00pm; May 27, 11:00am & 1:00pm

Love Triangle

Dinuk Wijeratne (b. 1978)

Geneva Lewis, *violin*; Jay Campbell, *cello*; Soyeon Kate Lee, *piano*

Adagio for Strings (arr. Owls)

Samuel Barber (1910-1981)

Ricercar (arr. Owls)

Dan Trueman and Monica Mugan

Owls: Alexi Kenney, *violin*; Ayane Kozasa, *viola*; Gabriel Cabezas, *cello*; Paul Wiancko, *cello*

“O Virtus Sapientiae”

Hildegard von Bingen (1098-1179)

“And So”

Caroline Shaw (b. 1982)

“Other Song”

Caroline Shaw (b. 1982)

Alexi Kenney, *violin*; Melissa White, *violin*; Celia Hatton, *viola*; Gabriel Cabezas, *cello*; Steven Banks, *saxophone*

Quartet Op. 95, No. 11 “Serioso”

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

David McCarroll, *violin*; Alexi Kenney, *violin*; Ayane Kozasa, *viola*; Paul Wiancko, *cello*

PROGRAM IV May 28, 11:00am & 1:00pm; May 29, 1:00pm**Moreni for Clarinet, String Quartet, and Piano**Geneva Lewis, *violin*; Melissa White, *violin*; Celia Hatton, *viola*; Jay Campbell, *cello*; Todd Palmer, *clarinet*; Pedja Mužijević, *piano***Dobrinka Tabakova (b. 1980)****G Song**Alexi Kenney, *violin*; Geneva Lewis, *violin*; Ayane Kozasa, *viola*; Paul Wiancko, *cello***Terry Riley (b. 1935)****Piano Quartet No. 2 in G minor**Melissa White, *violin*; Celia Hatton, *viola*; Jay Campbell, *cello*; Inon Barnatan, *piano***Gabriel Fauré (b. 1937)***The May 28 at 11:00am performance of Program IV is dedicated in loving memory of Mary and Marion Field.***PROGRAM V** May 29, 6:00pm; May 30, 11:00am & 1:00pm**Interface for String Quartet + 1-bit electronics**Alexi Kenney, *violin*; Melissa White, *violin*; Celia Hatton, *viola*; Jay Campbell, *cello***Tristan Perich (b. 1982)****Piano Trio No. 2**Geneva Lewis, *violin*; Paul Wiancko, *cello*; Inon Barnatan, *piano***Franz Schubert (1797-1828)****PROGRAM VI** May 31, 11:00am & 1:00pm; June 1, 11:00am**Petroushskates**Daniel Phillips, *violin*; Jay Campbell, *cello*; Tara Helen O'Connor, *flute*; Todd Palmer, *clarinet*; Inon Barnatan, *piano***Joan Tower (b. 1938)****Sonata for Viola da Gamba in D major, BWV 1028**Jay Campbell, *cello*; Pedja Mužijević, *piano***J.S. Bach (1685-1750)****Octet**Daniel Chong, *violin*; Alexi Kenney, *violin*; Geneva Lewis, *violin*; Daniel Phillips, *violin*; Ayane Kozasa, *viola*; Jessica Bodner, *viola*; Raman Ramakrishnan, *cello*; Paul Wiancko, *cello***Georges Enescu (1881-1955)***The May 31 at 1:00pm performance of Program VI has been endowed through the generous support of Gary and Mary Becker.***PROGRAM VII** June 1, 1:00pm; June 2, 11:00am & 1:00pm**Exilios****I – A Pepe**Daniel Chong, *violin*; Daniel Phillips, *violin*; Jessica Bodner, *viola*; Jay Campbell, *cello*; Tara Helen O'Connor, *flute***Gabriela Ortiz (b. 1964)****Sonata No. 7 in C Major, Z. 808**Daniel Chong, *violin*; Geneva Lewis, *violin*; Jay Campbell, *cello*; Pedja Mužijević, *piano***Henry Purcell (1659-1695)****Prospects of a Misplaced Year****I – The War Below**Daniel Chong, *violin*; Geneva Lewis, *violin*; Ayane Kozasa, *viola*; Paul Wiancko, *cello*; Pedja Mužijević, *piano***Andy Akiho (b. 1979)****Clarinet Quintet in A Major, K.581**Geneva Lewis, *violin*; Daniel Phillips, *violin*; Jessica Bodner, *viola*; Raman Ramakrishnan, *cello*; Todd Palmer, *clarinet***W.A. Mozart (1756-1791)**

