



Press Release

January 25, 2019

**FORTAS SERIES CONTINUES WITH STAR-STUDED
CONCERTS IN MARCH FEATURING:
PIANO DUO SHAI WOSNER AND ORION WEISS,
TAKÁCS QUARTET WITH PIANIST GARRICK OHLSSON,
VIOLINIST BENJAMIN BEILMAN,
AND THE MORGENSTERN TRIO**

March 5, 12, 21, and 26, 2019, in the Kennedy Center Terrace Theater

(WASHINGTON)—The Fortas Chamber Music Concerts Series continues its season with four exhilarating performances in March, featuring critically-acclaimed pianists Shai Wosner and Orion Weiss, the Grammy Award®-winning Takács Quartet joined by the legendary Garrick Ohlsson, rising star violinist Benjamin Beilman, and the gifted Morgenstern Trio. All concerts take place in the Kennedy Center Terrace Theater.

[On March 5 at 7:30 p.m.](#), pianists Shai Wosner and Orion Weiss come together for a concert that includes works for four hands—a rare treat for Fortas concertgoers. The carefully curated recital program comprises Schubert’s Grand Duo in C major, Brahms’s Sonata in F minor for Two Pianos, and contemporary composer David Lang’s companion pieces *Gravity* and *After Gravity*. Both alumni of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center’s Bowers Program and former students of Emanuel Ax, Wosner and Weiss have been performing together for more than 15 years.

Fortas Series favorite, the Takács Quartet, return to the Kennedy Center—this time joined by pianist Garrick Ohlsson, “a musician of magisterial interpretive and technical prowess” (*The Seattle Times*).

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The March program showcases the Quartet’s trademark vitality and attention to detail with Haydn’s String Quartet in G major and Bartók’s String Quartet No. 6. Ohlsson, a commanding pianist, joins the Takács for Elgar’s Piano Quintet. The concert takes place [March 12 at 7:30 p.m.](#)

Since making his D.C. debut at the Kennedy Center in a 2012 Young Concert Artists Series recital, violinist Benjamin Beilman has gained recognition as a preeminent musician of his generation, winning praise both for his passionate performances and deep, rich tone. Beilman returns to the Center on [March 21 at 7:30 p.m.](#) for a recital of classic sonatas as well as a new commission specially composed for him by Frederic Rzewski. Pianist Orion Weiss, featured in the first March Fortas concert, returns to join Beilman for Beethoven’s Sonata No. 1 in D major, Sonata No. 10 in G major, and Bartók’s Sonata No. 2 for Violin and Piano.

Returning to the Kennedy Center for the first time since their stellar Fortas debut in 2012, the internationally acclaimed Morgenstern Trio looks to leave another lasting impression on concert goers with a delightful and varied program. Frank Martin’s 20th-century work Trio on Irish Folk Tunes begins the recital, followed by Mendelssohn’s Piano Trio in D minor, Op. 49, and the lighthearted Piano Trio No. 1 in B-flat major from Schubert—all played with the “polished technique and musical imagination” (*Washington Post*) the Trio is beloved for. [The concert takes place March 26 at 7:30 p.m.](#)

ABOUT SHAI WOSNER

Pianist Shai Wosner has attracted international recognition for his exceptional artistry, musical integrity, and creative insight. His performances of a broad range of repertoire—from Beethoven and Schubert to Ligeti and the music of today—reflect a degree of virtuosity and intellectual curiosity that has made him a favorite among audiences and critics, who note his “keen musical mind and deep musical soul” (NPR’s All Things Considered).

