Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 23, 2017

THE JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE
PERFORMING ARTS ANNOUNCES PROGRAMMING FOR
2017–2018 SEASON OF
FORTAS CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERTS

Thirteen Chamber Performances Ranging from Duos to Octets
Christen Newly Renovated Terrace Theater

(WASHINGTON)—The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts today
announced programming for the 2017–2018 season of Fortas Chamber Music
Concerts, the series’s 35th season and 21st under the leadership of artistic director
and pianist, Joseph Kalichstein. Thirteen performances representing the breadth and
depth of this extraordinary genre take place in the newly renovated Terrace Theater at
the Kennedy Center, which is scheduled to re-open in October 2017.

“I can’t help but feel like a lucky host at some extraordinary party, welcoming old
friends (both musical works and performers) and new ones, some for the first time,”
said Fortas artistic director Joseph Kalichstein. “And, most thrillingly, welcoming all to
our old/new Terrace Theater, a delicious place to hear and perform chamber music. I
can’t possibly say which evening will excite me most, but I’d venture to say that to hear
two astounding achievements, one heralding the Romantic movement—the
Mendelssohn Octet—and one summing it up—Verklärte Nacht—back-to-back, will be
a thrilling experience!”

Presentations during the 2017–2018 season reflect the Fortas’s trademark mix of
showcasing young talent, such as the Sphinx Virtuosi and the Dover and Calidore
quartets, while also presenting internationally revered artists, including the Emerson
String Quartet, Takács Quartet, pianist Christoph Eschenbach, cellist Steven Isserlis, soprano Dawn Upshaw, and the Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio, among others.

The opening concert of the season is designed to showcase the newly renovated Terrace Theater (due for completion in September 2017) by gradually increasing the artistic forces on stage—from duo, to quartet, to sextet, to octet—and combining the talents of pianists Lisa Emenheiser and Joseph Kalichstein, the Emerson String Quartet, and the Dover Quartet. Repertoire by Dvořák, Brahms, Schoenberg, and Mendelssohn is featured. (October 12, 2017)

Fortas helps celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Sphinx Organization, which supports diversity in the arts, in a co-presentation with Washington Performing Arts. This conductor-less chamber orchestra is composed of winners of the renowned Sphinx Competition, and offers an exciting program of concerti through the ages, from Baroque to modern day, performed by some of the today’s brightest young artists. (October 15, 2017)

The Kennedy Center’s beloved Chamber Ensemble-in-Residence, the Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio, makes its annual appearance on the series in the fall, with a dazzling program of Beethoven’s most inspiring trios, including the “Ghost” and “Archduke.” (November 7, 2017)

Prize-winning violinist Leila Josefowicz includes a Fortas series recital in her Kennedy Center residency in 2017–2018, marking her series debut with pianist John Novacek. Her program offers a journey through the entire 20th century, with repertoire by Sibelius, Prokofiev, Mahler, Saariaho, and Bernd Zimmermann. (November 11, 2017)

The eight-member a capella ensemble, Cantus, returns to the Fortas series for the first time since 2013 for a special Christmas program. (December 6, 2017)
Continuing its commitment to championing rising young artists, Fortas presents the Calidore String Quartet—winners of the 2016 inaugural M-Prize International Chamber Music Competition, the largest prize for chamber music—in an Austro-Hungarian program with repertoire from Haydn, Kurtág, and Brahms. (January 24, 2018)

The Fortas series takes part in the Kennedy Center-wide celebration of Leonard Bernstein at 100, with a program designed as homage to the iconic composer, conductor, pianist, educator, and humanitarian in what would have been his centennial year. For their Fortas series debuts, mezzo-soprano Carla Dirlikov Canales, Leonard Bernstein’s son Alexander, and pianist Justin Snyder have created a captivating program of Bernstein’s vocal and piano music, enriched with personal reminiscences, commentary, and illustrative video and photographs. The program will explore Bernstein’s relationship to the Kennedy family and administration, and his passion for social justice and education. The program features Bernstein’s vocal works, including selections from Mass and from his extraordinary musicals. (February 6, 2018)

Returning this season is the renowned Takács Quartet, an unequaled ensemble that brings a program of contrasting works by Mozart, Shostakovich, and Grieg. (March 21, 2018)

Five-time Grammy Award®–winning soprano Dawn Upshaw is joined by leading percussion quartet, Sō Percussion, in a new work commissioned for them by the Music Accord—of which the Kennedy Center is a member—from Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Caroline Shaw. George Crumb’s folk-tune-inspired ode to Civil War soldiers, Winds of Destiny, is also featured on this program, which is a co-presentation of Fortas and the KC Jukebox series. (April 5, 2018)

