Press Release

January 30, 2018
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THE JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS ANNOUNCES

2018–2019 SEASON OF FORTAS CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERTS

DOVER QUARTET NAMED KENNEDY CENTER QUARTET-IN-RESIDENCE FOR THREE-YEAR TERM

(WASHINGTON)—The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts announces programming for the 2018–2019 season of Fortas Chamber Music Concerts, the series’s 36th season and 22nd under the leadership of artistic director and pianist Joseph Kalichstein. The Fortas Chamber Music Concerts offer 12 performances—a variety of ensembles of different generations—that demonstrate its continuing commitment to programming the widest range of music in this genre from both the past and present. Fortas concerts takes place in the Kennedy Center Terrace Theater, which reopened in 2017 after extensive renovations.

“One of the things that drives musicians and makes us feel richly rewarded is the desire to share—to share our enthusiasm about a particular piece, our excitement at a new discovery, or our devotion to some old favorites,” said Joseph Kalichstein, Artistic Director of the Fortas Chamber Music Concerts. “For me, in connection with this jewel of a series, this desire is doubled. I cannot wait to share with our audience the anticipation of hearing a masterpiece by a great artist that they don’t know; a repeat hearing of a treasure that never stops giving; or an introduction to newer artists that I
am certain will be tomorrow’s revered masters. I am truly excited about the depth, the richness, and the incredible artistry of both the composers and performers audiences will hear next season.”

In 2018–2019, the Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio-in-Residence at the Kennedy Center is joined by the Dover Quartet, the Center’s new Quartet-in-Residence. Further highlights of 2018–2019 include renowned concert pianist Garrick Ohlsson with the beloved Takács Quartet, the Grammy®-nominated Imani Winds, a return of the Venice Baroque Chamber Ensemble, and a season finale with new ensemble Russian Renaissance, for a festive, virtuosic finish to a genre-spanning season.

The season opens with the Dover Quartet’s return to the Fortas series in a concert that marks the beginning of a three-year term as the Kennedy Center’s Quartet-in-Residence. In its new role during the 2018–2019 season, the ensemble performs on programs throughout the Kennedy Center—from the Fortas series to the Kennedy Center Composer-in-Residence Mason Bates’s KC Jukebox series. The Quartet’s residency is also intended to provide the ensemble with tools to expand their education footprint, developing a mobile capsule program, reaching school children while touring, and utilizing the Kennedy Center’s vast educational network throughout the United States.

Equally at home in canonical repertoire as well as the newest reaches of contemporary classical music, the Dover’s first concert in its new capacity includes Webern’s Langsamer Satz, Schubert’s Quartet in G major, and Bates’s From Amber Frozen. The quartet plans to perform one of Bates’s string quartets in each of the first two years of its residency, and the Kennedy Center will commission a third string quartet for the Dover Quartet’s third year. (October 10)

A foundation of Fortas concerts since the series’s inaugural season, the Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio makes its annual appearance on the series in a program showcasing innovation in classical forms. Schumann’s Canonic Etudes, transcribed by Theodor Kirchner, and Ravel’s Piano Trio are performed, along with the beloved First
Piano Trio by Mendelssohn, a work described by Schumann as “the most perfect trio.” (October 23)

The award-winning Escher String Quartet, inspired by the artwork of their namesake, focuses on intricacies of a work as much as the complexity of the whole. They bring a nuanced expressivity to Mozart’s final Quartet, paired with legendary film composer Erich Korngold’s String Quartet No. 3, and Dvořák’s “American” Quartet. (November 14)

Masters of Renaissance vocal polyphony, The Tallis Scholars, perform a holiday program A Renaissance Christmas: The Song of Mary. Pieces from Palestrina’s Christmas Day mass; Nesbett’s Magnificat, a Marian prayer; and a lullaby of the virgin by Byrd are included in the program. Tucked amid the tradition, a new work by iconoclastic composer Nico Muhly will be performed. (December 5)

The Grammy®-nominated Imani Winds performs a new work on the history of civil rights, to coincide with the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s death. Co-commissioned by the Kennedy Center and The University of Chicago’s Center for Race and Culture, the new work by Pulitzer Prize–winning composer Henry Threadgill receives its premiere this May at the University of Chicago. All six works on the Imani Winds’ program are by living composers, two of whom are members of the ensemble, and all pieces are re-imaginings of ancient music, made new by the contemporary composers. The program also features Reena Esmail’s The light is the same, commissioned by the Lied Center of Kansas, and premiered March 15, 2017 at the University of Kansas, Lawrence. (January 30, 2019)

The ever-evolving Juilliard String Quartet, now in its 71st performing season, is recognized for bold interpretations of the classics. With a program of Haydn, Bartók, and Beethoven, three composers central to the string quartet medium are presented by masters of the genre. (February 6, 2019)