Wosner is a recipient of Lincoln Center’s Martin E. Segal Award, an Avery Fisher Career Grant, and a Borletti-Buitoni Trust Award—a prize he used to commission Michael Hersch’s concerto *Along the Ravines*, which he performed with the Seattle Symphony and Deutsche Radio Philharmonie in its world and European premieres. He was in residence with the BBC as a New Generation Artist, during which he appeared frequently with the BBC orchestras, including conducting Mozart concertos from the keyboard with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. He returned to the BBC Scottish Symphony in both subscription concerts and Proms performances with Donald Runnicles and appeared with the BBC Philharmonic in a live broadcast from Manchester’s Bridgewater Hall. As a concerto soloist in the U.S., Wosner has appeared with the orchestras of Atlanta, Baltimore, Berkeley, Chicago, Cleveland, Dallas, Indianapolis, Los Angeles, Milwaukee, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and San Francisco, among others.

ABOUT ORION WEISS

One of the most sought-after soloists in his generation of young American musicians, the pianist Orion Weiss has performed with the major American orchestras, including the Chicago Symphony, Boston Symphony, Los

Angeles Philharmonic, and New York Philharmonic. His deeply felt and exceptionally crafted performances go far beyond his technical mastery and have won him worldwide acclaim.

Named the Classical Recording Foundation's Young Artist of the Year in September 2010, in the summer of 2011 Weiss made his debut with the Boston Symphony Orchestra at Tanglewood as a last-minute replacement for Leon Fleisher. As a recitalist and chamber musician, Weiss has appeared across the U.S. at venues and festivals including Lincoln Center, the Ravinia Festival, Sheldon Concert Hall, the Seattle Chamber Music Festival, La Jolla Music Society SummerFest, Chamber Music Northwest, the Bard Music Festival, the Bridgehampton Chamber Music Festival, the Kennedy Center, and Spivey Hall. He won the 2005 William Petschek Recital Award at Juilliard, and made his New York recital debut at Alice Tully Hall that April.

ABOUT THE TAKÁCS QUARTET

During the 2018-19 season the ensemble will continue its four annual concerts as Associate Artists at London's Wigmore Hall. The Quartet will perform extensively in USA, including two concerts at New York's Lincoln Center, and at the University of Chicago, Princeton and Berkeley. A tour with Garrick Ohlsson will culminate in a recording for Hyperion of the Elgar and Amy Beach piano quintets. The latest Takács cd, to be released in the summer of 2019, features Dohnanyi's two piano quintets and his second string quartet, with pianist Marc-André Hamelin.

The Quartet's award-winning recordings include the complete Beethoven Cycle on the Decca label, the *Late Beethoven Quartets*, which won Disc of the Year and Chamber Award from *BBC Music Magazine*, Album of the Year at the Brit Awards, and a Japanese Record Academy Award, and their Grammy Award-winning recordings of the early and middle Beethoven quartets, a Chamber Music of America Award and two further awards from the Japanese Recording Academy. Since 2006 they have recorded for the Hyperion label.

The Takács Quartet was formed in 1975 at the Franz Liszt Academy in Budapest by Gabor Takács-Nagy, Károly Schranz, Gabor Ormai and András Fejér. They reside in Boulder, Colorado, where they are Christoffersen Faculty Fellows at the University of Colorado.

ABOUT GARRICK OHLSSON

Since his triumph as winner of the 1970 Chopin International Piano Competition, pianist Garrick Ohlsson has established himself worldwide as a musician of magisterial interpretive and technical prowess. A student of the late Claudio Arrau, Mr. Ohlsson has come to be noted for his masterly performances of the works of Mozart, Beethoven and Schubert, as well as the Romantic repertoire. To date he has at his command more than 80 concertos, ranging from Haydn and Mozart to works of the 21st century, many commissioned for him.

This season that vast repertoire can be sampled in concerti ranging from Rachmaninoff's popular Third and rarely performed Fourth, to Brahms Nos. 1 and 2, Beethoven, Mozart, Grieg and Copland in cities including Philadelphia, Atlanta, Detroit, Dallas, Miami, Toronto, Vancouver, San Francisco, Liverpool, and Madrid ending with a spring US West Coast tour with the St. Petersburg Philharmonic conducted by Yuri Temirkanov.