Acclaimed soprano Isabel Leonard—who also appears in the 2017–2018 season in Washington National Opera’s production of The Barber of Seville—returns to the Fortas series for a solo recital, with a program to be announced at a later date. (April 15, 2018)
Cellist Steven Isserlis is acclaimed worldwide for his profound musicianship and technical virtuosity. He brings these qualities to his Fortas recital, performed on his gut-string cello to reflect the authenticity of Baroque performance practice. Harpsichordist Richard Egarr joins Isserlis in an all-Baroque program of works by Bach, Boccherini, Scarlatti, and Handel. (April 23, 2018)

Canadian ensemble Les Violons du Roy, led by conductor and founder Bernard Labadie, and violinist Isabelle Faust perform an all-Bach program of concertos, his Passacaglia and Fugue in C Minor, and Contrapunctus XIV from the masterpiece The Art of Fugue. (May 3, 2018)

Pianist Christoph Eschenbach makes a special appearance on the Fortas series in an intimate celebration of his many artistic contributions to the Center. He is joined by members of the NSO—Concertmaster Nurit Bar-Josef, cellist Mark Evans, Acting Principal Clarinet Eugene Mondie, and Principal Horn Abel Pereira—in repertoire by Schumann and Brahms. (June 11, 2018)

In addition to the 13 concerts, the Fortas Chamber Music Concerts presents, with Washington National Opera, countertenor John Holiday—winner of the 2017 Marian Anderson Vocal Award—in recital in the Terrace Theater. Holiday brings his unique sound and artistry to a Kennedy Center recital, and will also mentor students in a residency at D.C.’s Duke Ellington School of the Arts. The Award is named for the groundbreaking African American contralto Marian Anderson, and is given annually to a young American singer with outstanding promise. (February 15, 2018)

Full details and programs for Fortas Chamber Music Concerts in the 2017–2018 season can be found in the following chronological listing of events. Subscriptions are available in three different packages of four concerts each, and the Sphinx Virtuosi and/or John Holiday performances can be added to any subscription.
ABOUT FORTAS CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERTS

The Kennedy Center Fortas Chamber Music Concerts are dedicated to presenting the best from the world of chamber music. In September 1981 the Center’s then artistic director, Marta Istomin, established a chamber music series in the newly opened Terrace Theater. The Fortas Chamber Music Concerts series, established two years later, observes its 36th season in 2016-2017, which is Joseph Kalichstein’s 20th at the helm of the series.

The late Supreme Court Justice Abe Fortas, for whom the series is named, maintained a lifelong avocation as a violinist and dedicated amateur chamber music player. Justice Fortas, who served as a Kennedy Center trustee from 1964 until his death in 1982, was an extraordinary source of wisdom and counsel to the organization. He gave generously of his time and energy in all areas, from legal to artistic.

In recognition of his devotion, the Kennedy Center’s Abe Fortas Memorial Fund was established for the support of chamber music concerts at the Kennedy Center and for the further development of the musical programs Fortas envisioned. Carolyn Agger, the late Washington, D.C., attorney and Fortas’s widow, left a sizable gift to the Kennedy Center’s Abe Fortas Memorial Fund. The Fund supports the highest level of chamber music at the Kennedy Center, whether performed by distinguished international artists or bright and emerging talent. In addition, it supports the Kennedy Center Chamber Players—featuring principal musicians of the National Symphony Orchestra.

Joseph Kalichstein is now in his 20th season as artistic advisor for chamber music to the Kennedy Center and artistic director of its Fortas Chamber Music Concerts, devoted to presentation of the world’s finest chamber music. Acclaimed for the heartfelt intensity and technical mastery of his playing, pianist Joseph Kalichstein enthralls audiences throughout the United States and Europe, winning equal praise as orchestral soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician. During his long professional history with the Kennedy Center, Kalichstein has appeared with the Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio, given solo recitals, and performed with the National Symphony Orchestra. In his current capacity with the Kennedy Center, Kalichstein has additionally played a major role in festivals devoted to Brahms, Beethoven, and the history of the piano itself.

Born in Tel Aviv, Kalichstein came to the United States in 1962. His principal teachers included Joshua Shor, Edward Steuermann, and Ilona Kabos at The Juilliard School. Prior to his 1969 Leventritt Award victory, he won the Young Concert Artists Auditions. As a result, he gave a heralded New York recital debut and, at the invitation of Leonard Bernstein, performed Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 4 with the New York Philharmonic, as part of the nationally televised Young People’s Concerts.

With his diverse repertoire of works ranging from Mozart, Beethoven, and Brahms to 20th-century works by Bartók, Prokofiev, and others, Kalichstein has collaborated with celebrated conductors and appeared internationally with the world’s finest symphony orchestras. He continues to play in music capitals worldwide with the famed Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson piano trio, the resident ensemble of the Fortas Chamber Music Concerts series, celebrating its fortieth anniversary in 2017.
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.