Pianists and friends Shai Wosner and Orion Weiss each make their Fortas Series debut with a program of piano works for four hands. Rooted in works by Pulitzer Prize
and Grammy Award®-winning composer David Lang, whose music was last heard on the Fortas series in March 2016 in a performance by eighth blackbird, the program intersperses Lang’s Gravity and After Gravity with major works by Schubert and Brahms. *(March 5, 2019)*

Ever popular, the Takács Quartet brings a delicate pairing of Haydn and Bartók along with Elgar’s majestic Piano Quintet, featuring star pianist Garrick Ohlsson. Having appeared at the Kennedy Center with the National Symphony Orchestra in October 2017, Ohlsson makes a return appearance with the Fortas series to demonstrate his admirable skills at the keyboard in a more intimate setting. *(March 12, 2019)*

Violinist Benjamin Beilman makes his Fortas debut after first appearing at the Kennedy Center as an up-and-coming soloist on the 2012 Young Concert Artist Series. Now recognized for his grasp of violin technique and quiet musicality, Beilman plays a new work composed for him by Frederic Rzewski, a co-commission of the Fortas series and Music Accord, which will be premiered in March 2018 in Boston. Orion Weiss, a concert companion of Beilman, returns to the series for the second time this season as a collaborative partner. *(March 21, 2019)*

Having made a successful debut on the Fortas series in 2012, The Morgenstern Trio returns with their globetrotting program of Irish folk tunes, and a piece by Turkish composer Ilhan Baran, capped with Schubert’s beloved B-flat Piano Trio. The trio won the Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio award, leading to international acclaim for their polished performances. *(March 26, 2019)*

Steeped in the sounds and style of the Baroque era, the Venice Baroque Chamber Ensemble performs an all-Italian program with soprano Robin Johannsen as part of the Kennedy Center–wide Celebration of Italian Culture in 2019. Featuring works by composers familiar and new, the ensemble performs songs and concertos by Vivaldi, Handel, Giacomelli, Marcello, Albinoni, and Caldara. Comprised of members of the Venice Baroque Orchestra, the ensemble champions the works of the Baroque era, especially those of their native country. *(April 10, 2019)*
Capping the season is an ensemble of traditional Russian instrumentalists, **Russian Renaissance**. Known for their genre-bending performances of repertoire as wide-ranging as Bach to Rameau, or tangos by Galliano to Duke Ellington, the quartet of balalaika, balalaika-contrabasso, domra, and button accordion, stretches the imagination with their unique renditions. *(May 23, 2019)*

In addition to the 12 subscription concerts, the Fortas Chamber Music Concerts co-presents, with Washington National Opera, bass-baritone **Ryan Speedo Green**—winner of the 2018 Marian Anderson Vocal Award—in recital in the Terrace Theater. Green 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. *(October 4)*

Full details and programs for Fortas Chamber Music Concerts in the 2018-2019 season can be found in the following chronological listing of events. Subscriptions are available beginning January 30 in three different packages of four concerts each, and the Ryan Speedo Green performance 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 2017–2018, which is Joseph Kalichstein’s 21st 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 21st 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 trio-in-residence of the Fortas Chamber Music Concerts series, celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2017.
FORTAS CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES  
2018–2019 CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF EVENTS

Wednesday, October 10, 2018, at 7:30 p.m.
Dover Quartet
Joel Link, violin
Bryan Lee, violin
Milena Pajaro-van de Stadt, viola
Camden Shaw, cello

WEBERN
Mason BATES
SCHUBERT
Langsamer Satz
From Amber Frozen
Quartet in G major, D. 887

Tuesday, October 23, 2018, at 7:30 p.m.
Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio
Joseph Kalichstein, piano
Jaime Laredo, violin
Sharon Robinson, cello

SCHUMANN
RAVEL
MENDELSSOHN
Selections from Canonic Etudes, Op. 56
Piano Trio in A minor
Piano Trio No. 1 in D minor, Op. 49

Wednesday, November 14, 2018, at 7:30 p.m.
Escher String Quartet
Adam Barnett-Hart, violin
Aaron Boyd, violin
Pierre Lapointe, viola
Brook Speltz, cello

MOZART
KORNGOLD
DVOŘÁK
Quartet in F major, K 590
Quartet No. 3 in D major, Op. 34
Quartet in F major, Op. 96, “American”
Wednesday, December 5, 2018, at 7:30 p.m.
Tallis Scholars
Peter Phillips, Director

A Renaissance Christmas: The Song of Mary

PALESTRINA       Hodie Christus natus est
PALESTRINA       Missa Hodie Christus natus est (Kyrie and Gloria)
Nico MUHLY        New Work
NESBETT           Magnificat
PALESTRINA       Missa Hodie Christus natus est (Credo, Sanctus and Agnus dei)
BYRD              Lullaby
H. PRAETORIUS     Magnificat V (shorter with In dulci jubilo embedded)

Wednesday, January 30, 2019, at 7:30 p.m.
Imani Winds
Valerie Coleman, flute
Toyin Spellman-Diaz, oboe
Mark Dover, clarinet
Jeff Scott, French horn
Monica Ellis, bassoon

   Jeff SCOTT          Startin Sumthin
   HARBISON           Quintet for Winds
   Lalo SHIFRIN       La Nouvelle Orleans
   Henry THREADGILL   New Work*
   Reena ESMAIL       The Light is the Same
   Valerie COLEMAN    Tzigane

*Commissioned by the University of Chicago’s Center for Race and Culture & the Kennedy Center. Premiered on May 11, 2018 at The University of Chicago.