Together with violinist Jorja Fleezanis and cellist Michael Grebanier, he is a founding member of the San Francisco-based FOG Trio. Passionate about singing and singers, Mr. Ohlsson has appeared in recital with such legendary artists as Magda Olivero, Jessye Norman, and Ewa Podles.

ABOUT BENJAMIN BEILMAN

Benjamin Beilman has won praise both for his passionate performances and deep rich tone which the *Washington Post* called "mightily impressive." In 2018-19 Beilman will play-direct the Vancouver Symphony, make his debut at the Philharmonie in Cologne with Ensemble Resonanz, perform Four Seasons with the Cincinnati Symphony and Richard Egarr, return to the City of Birmingham Symphony, and debut with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra.

Beilman garnered worldwide attention following his First Prize wins in the 2010 Young Concert Artists International Auditions –where he was also recipient of YCA’s Helen Armstrong Violin Fellowship and a People’s Choice Award –and the 2010 Montréal International Musical Competition. He went on to receive prestigious accolades including a Borletti-Buitoni Trust Fellowship, an Avery Fisher Career Grant and a London Music Masters Award and an exclusive recording contract with Warner Classics. Beilman released his first disc for the label in 2016, titled Spectrum and featuring works by Stravinsky, Janáček and Schubert.

Beilman began playing violin at the age of five and went on to study with Almita and Roland Vamos at the Music Institute of Chicago, Ida Kavafian and Pamela Frank at the Curtis Institute of Music, and Christian Tetzlaff at the Kronberg Academy.

ABOUT THE MORGENSTERN TRIO

The three musicians of the Morgenstern Trio (Stefan Hempel, violin; Catherine Klipfel, piano; and Emanuel Wehse, cello) joined forces in 2005 at the Folkwang Academy in Essen. In 2007, after only two years of intensive collaboration, the trio was awarded several important prizes: first prize at the International Joseph Haydn Competition in Vienna, second prize at the Fifth Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition, and second prize and the audience prize at the prestigious ARD Competition in Munich. The previous year they had already won a sought-after scholarship at the German Music Competition. The trio was named “ensemble in residence” for 2008 and 2009 at the Folkwang Academy in Essen. As a triumphant finale to a very successful year, in 2009 the Morgenstern Trio was awarded the prestigious Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson International Trio Award.

The summer of 2014 marked the inauguration of their own Morgenstern Festival in Germany, offering eclectic programs with guest artists. Other festival appearances include the Pablo Casals Festival in Prades/France, the Festspiele Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, the Heidelberger Fruehling, the WDR Musikfest, and the Kuhmo Chamber Music Festival in Finland.

ABOUT FORTAS CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERTS

The 2018–2019 season marks the 36th 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.

Pianist Joseph Kalichstein has served as the Kennedy Center’s Artistic Advisor for Chamber Music and Artistic Director of the Fortas Concerts since 1997. The Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio has been the Kennedy Center’s Ensemble-in-Residence since 2003. In the 2018–2019 season, the Dover Quartet begins a three-year residency as the Center’s Quartet-in-Residence.

Through its history the series has featured frequent appearances by artists such as the Guarneri, Emerson, Juilliard, Takács, 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 many other distinguished artists and ensembles that actively perform and commission new works.

TICKET INFORMATION

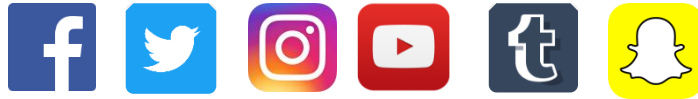
Tickets (\$45) are available at the Kennedy Center Box Office, online at kennedy-center.org, and via phone through Instant Charge, (202) 467-4700; toll-free at (800) 444-1324. For all other ticket-related customer service inquiries, call the Advance Sales Box Office at (202) 416-8540.

FUNDING CREDITS

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For more information, please visit the [Kennedy Center website](http://KennedyCenter.org).



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