



Press Release

February 4, 2019  
Download photos [here](#)

## **2019–2020 SEASON OF FORTAS CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERTS ANNOUNCED TODAY**

**Highlights Include Several Commissioned Works, Kennedy Center Debut  
of Violinist Patricia Kopatchinskaja,  
Celebrations of Beethoven’s 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday, and  
the Dover Quartet’s Second Year in Residence**

(WASHINGTON)—The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts announces programming for the 2019–2020 season of Fortas Chamber Music Concerts, the series’s 38<sup>th</sup> season and 23<sup>rd</sup> under the leadership of artistic director and pianist Joseph Kalichstein. The Fortas Chamber Music Concerts offer 12 performances in 2019–2020, with repertoire spanning a millennium, from the 11<sup>th</sup> century to today, and ensembles ranging from the core configurations of chamber music—piano trios and string quartets—to boundary breakers in the field. Half of the 2019–2020 Fortas programs include pieces by living composers; next season features commissioned works, celebrations of the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday of Beethoven, and Fortas’s signature varied offerings that will surprise and engage all audiences. The Fortas Chamber Music Concerts represent the best of the genre through artists of all ages and perspectives.

“It is a joy to offer a season of chamber music that is as varied as it is traditional, as familiar as it is unexpected and as comforting as it is disturbing,” said Joseph Kalichstein. “With great pianists, string quartets, and vocalists—some returning favorites and some new to the series—we’re celebrating the giants of the past like Bach, Bartók, and the 250-years-young Beethoven, plus impactful contemporary artists who push the boundaries of our genre. Of the more-than-30 composers whose works are included next season, nine—nearly a third!—are currently living.”

The legendary **Takács Quartet** opens the 2019–2020 season with a crowning achievement of 20<sup>th</sup>-century string quartets—the complete cycle by Bartók. This signature repertoire for the group is performed in two concerts, on consecutive nights, with three quartets per concert—1, 3, and 5 and 2, 4, and 6. (*October 15 & 16*)

A foundation of Fortas concerts since the inaugural season, the **Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio** makes its annual appearance on the series in a program honoring Beethoven’s upcoming 250<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2020. The all-Beethoven program features three of his Piano Trios: Op. 11; Op. 1, No. 3; and Op. 97. (*October 30*)

Male vocal ensemble **Cantus** offers the D.C. premiere of *Alone Together*, a new work by American composer Libby Larsen. The four-movement piece was co-commissioned for Cantus by Music Accord, a commissioning consortium of top classical music presenting organizations, including the Kennedy Center. *Alone Together* is an introspective narrative on the struggles of humans and communities to find meaningful connection in an increasingly digital world; Cantus gave the world premiere of the piece in 2018. Other works on Cantus’s program will be announced at a later date. (*November 13*)

Violinist **Pamela Frank** and pianist **Peter Serkin** perform an all-Bach program with the complete sonatas for violin and piano. Six sonatas—often considered the foundation of a violinist’s repertoire—are less frequently performed than the solo violin sonatas, yet these for violin and piano are just as inventive, masterful, and important. All six are performed on one program. (*December 4*)

Violinist **Patricia Kopatchinskaja** has been called a risk-taker, unconventional, a phenomenon, and a sensation. She makes her Kennedy Center debut with **cellist Jay Campbell**, in a program of music spanning more than eight centuries, from the 11<sup>th</sup> century to the present, including music by Ravel, Xenakis, Kodály, Ligeti, and more. Impossible to characterize, this iconoclastic artist recently directed the 2018 Ojai Music Festival, and is an artistic partner at the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra. (*January 21, 2020*)

George Washington’s granddaughter, Nelly Custis, was given a harpsichord by the President that she learned to play well when she was growing up in the late 1700s and spending time at Mount Vernon. Made to order in London, this instrument was state-of-the-art at the time, but has since

fallen into disrepair and can no longer be played. A replica is currently being built in Williamsburg, and will be heard on the Fortas series in a concert of music from Nelly's time in ***Nelly's Harpsichord: Music from Mount Vernon***. Early music expert and harpsichordist **Richard Egarr** performs with soprano **Rowan Pierce** and theorbo player **William Carter** in music by Purcell, Handel, Blow, and other pieces that Nelly herself may have performed. Ancillary events related to this presentation will be announced at a later date. (*January 26, 2020*)

The **Trio Con Brio Copenhagen** piano trio —sisters Soo-Jin and Soo-Kyung Hong, and Soo-Kyung's husband, Danish pianist Jens Elvekjaer—celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019. The group brings its characteristic fresh approach to core repertoire to the Fortas series, while also dedicating themselves to new works in the catalogue. Their program features the idea of ghosts in music; it opens with Danish composer Bent Sørensen's *Phantasmagoria*, and also includes Beethoven's Piano Trio in D major, Op. 70, No. 1, "Ghost" and Shostakovich's Piano Trio No. 2, Op. 67. (*February 9, 2020*)

