

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

September 27, 2016

John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts presents

**THE START OF THE 2016–2017
FORTAS CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERTS SERIES**

**MEZZO-SOPRANO JOYCE DIDONATO WITH
BRENTANO STRING QUARTET**

AND

**HARLEM STRING QUARTET WITH
ALDO LÓPEZ-GAVILÁN**

October 5 and October 17, 2016 in the Kennedy Center Family Theater

(WASHINGTON)— The 2016–2017 Fortas Chamber Music Concert Series begins its season with performances by mezzo-soprano **Joyce DiDonato** with the **Brentano String Quartet** on Wednesday, October 5, 2016, and by the **Harlem String Quartet** with **Aldo López-Gavilán** on Monday, October 17, 2016, both at 7:30 p.m. in the Kennedy Center Family Theater.

In the first Fortas Series concert of the season, DiDonato and the Brentano String Quartet perform works by Bach and Haydn, as well as a selection of songs by Richard Strauss. The program closes with *Camille Claudel: Into the Fire* by Jake Heggie, one of today's pre-eminent composers for voice. Created especially for DiDonato by Heggie, the song cycle is based on the life French sculptor Camille Claudel, who enjoyed renown in her time, but eventually was committed by family members to a mental institution.

On October 17, the Harlem String Quartet is joined by Cuban pianist Aldo López-Gavilán, in a program that embraces a U.S.-Cuban connection. Featuring works by U.S. composers Chick Corea and Billy Strayhorn, the program also includes works by Cuban composers Abelardito Valdés and López-Gavilán.

About the Artists

Since its inception in 1992, the **Brentano String Quartet** has appeared throughout the world to popular and critical acclaim. They have served as Artists in Residence at Yale University since 2014, and also currently serve as the collaborative ensemble for the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition.

Known for especially imaginative projects combining old and new music, one of the Quartet's latest collaborations is a new work by Steven Mackey, "One Red Rose," commemorating the 50th anniversary of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy on November 22, 1963. Other recent commissions include a piano quintet by Vijay Iyer, a work by Eric Moe (with Christine Brandes, soprano), and a new viola quintet by Felipe Lara (performed with violist Hsin-Yun Huang). The Quartet has been privileged to work with composers Elliot Carter, Charles Wuorinen, Chou Wen-chung, Bruce Adolphe, and György Kurtág, as well as artists such as soprano Jessye Norman and pianists Richard Goode, Jonathan Biss, and Mitsuko Uchida. The Quartet is named for Antonie Brentano, whom many scholars consider to be Beethoven's "Immortal Beloved", the intended recipient of his famous love confession.

Multi Grammy Award®-winner and Kansas native, **Joyce DiDonato** entrances audiences and critics alike across the globe, soaring to international prominence in operas by Rossini, Handel and Mozart and as a fierce arts advocate. Her acclaimed discography includes Grammy-Award-winning *Diva Divo*, *Drama Queens*, *ReJoyce!*, *Stella di Napoli*, and most recently *Joyce and Tony: Live at Wigmore Hall* (Erato/Warner Classics). Other honors include the Gramophone Artist of the Year and Recital of the Year awards, two German Echo Klassik Awards as Female Singer of the Year, and an induction into the Gramophone Hall of Fame.

DiDonato opens her 2016–2017 season in a gala concert with the Seattle Symphony Orchestra under Ludovic Morlot; she will also give concerts with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra under Riccardo Muti and the Berlin Philharmonic under Yannick Nézet-Séguin; and a recital with Philippe Jordan in Paris. On the opera stage, she makes her much anticipated debut in the title role of *Semiramide* in a new production at the Bavarian State Opera under Michele Mariotti; the title role in *Ariodante* on tour with the English Concert and Harry Bicket; Dido (*Les Troyens*) under John Nelsons in Strasbourg; and Sesto (*La Clemenza di Tito*) under Nézet-Séguin in Baden-Baden.

Harlem Quartet's collaboration with Cuban pianist/composer **Aldo López-Gavilán** offers a joyously energetic concert experience. Thanks to the recent thaw in US/Cuba relations, this collaboration sees López-Gavilán reunited with his older brother Ilmar, who left Cuba at age 14 and went on to co-found the Harlem Quartet. López-Gavilán and the Harlem Quartet showcase scintillating chemistry in a broad variety of repertoire. Programs include American jazz standards, bossa nova classics, and, of course, several original compositions from López-Gavilán that take audiences on a journey through Cuba's myriad musical traditions.

Program Details

October 5, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.