PROGRAM VIII June 3, 11:00am & 1:00pm; June 4, 1:00pm

The Four Seasons

Selections TBA

Mahsa Vahdat, *voice*; Daniel Chong, *violin*; Geneva Lewis, *violin*; Daniel Phillips, *violin*; Livia Sohn, *violin*; Jessica Bodner, *viola*; Ayane Kozasa, *viola*; Raman Ramakrishnan, *cello*; Paul Wiancko, *cello*; Anthony Manzo, *bass*; Pedja Mužijević, *piano*

Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)

Mahsa Vahdat (b. 1973)

PROGRAM IX June 4, 6:00pm; June 5, 11:00am & 1:00pm

“The Dawn” / “Silent Presence” / “Journey”

Mahsa Vahdat, *voice*; Daniel Chong, *violin*; Livia Sohn, *violin*; Ayane Kozasa, *viola*; Paul Wiancko, *cello*; Anthony Manzo, *bass*

Mahsa Vahdat (b. 1973)

WORLD PREMIERE

Quartet No. 2, “Company”

Daniel Chong, *violin*; Livia Sohn, *violin*; Ayane Kozasa, *viola*; Paul Wiancko, *cello*

Philip Glass (b. 1937)

Sonatina for Clarinet and Piano, Op. 29

Todd Palmer, *clarinet*; Stephen Prutsman, *piano*

Malcolm Arnold (1921-2006)

Romance for Violin and Piano, Op. 23

Daniel Phillips, *violin*; Stephen Prutsman, *piano*

Amy Beach (1867-1944)

“Brandenburg” Concerto No. 5 in D Major, BWV 1050

Livia Sohn, *violin*; Daniel Phillips, *violin*; Jessica Bodner, *viola*; Raman Ramakrishnan, *cello*; Anthony Manzo, *bass*; Tara Helen O'Connor, *flute*; Pedja Mužijević, *piano*;

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

PROGRAM X June 6, 11:00am & 1:00pm; June 7, 11:00am

Buster Keaton’s *Sherlock Jr.* with Original Soundtrack by Stephen Prutsman

Daniel Chong, *violin*; Livia Sohn, *violin*; Jessica Bodner, *viola*; Raman Ramakrishnan, *cello*; Stephen Prutsman, *piano*

The June 6 at 11:00am performance of Program X has been endowed through the generous support of Deborah Chalsty.

PROGRAM XI June 7, 1:00pm; June 8, 11:00am & 1:00pm

Valencia

Livia Sohn, *violin*; Daniel Chong, *violin*; Ayane Kozasa, *viola*; Raman Ramakrishnan, *cello*

Caroline Shaw (b. 1982)

Techno Parade

Tara Helen O'Connor, *flute*; Todd Palmer, *clarinet*; Pedja Mužijević, *piano*

Guillaume Connesson (b. 1970)

Sextet No. 2 in G Major

Daniel Phillips, *violin*; Livia Sohn, *violin*; Ayane Kozasa, *viola*; Jessica Bodner, *viola*; Paul Wiancko, *cello*; Raman Ramakrishnan, *cello*

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Program Note

From Franz Schubert to Franghiz Ali-Zadeh, Antonio Vivaldi to Andy Akiho, and Gabriel Fauré to Gabriela Ortiz, this season we will revel in the joy and catharsis of chamber music—a living, breathing form of art that has thrived for centuries not only because of what it provides for us, but what it requires of us. Empathy, trust, humor, accountability, and passion are the cornerstones of chamber musicianship—as well as the qualities of humankind that sustain our very existence.