**A Far Cry**, the conductor-less chamber orchestra from Boston, brings its unique musical personality to the Center for a varied program that mixes music by Arvo Pärt (*Cantus in Memory of Benjamin Britten*) and Edward Elgar (Introduction and Allegro for Strings, Op. 47) with Mozart (Serenade in D major, K. 239) and Tchaikovsky (Serenade for Strings). (*March 31, 2020*)

**The Dover Quartet**, in its second year as the Kennedy Center's Quartet in Residence, offers a program that opens with Kennedy Center Composer in Residence Mason Bates's Bagatelles for String Quartet and Electronica, and also includes Ravel's Quartet in F major and Dvořák's Quartet in A-flat major, Op. 105. In addition, 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. (*April 15, 2020*)

The inimitable Italian pianist **Maurizio Pollini** returns to the Fortas series for a recital program celebrating Beethoven's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2020. His all-Beethoven program includes Bagatelles, Op. 119 and Sonatas 31 and 32. \*\*This concert takes place in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall. (*May 10, 2020*)

Rounding out the Fortas season is a special collaboration between the unparalleled **Emerson String Quartet** and soprano—and Kennedy Center Artistic Advisor at Large—**Renée Fleming**, who perform a new work by André Previn, co-commissioned by the Kennedy Center for these distinguished artists. The 35-minute monodrama, *Penelope*, is based on the Greek mythological character of Penelope, wife of Odysseus (Ulysses in Roman mythology), who became a symbol of fidelity. The remainder of the program will be announced at a later date. This performance is also part of the Renée Fleming *VOICES* series. (*May 14, 2020*)

In addition to the 12 subscription concerts, the Fortas Chamber Music Concerts co-presents, with Washington National Opera, **bass Soloman Howard**—winner of the 2019 Marian Anderson Vocal Award—in recital in the Terrace Theater. Howard, an alumnus of WNO's Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program, brings his unique voice 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 groundbreaking African American contralto Marian Anderson and is given annually to a young American singer with outstanding promise. (*November 25*)

The Renée Fleming *VOICES* series at the Kennedy Center also features classical vocal artists in recital. In addition to the Emerson Quartet/Fleming performance in 2019–2020, multi-Grammy Award® winner **Joyce DiDonato** is also featured in two performances in the Eisenhower Theater focusing on her recent project and album *In War & Peace*, featuring opera arias by Handel and Purcell, among others, whose works convey peaceful harmony through music. DiDonato is accompanied by Il Pomo d'Oro orchestra, with direction by Maxim Emelyanychev. (*November 8 & 9*)

Fortas and Washington Performing Arts co-present a special performance by the **Chineke! Orchestra**, featuring internationally renowned **cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason** as soloist. The orchestra, which champions change and diversity in the classical music field, provides young black and minority ethnic artists performance opportunities around the world. Their program features music by Brahms, Saint-Saëns, Fauré, and Coleridge-Taylor. (*April 21, 2020*)

Full details and programs for Fortas Chamber Music Concerts in the 2019–2020 season can be found in the following chronological listing of events. Fortas programming in the REACH will be announced at a later date.

Subscriptions for 2019–2020 are available beginning February 4 in three different packages of four concerts each, and the Soloman Howard, Joyce DiDonato, and Chineke! Orchestra 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 38<sup>th</sup> season in 2019–2020, which is Joseph Kalichstein's 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 enraptures 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 20<sup>th</sup>-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, and which celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017.

## **FORTAS CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERTS 2019–2020 CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF EVENTS**

All concerts take place in the Terrace Theater unless otherwise noted.

### **Takács Quartet**

Edwin Dusingberre, violin  
Harumi Rhodes, violin  
Geraldine Walther, viola  
András Fejér, cello

### **Tuesday, October 15, 2019, at 7:30 p.m.**

BARTÓK                      String Quartet No. 1, Sz. 40  
BARTÓK                      String Quartet No. 3, Sz. 85  
BARTÓK                      String Quartet No. 5, Sz. 102

### **Wednesday, October 16, 2019, at 7:30 p.m.**

BARTÓK                      String Quartet No. 2, Sz. 67  
BARTÓK                      String Quartet No. 4, Sz. 91  
BARTÓK                      String Quartet No. 6, Sz. 114

---

### **Wednesday, October 30, 2019, at 7:30 p.m.**

#### **Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio**

Joseph Kalichstein, piano  
Jaime Laredo, violin  
Sharon Robinson, cello

BEETHOVEN                  Piano Trio in B-flat, Op. 11  
BEETHOVEN                  Piano Trio in C minor, Op. 1, No. 3  
BEETHOVEN                  Piano Trio in B-flat, Op. 97

---

### **Wednesday, November 13, 2019, at 7:30 p.m.**

#### **Cantus**

Program to include:

Libby LARSEN                  *Alone Together* (Commissioned by Music Accord)

---

**Wednesday, December 4, 2019, at 7:30 p.m.**

**Pamela Frank and Peter Serkin**

Pamela Frank, violin

Peter Serkin, piano

BACH	Sonata BMV 1014	
	Sonata BMV 1015	
	Sonata BMV 1016	
	Sonata BMV 1017	
	Sonata BMV 1018	
	Sonata BMV 1019	<i>*Two intermissions</i>

