



Press Release

November 28, 2018

**GRAMMY-NOMINATED IMANI WINDS RETURNS TO THE
KENNEDY CENTER FOR JANUARY
FORTAS SERIES CONCERT**

Wednesday, January 30, 2019, at 7:30 p.m.

(WASHINGTON)— Grammy®-nominated woodwind quintet Imani Winds returns to the Fortas Chamber Music Concerts in the Kennedy Center’s Terrace Theater for a one-night-only performance on [Wednesday, January 30, 2019, at 7:30 p.m.](#) The program features music by six contemporary composers, including the quintet’s own Jeff Scott (*Startin Sumthin*), John Harbison’s Quintet for Winds, Lalo Schifrin’s *La Nouvelle Orleans*, Reena Esmail’s *The Light is the Same*, former Imani Winds flutist Valerie Coleman’s *Tzigane*, and a new work by Henry Threadgill, co-commissioned by the Kennedy Center and the University of Chicago’s Center for Race and Culture.

With a soulful and spirited chamber music style and a commitment to promoting diversity in the arts, Imani Winds has cultivated a diverse and enthusiastic audience since its founding in 1997. Praised for its “exuberance and artistic risk-taking” (*Washington Post*), Imani Winds, who last performed at the Kennedy Center in 2015, comprises flutist Brandon Patrick George, oboist Toyin Spellman-Diaz, clarinetist Mark Dover, bassoonist Monica Ellis, and hornist Jeff Scott.

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PROGRAM DETAILS:

Wednesday, January 30, 2019, at 7:30 p.m.

Imani Winds

Brandon Patrick George, flute
Toyin Spellman-Diaz, oboe
Mark Dover, clarinet
Monica Ellis, bassoon
Jeff Scott, French horn

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

*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.

ABOUT IMANI WINDS

Extolled by the *Philadelphia Inquirer* as “what triumph sounds like,” Imani Winds has established itself as one of the most successful chamber music ensembles in the United States. Since 1997 the Grammy®-nominated quintet has taken a unique path, carving out a distinct presence in the classical music world with its dynamic playing, culturally poignant programming, adventurous collaborations, and inspirational outreach programs. With two member composers and a deep commitment to commissioning new work, the group is enriching the traditional wind quintet repertoire while meaningfully bridging European, American, African, and Latin American traditions.

Starting in the fall of 2016 through 2018, Imani Winds has been appointed as the University of Chicago's Don Michael Randel Ensemble-in-Residence. This multi-faceted residency includes in depth collaborations with wind students, the chamber music department, composition majors and the Hyde Park community and also features world premieres on the “UC Presents” Series, the presenting arm of the University.

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.

ABOUT FORTAS CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERTS

The 2108–2019 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.

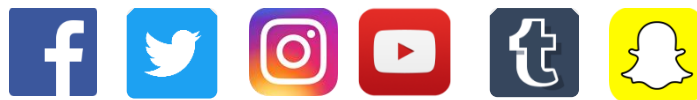
FUNDING CREDITS

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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TICKETS & INFORMATION

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