To pursue the mastery of these traits is to embark on a lifelong journey towards the sublime. This season, for myself and 23 of today's most brilliant artists, that journey leads to Spoleto Chamber Music. As music-makers join music-lovers to reconvene our famously impassioned community, we will once again set off on a monumental seventeen-day celebration unlike any other in the music world. I hope you'll join us for this exploration of one of humanity's most beautiful sides.

—Paul Wiancko



STEVEN BANKS

As a performer and composer, saxophonist Steven Banks is striving to bring his instrument to the heart of the classical music world. He is driven to programme and write music that directly addresses aspects of the human experience and is a devoted and intentional supporter of diverse voices in the future of concert music. A keen chamber musician, Banks regularly collaborates with artistic partners

such as the St Lawrence String Quartet, Borromeo String Quartet, and Dover Quartet. Banks is a founding member of the award-winning all-saxophone ensemble Kenari Quartet. Banks was the first saxophonist to be awarded both the Avery Fisher Career Grant and the First Prize at the Young Concert Artists International Auditions. He serves as Saxophone and Chamber Music Faculty and Artist-in-Residence at the Cleveland Institute of Music.



INON BARNATAN

"One of the most admired pianists of his generation" (*The New York Times*), Inon Barnatan has received universal acclaim for his "uncommon sensitivity" (*The New Yorker*). As a soloist, Inon Barnatan is a regular performer with many of the world's foremost orchestras and conductors. He was the inaugural Artist-in-Association of the New York Philharmonic. As a curator and chamber

musician, Barnatan is Music Director of La Jolla Music Society Summerfest in California, one of leading music festivals in the country. He regularly collaborates with world-class partners such as Renée Fleming and Alisa Weilerstein, and plays at major chamber music festivals including, Seattle, Santa Fe, and Spoleto Festival USA.



JESSICA BODNER

Jessica Bodner, described by *The New York Times* as a "soulful soloist," is known for her inexhaustible search for vivid music-making and exploration of sound. Jessica is the violist of the GRAMMY Award-winning Parker Quartet and has appeared at venues around the world both with the Quartet and as an individual such as at Carnegie Hall, 92nd Street Y, Library of Congress, Concertgebouw, Wigmore Hall,

Konzerthaus Berlin, Musikverein, Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, and Seoul Arts Center, and has appeared at festivals including Edinburgh International Festival. Jessica has held visiting teaching positions at New England Conservatory and Longy School of Music, been on faculty at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity and Yellow Barn Festival, and is currently a faculty member of Harvard University's Department of Music as Professor of the Practice.



GABRIEL CABEZAS

Gabriel Cabezas, named one of the *Washington Post's* "performers to watch," is a true 21st-century musician. His '24-25 performances include Gabriella Smith's *Lost Coast* at the Cabrillo Festival and with the New York Philharmonic. *Lost Coast* is a reimagining of part of their album of the same name, one of NPR Music's "Favorite Albums Of 2021". He is in the sextet yMusic, acclaimed for

"transcending all the conventions that they were trained in" (NPR Music). Their album, *YMUSIC* (2023), was praised by *Strings Magazine* as "one of the most exciting and confident chamber music releases of the year." He recently co-founded the string quartet Owls, described by *The New York Times* as "a dream group." She has recorded for major record labels including Sony Masterworks, Deutsche Grammophon, Naxos, New Amsterdam, and Nonesuch. Lizzie serves on the faculty of the Hartt School of Music, Mannes Conservatory, and Montclair State University.