The Kennedy Center Abe Fortas Memorial Fund Trustees: Nancy S. Abramowitz, Michael Brewer, Harold Burson, Charles Burson, R. Scott Pastrick, and David M. Rubenstein.

Joseph Kalichstein is artistic director of the Fortas Chamber Music Concerts and artistic advisor for chamber music to the Kennedy Center.


TICKETS AND INFORMATION
Subscriptions and information are available from the Kennedy Center Box Office, online, or via phone at Instant-Charge, (202) 467-4600, or toll-free at (800) 444-1324. For all other ticket-related customer service inquiries, call the Advance Sales Box Office at (202) 416-8540.

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TICKETS & INFORMATION
(202) 467-4600; (800) 444-1324
kennedy-center.org
Thursday, October 12, 2017, at 7:30 p.m.
Lisa Emenheiser, piano
Joseph Kalichstein, piano
Emerson String Quartet
Dover Quartet

DVOŘÁK
Selected Slavonic Dances for piano, four-hands
Lisa Emenheiser, piano
Joseph Kalichstein, piano

BRAHMS
Piano Quartet in G minor, Op. 25
Joseph Kalichstein, piano
Joel Link, violin
Milena Pajaro-van de Stadt, viola
Camden Shaw, cello

SCHOENBERG
Verklärte Nacht
Eugene Drucker, violin
Bryan Lee, violin
Lawrence Dutton, viola
Milena Pajaro-van de Stadt, viola
Paul Watkins, cello
Camden Shaw, cello

MENDELSSOHN
Octet in E-flat major, Op. 20
Emerson String Quartet
Philip Setzer, violin
Eugene Drucker, violin
Lawrence Dutton, viola
Paul Watkins, cello
Dover Quartet
Joel Link, violin
Bryan Lee, violin
Milena Pajaro-van de Stadt, viola
Camden Shaw, cello
Sunday, October 15, 2017, at 2 p.m.
**SphinX Virtuosi**
*(co-presentation with Washington Performing Arts)*

**Concerti per Venti**

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<th>COMPOSER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VIVALDI</td>
<td>Concerto for Four Violins and Cello in B minor (RV 580)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BEETHOVEN</td>
<td>Grosse Fuge (Op. 133)</td>
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<tr>
<td>VAUGHN WILLIAMS</td>
<td>Concerto Grosso</td>
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<td>Michael ABELS</td>
<td><em>Delights &amp; Dances</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jimmy LÓPEZ</td>
<td>Concerto Grosso</td>
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**Tuesday, November 7, 2017, at 7:30 p.m.**
**Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio**
Joseph Kalichstein, piano  
Jaime Laredo, violin     
Sharon Robinson, cello  

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<tr>
<td>BEETHOVEN</td>
<td>Piano Trio in G major, Op. 1, No. 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>BEETHOVEN</td>
<td>Piano Trio in D major, Op. 70, No. 1, “Ghost”</td>
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<tr>
<td>BEETHOVEN</td>
<td>Piano Trio in B-flat major, Op. 97, “Archduke”</td>
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**Saturday, November 11, 2017, at 7:30 p.m.**
**Leila Josefowicz, violin**
**John Novacek, piano**

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<th>COMPOSER</th>
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<tr>
<td>SIBELIUS</td>
<td><em>Waltz Triste</em>, Op. 44, arranged by Friedrich Hermann</td>
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<tr>
<td>PROKOFIEV</td>
<td>Violin Sonata No. 1 in F minor, Op. 80</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAHLER/ Arr. Robert Wittinger</td>
<td><em>Adagietto</em> (Symphony No. 5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAARIAHO</td>
<td><em>Calices</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bernd ZIMMERMANN</td>
<td>Sonata (1953)</td>
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**Wednesday, December 6, 2017, at 7:30 p.m.**
**Cantus**

**Three Tales of Christmas**

In *Three Tales of Christmas*, Cantus reimagines beloved stories through familiar carols alongside new holiday classics. Featuring narrated passages from such classic holiday tales as *A Christmas Carol*, *Gift of the Magi*, and *‘Twas the Night Before Christmas*, and more.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arranger</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>arr. VAUGHAN WILLIAMS</td>
<td>“God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen”</td>
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<tr>
<td>WALTON</td>
<td>“Make We Joy Now in this Feast”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christina ROSETTI</td>
<td>“Love Came Down at Christmas”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Johnny MARKS</td>
<td>“Silver and Gold”</td>
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<tr>
<td>HOLST</td>
<td>“In The Bleak Midwinter”</td>
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<tr>
<td>arr. CANTUS</td>
<td>“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”</td>
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Healy WILLAN         “The Three Kings”  
HORVATH        “Demon in my View”  
Traditional / arr. LICHT “Wassail”  
Ola GJEILØ       “Ubi Caritas”  
TRADITIONAL     “Joy To The World”  
Paul WILLIAMS    “With A Thankful Heart”  
arr. MCGLYNN     “Noel Nouvelet”  
MARTIN AND BLAINE “Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas”  