---

**Tuesday, January 21, 2020, at 7:30 p.m.**

**Patricia Kopatchinskaja, violin**

**Jay Campbell, cello**

Winchester TROPER (11 <sup>th</sup> Century)	<i>Alleluia</i>
Jürg WIDMANN	24 Duos für Violine und Violoncello
	XXI Valse bavaroise
	XXIV Toccata all'inglese. (presto possibile)
Orlando GIBBONS	Fantasia
RAVEL	Sonata for violin and violoncello
Iannis XENAKIS	<i>Dhípli Zyia</i> Duo für Violine und Violoncello
Guillaume de MACHAUT	<i>Balade 4 (Biauté qui)</i>
György LIGETI	<i>Hommage à Hilding Rosenberg</i>
Zoltan KODÁLY	Duo for violin and cello, Op. 7

---

**Sunday, January 26, 2020, at 2 p.m.**

**Nelly's Harpsichord: Music from Mount Vernon**

Richard Egarr, harpsichord

Rowan Pierce, soprano

William Carter, theorbo

PURCELL	Suite in G minor/Ground in D minor
BLOW	Chaconne in Fa-Ut
HANDEL	Suite in E
PIECES FROM NELLY'S BOOK	To be announced from the stage
PURCELL	"Thou wakeful shepherd"
	"Music for a while"
	"Retir'd from mortal sight"
	"She loves and she confesses too"
ANON/ Francesco Corbetta (1615–1681)	Jacaras
	Canarios
	Ciaconna
BLOW	"Peaceful is he and most secure"
	"Lovely Selina"
KERLL	Passacaglia
HANDEL	Cantata— <i>La bianca rosa</i>

---

**Wednesday, February 19, 2020, at 7:30 p.m.**

**Trio Con Brio Copenhagen**

Jens Elvekjaer, piano  
Soo-Jin Hong, violin  
Soo-Kyung Hong, cello

**“Ghost”**

Bent SØRENSEN	<i>Phantasmagoria</i> for violin, piano, and cello
BEETHOVEN	Piano Trio in D major, Op. 70, No. 1, “Ghost”
SHOSTAKOVICH	Piano Trio No. 2 in E minor, Op. 67

---

**Tuesday, March 31, 2020, at 7:30 p.m.**

**A Far Cry**

PÄRT	<i>Cantus in Memory of Benjamin Britten</i>
MOZART	Serenade in D major, K. 239 “Serenata Notturna”
ELGAR	Introduction and Allegro for Strings, Op. 47
TCHAIKOVSKY	Serenade for Strings in C major, Op. 48

---

**Wednesday, April 15, 2020, at 7:30 p.m.**

**The Dover Quartet**

Joel Link, violin  
Bryan Lee, violin  
Milena Pajaro-van de Stadt, viola  
Camden Shaw, cello

Mason BATES	Bagatelles for String Quartet and Electronica
RAVEL	Quartet in F major
DVOŘÁK	Quartet in A-flat major, Op. 105

---

**Sunday, May 10, 2020, at 2 p.m. (Concert Hall)**

**Maurizio Pollini, piano**

BEETHOVEN	11 Bagatelles, Op. 119
	Sonata No. 31 in A-flat minor, Op. 110
	Sonata No. 32 in C minor, Op. 111

---

**May 14, 2020, at 7:30 p.m.**

**The Emerson String Quartet with Renée Fleming**

Phillip Setzer, violin  
Eugene Drucker, violin  
Lawrence Dutton, viola  
Paul Watkins, cello  
Renée Fleming, soprano  
TBD, piano

Program to include:

André PREVIN	<i>Penelope</i> (Kennedy Center co-commission)
--------------	--



## **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.

The Advisory Committee, chaired by Joseph Kalichstein, includes Emanuel Ax, Richard Goode, Marilyn Horne, Marta Istomin, Jaime Laredo, Yo-Yo Ma, Gianandrea Noseda, Leonard Slatkin, and Frederica von Stade.

## **TICKETS AND INFORMATION**

Subscriptions for the 2019–2020 season are available for renewal or purchase beginning February 4 at the Kennedy Center Subscription Office, online at [kennedy-center.org/subscribe](https://www.kennedy-center.org/subscribe), and via phone through InstantCharge, (202) 467-4600; toll-free at (800) 444-1324. For all other ticket-related customer service inquiries, call the Advance Sales Box Office at (202) 416-8540.



**#Fortas1920**

###

## **PRESS CONTACT**

Rachelle Roe  
(202) 416-8443  
[rbroe@kennedy-center.org](mailto:rbroe@kennedy-center.org)

## **FOR PHOTOS**

Iain Higgins  
(202) 416-8442  
[imhiggins@kennedy-center.org](mailto:imhiggins@kennedy-center.org)

## **TICKETS & INFORMATION**

(202) 467-4600; (800) 444-1324  
[kennedy-center.org](https://www.kennedy-center.org)