JAY CAMPBELL

Jay Campbell is a cellist actively exploring a wide range of creative music. He has been recognized for approaching both old and new music with the same curiosity and commitment, and his performances have been called "electrifying" by *The New York Times* and "gentle, poignant, and deeply moving" by the *Washington Post*. The only musician ever to receive two Avery Fisher Career Grants — in

2016 as a soloist, and again in 2019 as a member of the JACK Quartet — Jay made his concerto debut with the New York Philharmonic in 2013 and in 2016, he worked with Alan Gilbert as the artistic director for Ligeti Forward, part of the New York Philharmonic Biennale at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Deeply committed as a chamber musician, he is the cellist of the JACK Quartet as well as the Junction Trio with violinist Stefan Jackiw and pianist Conrad Tao, and multidisciplinary collective AMOC.

**DANIEL CHONG**

GRAMMY Award-winning violinist Daniel Chong is one of the most exciting and versatile musicians of his generation and is known for his gripping interpretations and sincerity of expression. Since 2002, as the founding first violinist of the Parker Quartet, he has garnered wide recognition for his performances in such venues as Carnegie Hall, the Library of Congress, Musikverein, and Wigmore

Hall. Daniel has received several awards and prizes such as the Cleveland Quartet Award and top prizes at the Concert Artists Guild Competition and the Bordeaux International String Quartet Competition. In addition to the core repertoire, Daniel is a strong advocate for new music. Some of the composers he has worked closely with are György Kurtág, Augusta Read Thomas, Helmut Lachenmann, and Chaya Czernowin. Daniel currently serves as Professor of the Practice at Harvard University.

**ANTHONY ROTH COSTANZO**

Countertenor Anthony Roth Costanzo began performing professionally at the age of 11 and has since appeared in opera, concert, recital, film, and on Broadway. As of June 2024, he is the General Director and President of Opera Philadelphia. Costanzo was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award for his performance in a Merchant Ivory

film and graduated with honors from Princeton University, and Manhattan School of Music, where he is now on the board of trustees along with being on the board of National Black Theater. Costanzo also has an Honorary Doctorate from Manhattan School of Music, a History Makers Award from the New York Historical Society, and has been a visiting fellow at Oxford University and a distinguished visiting scholar at Harvard University.

**CELIA HATTON**

Based in New York City, violist Celia Hatton has performed across North America, South America, Europe, Asia, and Australia. Her playing has been praised for its "rich, robust" sound by *The Michigan Daily* and lauded as "superb" by the *Santa Barbara Independent*. Hatton is Principal Viola of Sphinx Virtuosi, Co-Principal of Chamber Orchestra of New York, and a member of A Far Cry. As Principal Viola of Experiential Orchestra, her solos can

be heard on the GRAMMY-winning album *The Prison*. In addition to her performance career, Hatton is an Adjunct Professor at Adelphi University and has given masterclasses at institutions including Colburn Music Academy, Manhattan School of Music, New York University, and Vanderbilt University.

**ALEXI KENNEY**

Violinist Alexi Kenney is forging a career that defies categorization, following his interests, intuition, and heart. He is equally at home creating experimental programs and commissioning new works, soloing with major orchestras around the world, and collaborating with some of the most celebrated musicians of our time. He is a founding member of Owls—an inverted quartet hailed as a "dream

group" by *The New York Times*—alongside violist Ayane Kozasa, cellist Gabe Cabezas, and cellist-composer Paul Wiancko. Alexi is also an alum of the Bowers Program (formerly CMS 2) at the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. Born in Palo Alto, California in 1994, Alexi is a graduate of the New England Conservatory in Boston, where he received an Artist Diploma as a student of Miriam Fried and Donald Weilerstein. He plays a violin made in London by Stefan-Peter Greiner in 2009 and a bow by François-Nicolas Voirin.

**AYANE KOZASA**

Hailed for her "magnetic, wide-ranging tone" and her "rock solid technique" (*Philadelphia Inquirer*), violist Ayane Kozasa is a member of the Kronos Quartet and the quartet collective Owls. As a founding member of the Aizuri Quartet, she toured with the group for 11 years, garnering a GRAMMY nomination and collaborating with artists such as Wilco, Anthony McGill, and Gabriella Smith.

Much of Ayane's current work involves mentoring young musicians through programs like the Meadowmount School of Music, and she is currently on the viola faculty at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. Aside from music, she enjoys hiking, doodling, and creating animation.