Wednesday, January 24, 2018, at 7:30 p.m.  
Calidore String Quartet  
Jeffrey Myers, violin  
Ryan Meehan, violin  
Jeremy Berry, viola  
Estelle Choi, cello  

HAYDN Quartet in D major, Op. 64, No. 5, “The Lark”  
KURTAŠ Officium Breve in Memoriam Andrae Szervánszky, Op. 28  
BRAHMS Quartet in C minor, Op. 51, No. 1  

Tuesday, February 6, 2018, at 7:30 p.m.  
Leonard Bernstein, His World Through Music  
Carla Dirlikov Canales, mezzo-soprano  
Justin Snyder, piano  
Alexander Bernstein, narrator  

All-BERNSTEIN program:  
West Side Story “Somewhere”  
Wonderful Town “A Little Bit in Love”  
On The Town “I Can Cook Too”  
“Ain’t Got No Tears Left”  
“Times Square Ballet”  
Candide “I Am Easily Assimilated”  
Peter Pan “Dream With Me”  
Trouble in Tahiti “What A Movie!”  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue “Take Care of This House”  
Mass “Simple Song”  
“World Without End”  
“Word of the Lord”  
“So Pretty”  
“I Hate Music!” Cycle of “5 Kid Songs” for Soprano and Piano  
Fancy Free Danzon  
Piano Anniversaries “For Felicia Montealegre”  
“For Aaron Copland”  
“For Helen Coates”  
“For Stephen Sondheim”  

Part of the Kennedy Center’s Leonard Bernstein at 100 celebration
Thursday, February 15, 2018, at 7:30 p.m.
John Holiday, countertenor
The Marian Anderson Vocal Award winner
Co-presentation with Washington National Opera

Winner of the 2017 Marian Anderson Vocal Award, countertenor John Holiday is one of opera’s brightest rising stars. He brings his unique sound and artistry to a Kennedy Center recital, and will also mentor students in a residency at D.C.’s Duke Ellington School of the Arts.

Wednesday, March 21, 2018, at 7:30 p.m.
Takács Quartet
Edward Dusinberre, violin
Karóly Schranz, violin
Geraldine Walther, viola
András Fejér, cello

MOZART String Quartet No. 14 in G major, K. 387
SHOSTAKOVICH String Quartet No. 11 in F minor, Op. 122
GRIEG String Quartet No. 1 in G minor, Op. 27

Thursday, April 5, 2018, at 7:30 p.m.
Co-presented with KC Jukebox Series
Dawn Upshaw and Sō Percussion
Dawn Upshaw, soprano
Gilbert Kalish, piano
Sō Percussion
Josh Quillen
Adam Sliwinski
Jason Treuting
Eric Cha-Beach

Caroline SHAW New Work, world premiere (New Music Accord commission)
CRUMB Winds of Destiny

Sunday, April 15, 2018, at 2 p.m.
Isabel Leonard in Recital

Program to be announced at a later date.
Monday, April 23, 2018, at 7:30 p.m.
Steven Isserlis, cello
Richard Egarr, harpsichord

BACH
Sonata in G major, BWV 1027
BACH
Cello Suite No. 5 in C minor, BWV 1011
BOCCHERINI
Cello Sonata in G major, G.5
SCARLATTI
Sonata in D minor, Kk 90
HANDEL
Harpischord Suite in E major
BACH
Sonata in D major, BWV1028

Thursday, May 3, 2018, at 7:30 p.m.
Les Violons du Roy with Isabelle Faust
Bernard Labadie, artistic director
Isabelle Faust, violin

BACH/ trans. Labadie
Three Leipzig Chorales, BWV 651-660-655
BACH/arr. Labadie
Passacaglia and Fugue in C Minor, BWV 582
BACH
Violin Concerto in E major, BWV 1042
BACH
Violin Concerto in A minor, BWV 1041
BACH
Contrapunctus XIV from The Art of Fugue, BWV 1080
[completed by Bernard Labadie after Davitt Moroney]
BACH
Double Violin Concerto in D minor, BWV 1043
with Pascale Giguère

Monday, June 11, 2018, at 7:30 p.m.
Christoph Eschenbach plays Brahms Trios with members of the NSO
Christoph Eschenbach, piano
Nurit Bar-Josef, violin
Mark Evans, cello
Eugene Mondie, clarinet
Abel Pereira, horn

SCHUMANN
Adagio and Allegro for Horn and Piano, Op. 70
BRAHMS
Horn Trio in E-flat major, Op. 40
SCHUMANN
Fantasiestücke for Clarinet and Piano, Op. 73
BRAHMS
Clarinet Trio in A minor, Op. 114