



Press Release

October 12, 2018

## **ESCHER STRING QUARTET RETURNS TO KENNEDY CENTER IN NOVEMBER FORTAS CONCERT**

**November 14, 2018 in the Kennedy Center Terrace Theater**

(WASHINGTON)— Last seen at the Center in their 2009 Kennedy Center debut, the Escher String Quartet makes its long-awaited return as part of the Fortas Chamber Music Concerts. The Escher String Quartet is a former BBC New Generation Artist and one of the few chamber ensembles to receive the Avery Fisher Career Grant. Praised by *The New York Times* for their “penetrating intelligence and curiosity,” the quartet comprises violinists Adam Barnett-Hart and Danbi Um, violist Pierre Lapointe, and cellist Brook Speltz.

The Quartet’s Fortas concert program features Mozart’s Quartet in F major, Korngold’s Quartet No. 3 in D major, and Dvorák’s Quartet in F major, “American.” The performance takes place on Wednesday, November 14 at 7:30 p.m. in the Kennedy Center Terrace Theater. Tickets are \$45.

### **ABOUT ESCHER STRING QUARTET**

The Escher String Quartet has received acclaim for its expressive, nuanced performances that combine unusual textural clarity with a rich, blended sound. A former BBC New Generation Artist, the quartet has performed at the BBC Proms at Cadogan Hall and is a regular guest at Wigmore Hall. In its home town of New York City, the ensemble serves as Season Artists of The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, where it has presented the complete Zemlinsky Quartets Cycle as well as being one of five quartets chosen to collaborate in a complete presentation of Beethoven’s string quartets. Last season the quartet toured with CMS to China.

Within months of its inception in 2005, the ensemble came to the attention of key musical figures worldwide. Championed by the Emerson Quartet, the Escher Quartet was invited by both Pinchas

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Zukerman and Itzhak Perlman to be Quartet in Residence at each artist’s summer festival: the Young Artists Programme at Canada’s National Arts Centre; and the Perlman Chamber Music Programme on Shelter Island, New York. The quartet has since collaborated with artists including David Finckel, Leon Fleischer, Wu Han, Lynn Harrell, Cho Liang Lin, Joshua Bell, Paul Watkins, and David Shifrin, as well as jazz saxophonist Joshua Redman, vocalist Kurt Elling, legendary Latin artist Paquito D’Rivera, and Grammy award-winning guitarist Jason Vieaux. In 2013 the quartet became one of the very few chamber ensembles to be awarded the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant.

### **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](https://www.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.

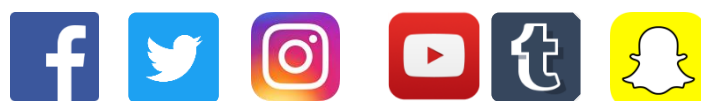
### **FUNDING CREDITS**

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.

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For more information, please visit the [Kennedy Center website](https://www.kennedy-center.org).



## #KCFortas

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