**SOYEON KATE LEE**

First prize winner of the Naumburg International Piano Competition and the Concert Artist Guild International Competition, Korean-American pianist Soyeon Kate Lee has been lauded by *The New York Times* as a pianist with "a huge, richly varied sound, a lively imagination and a firm sense of style," and by the *Washington Post* for her "stunning command of the keyboard." She was a member of

Lincoln Center Chamber Music Society's Bowers program, and is a regular participant in numerous chamber music festivals including the Great Lakes, Santa Fe and Music Mountain Chamber Music Festivals. She is a graduate of The Juilliard School where she was awarded the William Petschek Piano Debut Award at Lincoln Center and the Arthur Rubinstein Award upon graduation, and received her Doctor of Musical Arts from The Graduate Center, City University of New York.

**GENEVA LEWIS**

American/New Zealand violinist Geneva Lewis has forged a reputation as a musician of consummate artistry whose performances speak from and to the heart and is hailed as "clearly one to watch" (*Musical America*). Named a BBC New Generation Artist (2022-24), Geneva is also the recipient of a 2022 Borletti-Buitoni Trust Award and a 2021 Avery Fisher Career Grant. In 2023, Geneva made

her BBC Proms debut with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales and Jaime Martin. Geneva received her Artist Diploma from New England Conservatory as the recipient of the Charlotte F. Rabb Presidential Scholarship, studying with Miriam Fried. Geneva currently performs on a composite violin by Giovanni Battista Guadagnini, c. 1776 generously on loan from a Charitable Trust.

**ANTHONY MANZO**

Anthony Manzo's vibrantly interactive and highly communicative music-making has made ubiquitous in the upper echelons of classical music, appearing with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center in New York and across the country, and is a recurring figure at chamber music festivals including Spoleto Festival USA, La Jolla Summerfest, Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival,

and the Bowdoin International Festival. A core member of the East Coast Chamber Orchestra, he was previously the solo bassist of the Munich Chamber Orchestra and San Francisco's New Century Chamber Orchestra. Making his home just outside of Washington, DC, Mr Manzo is a regular guest with the National Symphony Orchestra, the Smithsonian Chamber Society, and the Baltimore Symphony. Mr. Manzo is a member of the double bass and chamber music faculty of the University of Maryland. His primary instrument was made in 1890 by Jérôme Thibouville-Lamy in Paris - and has been fitted with a removable neck to simplify all the travel!

**DAVID MCCARROLL**

David McCarroll was appointed concertmaster of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra in 2022, holding the Rachel Mellon Walton Concertmaster Chair. He has been described by *Musik Heute* as “a violinist of mature musicality and deep understanding of his repertoire whose playing is distinguished by clarity of form and line.”

Winner of the 2012 European Young Concert

Artists Auditions, he made his concerto debut with the London Mozart Players in 2002 and has since appeared as soloist with many orchestras including the Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra, Tonkünstler-Orchester Niederösterreich, Hong Kong Sinfonietta, and the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. In demand as a teacher, David is on the faculty of Carnegie Mellon University's School of Music. David plays a 1761 violin made by A&J Gagliano.

**PEDJA MUŽIJEVIĆ**

Pedja Mužijević has defined his career with creative programming and lasting collaborations with artists and ensembles. This season he performs the recital program *Homage to Mixtapes* in Toulouse and for Bay Chamber Concerts, the interactive program *Basic Instincts* in New York and chamber music in Vancouver and Fort Worth. Pedja is the artistic advisor for Tippet Rise Art Center in Montana,

artistic administrator at Baryshnikov Arts in New York, and he also directs workshops around the world, from Verbier Festival Academy and Banff Center to Colburn and Longy schools, in which he looks at the concert experience and ways to make it more accessible and relevant today.