**Joyce DiDonato
Brentano Quartet
Family Theater**

- J.S. BACH Selections from *The Art of the Fugue*
 Contrapunctus I
 Contrapunctus VII
 Contrapunctus IV
 Contrapunctus XI
- HAYDN Quartet No. 1 in E-flat major, Op. 20
 Allegro moderato
 Menuetto: Un poco Allegretto
 Affettuoso e sostenuto
 Finale: Presto
- R. STRAUSS Selected Songs
 “All mein Gedanken” Op. 21, No. 1
 “Du meines herzen Krönelein,” Op. 21, No. 2
 “Die Nacht,” Op. 10, No. 3
 “Traum durch die Dämmerung,” Op. 29, No. 1
 “Ach Lieb, ich muß nun scheiden,” Op. 21, No. 3
- HEGGIE *Camille Claudel: into the Fire*
 Prelude: Awakening
 Rodin
 La Valse
 Shakuntala
 La Petite Châtelaine
 The Gossips
 L’Age Mûr
 Epilogue: Jessie Lipscombe visits Camille Caludel, Montdevergues Asylum, 1929

October 17, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.

**Harlem String Quartet
Aldo López-Gavilán
Family Theater**

- COREA The Adventures of Hippocrates for String Quartet
 Part 1
 Part 2
 Part 3
 Part 4
 Part 5
- VALDÉS “Alemendra”
- STRAYHORN “Take the A Train”

LÓPEZ-GAVILÁN Selections for Piano and String Quartet
 Epílogo
 Talking to the Universe
 Eclipse
 Pan con Timba

About The Fortas Chamber Music Concerts

The 2016–2017 season marks the 34th season of the Kennedy Center’s chamber music series, established in the 1981–1982 season by Marta Istomin, who, at the time, was the Kennedy Center’s Artistic Director. The Fortas Chamber Music Concerts, established as part of the Terrace Concerts during the 1983–1984 season, began a vibrant new life in the 1999–2000 season when—in addition to the generous contributions of loyal supporters of the Fortas Fund— income from a major gift to the Fortas Fund from the late Carolyn E. Agger, widow of Abe Fortas, became available to support the artistic programming. The Fortas Chamber Music Concerts series is named for the former Supreme Court Justice, who was instrumental in the creation of The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and later, the Terrace Theater. The Kennedy Center’s Board of Trustees established the Abe Fortas Memorial Fund in 1982 for the support of concerts in the Terrace Theater, and for the further development of the musical programs he envisioned.

Through its history the series has featured frequent appearances by artists such as the Guarneri, Emerson, Juilliard, and Alban Berg Quartets; early music ensembles Anonymous 4, Trio Medieval, and the Waverly Consort; performances by Eugene Istomin, Emanuel Ax, Edgar Meyer, Susan Graham, Isaac Stern, and Yo-Yo Ma; as well as ensembles that actively perform and commission new works, among them David Lang’s *love fail*, Imani Winds; as well as many other distinguished artists.

FORTAS CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERTS SCHEDULE

Date	Artists	Venue
November 9, 2016	Takács Quartet	Eisenhower Theater
November 21, 2016	ATOS Trio	Theater Lab
December 7, 2016	Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio	Family Theater
January 9, 2017	Dover Quartet	Family Theater
January 19, 2017	Alisa Weilerstein, Inon Barnatan, and Anthony McGill	Family Theater
January 24, 2017	Pamela Frank and Friends	Family Theater
February 13, 2017	Venice Baroque Chamber Ensemble	Theater Lab
February 20, 2017	Aizuri Quartet	Theater Lab
April 26, 2017	Elena Urioste and Michael Brown	Family Theater
May 16, 2017	Maurizio Pollini in Recital	Concert Hall

FUNDING CREDITS

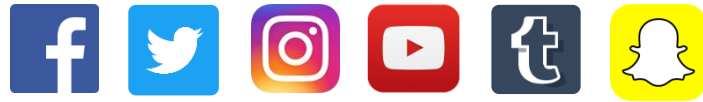
The Fortas Chamber Music Concerts are supported by generous contributors to the Abe Fortas Memorial Fund, and by a major gift to the fund from the late Carolyn E. Agger, widow of Abe Fortas.

TICKETS AND INFORMATION:

Tickets are \$49–55 and information is available from the Kennedy Center Box Office, web site, and Instant-Charge, (202) 467-4600. Patrons living outside the metropolitan Washington area may call toll-free at (800) 444-1324, or online at kennedy-center.org.

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For more information, please visit the Kennedy Center website.



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