Wednesday, February 6, 2019, at 7:30 p.m.
The Juilliard String Quartet
Joseph Lin, violin
Ronald Copes, violin
Roger Tapping, viola
Astrid Scheweun, cello

   HAYDN           Quartet No. 2 in F major
   BARTÓK          Quartet No. 3
   BEETHOVEN       Quartet No. 2 in E minor, “Razumovsky”
Tuesday, March 5, 2019, at 7:30 p.m.
Shai Wosner and Orion Weiss, piano

David LANG
SCHUBERT
David LANG
BRAHMS
Gravity
Grand Duo in C major for piano four hands, D812 (“Grand Duo”)
After Gravity
Sonata in F minor for two pianos, Op. 34bis

Tuesday, March 12, 2019, at 7:30 p.m.
Takács Quartet with Garrick Ohlsson
Edward Dusinberre, violin
Karóly Schranz, violin
Geraldine Walther, viola
András Fejér, cello
Garrick Ohlsson, piano

HAYDN
BARTÓK
ELGAR
String Quartet in G major, Op. 76, No. 1
String Quartet No. 6, Sz. 114
Piano Quintet, Op. 84

Thursday, March 21, 2019, at 7:30 p.m.
Benjamin Beilman in recital
Benjamin Beilman, violin
Orion Weiss, piano

BEETHOVEN
BARTÓK
RZEWSKI
BEETHOVEN
Sonata No. 1 in D major, Op 12
Sonata No. 2 for violin and piano, Sz 76
New Work*
Sonata No. 10 in G major, Op. 96

*Co-commissioned by the Kennedy Center with the Music Accord

Tuesday, March 26, 2019, at 7:30 p.m.
The Morgenstern Trio
Catherine Klipfel, piano
Stefan Hempel, violin
Emanuel Wehse, cello

Frank MARTIN
Ilhan BARAN
SCHUBERT
Trio on Irish Folk Tunes
Transformations
Piano Trio No. 1 in B-flat major, D 897
Wednesday, April 10, 2019, at 7:30 p.m.
Venice Baroque Chamber Ensemble with Robin Johannsen, soprano

VIVALDI  
Sinfonia in C major, RV114

HANDEL  
“Col peso del tuo amor” (Agrippina)

G. GIACOMELLI  
“Sposa non mi conosci” (Merope)

VIVALDI  
Concerto in C major, RV177

Gianpiero Zanocco, violin

B. MARCELLO  
“Come mai puoi vedermi piangere” (Arianna)
“La speranza verdeggiando” (Orlando finto pazzo)

VIVALDI  
Concerto in G minor, RV416

Massimo Raccanelli Zaborra, cello

HANDEL  
“E’ un foco quel d’amor” (Agrippina)

T. ALBINONI  
Concerto in A minor, Op. 5, No. 5

A. CALDARA  
“In dolce amore” (Scipione Africano)

VIVALDI  
Concerto in G minor, RV531

Massimo Raccanelli Zaborra, cello
Federico Toffano, cello

VIVALDI  
“Anche il mar par che sommerga” (Bajazet)

Thursday, May 23, 2019, at 7:30 p.m.
Russian Renaissance
Ivan Kuznetsov, balalaika
Anastasia Zakharova, domra
Alekandr Terasov, button accordion
Ivan Vinogradov, balalaika-contrabassino

RAMEAU  
Les Cyclopes

RAMEAU  
L’Enharmonique

J.S. BACH  
Fugue in G minor BWV 542

TCHAIKOVSKY  
Russian Dance from Swan Lake

SCHNITTE  
Concerto Grosso No. 1, Rondo

Efrem PODGAITS  
Rendezvous with Haydn

PROKOFIEV  
Toccata in D minor

Richard GALLIANO  
Tango Pour Claude

Richard GALLIANO  
New York Tango

Ryuichi SAKAMOTO  
Bibo no Aozora

RUSSIAN RENAISSANCE  
Vanya

Egberto GISMONTE  
Frevo

Django REINHARDT  
Rhythm Futur

Duke ELLINGTON  
Caravan
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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 for the 2018–2019 season are available for renewal or purchase beginning January 30 at the Kennedy Center subscription office, online at kennedy-center.org/subscribe, and via phone through InstantCharge, (202) 467-8500; toll-free at (800) 444-1324. For all other ticket-related customer service inquires, call the Advance Sales Box Office at (202) 416-8540.

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