**TARA HELEN O'CONNOR**

Tara Helen O'Connor, who *Art Mag* has said “so embodies perfection on the flute that you'll forget she is human,” is an Avery Fisher Career Grant recipient, a two-time GRAMMY Award nominee, and a recipient of the Walter W. Naumburg Chamber Music Award. A Wm.S. Haynes artist, she is a season artist of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. She is professor of flute at the Yale

School of Music and is the Artistic Director of the Music from Angel Fire Festival and the Essex Winter Series. Tara has also appeared on numerous film and television soundtracks including *Barbie*, *Respect*, *The Joker*, *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, *Only Murders in the Building* and *Schmigadoon!*

**TODD PALMER**

Clarinetist Todd Palmer is a 3-time GRAMMY nominee and has appeared as soloist, recitalist, chamber music collaborator, educator, arranger, and presenter in a variety of musical endeavors around the world. As a winner of the Young Concert Artists International Auditions and grand prize winner in the Ima Hogg Young Artist Auditions, he has appeared as soloist with many symphony

and chamber orchestras including those of Houston, Atlanta, St. Paul, Cincinnati, Montréal, BBC Scotland, Santa Fe Chamber; and has given recital performances at Weill Hall and the 92nd Street Y in New York City, the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., and Suntory Hall in Tokyo. His Broadway credits include *South Pacific*, *The King & I*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *My Fair Lady* and *Sweeney Todd*, where he appeared with members of the cast on NPR's Tiny Desk.

**DANIEL PHILLIPS**

Violinist Daniel Phillips is co-founder of the Orion String Quartet which gave its last concert in April 2024, presented by the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln after an illustrious 37 year career. A graduate of Juilliard, his major teachers were his father Eugene Phillips, Ivan Galamian, Sally Thomas, Nathan Milstein, Sandor Végh, and George Neikrug. He was a member of the renowned Bach

Aria Group and has toured and recorded in a string quartet for Sony with Gidon Kremer, Kim Kashkashian, and Yo-Yo Ma. A judge in the 2022 Leipzig Bach Competition 2018 Seoul International Violin Competition, and the 2023 World Bartok Competition and the 2024 Prague Spring Competition, Phillips is a professor at the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College and on the faculties of the Bard College Conservatory, and the Juilliard School.

**STEPHEN PRUTSMAN**

Active as pianist and composer Stephen Prutsman continues to explore and seek common ground in music of all cultures and languages. As a young man he performed with several art rock bands and was a regular on a syndicated gospel television show. In the 1990s Stephen was a medal winner at the Tchaikovsky and Queen Elisabeth Competitions. In the 2000s, was Artistic Partner with the St. Paul

Chamber Orchestra and Artistic Director of the Cartagena International Music Festival. As a composer, his music has been performed throughout the world by leading known classical and popular performers. He is on faculty at Stanford University as Visiting Artist and is Creative Director and Producer at Phenotypic Recordings.

**RAMAN RAMAKRISHNAN**

Cellist Raman Ramakrishnan enjoys performing chamber music, old and new, around the world. For two decades, as a founding member of the Horszowski Trio and the Daedalus Quartet, he toured extensively through North and South America, Europe, and Asia, and recorded for Bridge Records and Avie Records. Mr. Ramakrishnan is currently a member of the Boston Chamber

Music Society, and is on the faculty of the Bard College Conservatory of Music. In the summers, he has performed at the Marlboro, Vail, Portland, and Kingston Chamber Music festivals, and served on the faculties of the Kneisel Hall and Norfolk Chamber Music Festivals.

**LIVIA SOHN**

Hailed by *Opus Magazine* as “a stunning musician”, Livia Sohn has performed widely on the international stage as concerto soloist, recitalist, and festival guest artist in North America, Europe, and Asia. The *Strad* magazine says, “Livia Sohn possesses a remarkably lithe and transparent tone of exceptional purity. [Her] virtually blemishless accounts are nothing short of remarkable. Even

when under the most fearsome technical pressure at high velocity, every note rings true with pinpoint accuracy.” Livia is the recent founder of Coast Live Music, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to create community through music. CLM presents music in traditional venues such as concert halls and performance theaters, but also at places such as soup kitchens, behavioral health centers, cancer wards, unhoused communities, and VA hospitals - places where music is equally needed and appreciated.



MELISSA WHITE

American violinist Melissa White has enchanted audiences and critics around the world for her “warmly expressive and lyrical...glittering” playing (Chicago Classical Review). Ms. White’s rapid rise as a soloist has captured the attention of orchestras and audiences worldwide, many of whom already know her for her successes as a founding member of the GRAMMY-winning Harlem Quartet. This

season, solo recital debuts for Ms. White include Boston Conservatory, Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, Chamber Music Detroit, and The Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts in Kingston, Ontario. Her film credits include a violin solo in the soundtrack to Jordan Peele’s 2019 psychological thriller “Us,” and she has also performed alongside several pop artists, including Pharrell, Bruno Mars, Alicia Keys, and Lauryn Hill. A passionate educator, Ms. White serves as Music Artist Faculty at New York University and as a Professor of Music at the University of Buffalo. She is incredibly grateful to be playing a c1780 Ferdinando Gagliano violin, currently on loan from Strumenti.



PAUL WIANCKO

Paul Wiancko is an acclaimed composer, cellist of the internationally-celebrated Kronos Quartet, and founding member Owls, a quartet-collective described as a “dream group” by *The New York Times*. *The Washington Post* describes Wiancko as “a restless and multifaceted talent who plays well with others” - a reference to his extensive collaborations with artists like Max Richter, Chick

Corea, and Norah Jones. “Even with this chronically collaborative spirit,” the article continues, “Wiancko maintains a singular voice as a composer.” Wiancko has composed works for the St. Lawrence String Quartet, Kronos Quartet, Aizuri Quartet, Parker Quartet, Attacca Quartet, Alisa Weilerstein, and many others. His first appearance at Spoleto Festival USA was as the Chamber Music series composer-in-residence in 2019. This is his second festival as the Charles E. and Andrea L. Volpe Director of Chamber Music.

Her life has been a story of extreme changes and challenges: war, threat of imprisonment, separation from her homeland and loved ones, migration, and exile.

Mahsa Vahdat

2025 SUZAN D. BOYD COMPOSER-IN-RESIDENCE



TAHMINA MONZAVI

Mahsa Vahdat is an acclaimed Iranian singer, composer, and cultural activist who has dedicated herself to both her musical and artistic path, and to the greater cause of freedom of expression. Her artistry offers audiences around the globe a deep appreciation of Iranian poetry and music. In 1979, when Mahsa was six years old, the Islamic Revolution in Iran resulted in a ban on women singing, among other social and political restrictions. Years later, Mahsa Vahdat chose to evolve as an artist, rejecting the ban which continues today. Her life has been a story of extreme changes and challenges: war, threat of imprisonment, separation from her homeland and loved ones, migration, and exile.

Mahsa Vahdat received her bachelor's degree in music from the Tehran University of Arts and learned Persian traditional music with various master's of the genre. Since 1995, she has performed as an independent singer and musician in numerous concerts and festivals around the world. She has often appeared on stage with her sister, singer Marjan Vahdat.

Mahsa has developed a unique style of performance. Rooted in Persian classical and regional vocal music traditions, she infuses music with contemporary and innovative expressions and influences. Through creative collaborations, as well as acapella explorations, she has developed a diverse, unique, and wide-ranging repertoire. Mahsa's repertoire includes Persian classical and contemporary poems, with themes encompassing separation, longing, hope, adaptation, belonging, connection, love, and communion. These themes are deeply connected to her personal experiences as an artist who has struggled for years to preserve the rich musical lineage of her beloved homeland, where musical practice and performance, especially by women, continues to be severely restricted by the fundamentalist regime. Her songs express universal messages of humanism, justice, equality, and freedom.

Her life's work in particular empowers women by encouraging them to raise their voices. She and her sister Marjan are role models for many young Iranian women singers in the complex socio-political environment of contemporary Iran.