Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
December 21, 2016

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

presents

D.C. PREMIERE AND DUMBARTON OAKS–INSPIRED WORK PERFORMED IN JANUARY FORTAS CONCERTS

DOVER QUARTET AND
ALISA WIELESTEIN, INON BARNATAN, AND ANTHONY MCGILL

January 9 and 19, 2017, in the Kennedy Center Family Theater

(WASHINGTON)—The Fortas Chamber Music Concerts series presents a D.C. premiere and a new work by Caroline Shaw, inspired by Georgetown’s Dumbarton Oaks, in January’s concerts. The Dover Quartet performs Monday, January 9; Alisa Weilerstein, Inon Barnatan, and Anthony McGill perform Thursday, January 19. These concerts both take place at 7:30 p.m. in the Kennedy Center Family Theater.

The Dover Quartet returns for the first time since its 2014 Kennedy Center debut. That performance was just one year after the 2013 Banff International String Competition, where the Quartet won the Grand Prize. Playing two Classical-era quartets, Mozart’s Quartet in F major and Smetana’s Quartet No. 1 in E minor, “From My Life,” the group also performs a new commissioned work from Caroline Shaw, the youngest-ever recipient of the Pulitzer Prize for Music, titled Plan & Elevation (The Grounds of Dumbarton Oaks).

Renowned cellist and MacArthur “Genius” Fellowship winner Alisa Weilerstein anticipates her March NSO performance with this intimate chamber concert, playing alongside top talent from the New York Philharmonic—Artist-in-Association and longtime concert companion, pianist Inon Barnatan, and Principal Clarinet Anthony McGill. Commissioned by the Music Accord, the new featured work in this program, “Short Stories,” by frequent Weilerstein collaborator Joseph Hallman, receives its D.C. premiere. The program begins

**About the Dover Quartet**
The Dover Quartet’s rise from up-and-coming young ensemble to occupying a spot at the top of their field has been nothing less than astonishing. Catapulted to prominence after sweeping the 2013 Banff International String Quartet Competition, the group has become a major presence on the international scene. With its burnished warmth, incisive rhythms, and natural phrasing, the Quartet’s distinctive sound has helped confirm its status as an insider’s dream and the next big thing in chamber music.

In the 2016–2017 season the Dover Quartet will release its all-Mozart debut recording, undertake complete Beethoven quartet cycles for the first time, and perform more than 100 concerts around the world. During the 2015–2016 season, the Dover Quartet performed more than 120 dates around the world, including debuts at Carnegie Hall, Yale University, the Lucerne Festival, and as part of the Lincoln Center “Great Performers” series.

Mentored closely by the Guarneri Quartet, the Dover Quartet draws from the lineage of that distinguished ensemble, as well that of the Cleveland and Vermeer Quartets; its members studied at the Curtis Institute of Music and Rice University’s Shepherd School of Music, where they were mentored extensively by Shmuel Ashkenasi, James Dunham, Norman Fischer, Kenneth Goldsmith, Joseph Silverstein, Arnold Steinhardt, Michael Tree, and Peter Wiley. It was at Curtis that the Quartet first formed, and its name pays tribute to the work, *Dover Beach*, by fellow Curtis alumnus Samuel Barber. The group has since returned for residencies: to Rice in 2011–2013, and to Curtis, where it became the conservatory’s first Quartet-in-Residence, in 2013–2014.

**About Alisa Weilerstein**
Alisa Weilerstein’s 2016–2017 season includes, for the first time in her career, performances of Bach’s complete suites for unaccompanied cello: at Caramoor, in Washington, D.C., and in London. In January she embarks on a nine-city U.S. tour with longtime recital partner Inon Barnatan and clarinetist Anthony McGill, including this concert and a concert in New York’s Alice Tully Hall, as well as performances of a Joseph Hallman premiere composed for this trio.

She tours Europe with Barnatan later in the spring, with stops in Salzburg and at London’s Wigmore Hall. Her busy international concert schedule this season features performances around the globe, including performances with the New World Symphony, the Lausanne Chamber Orchestra, the Netherlands Philharmonic, with the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic and the Dallas Symphony, the San Francisco Symphony, the Staatskapelle Weimar; Amsterdam’s Residentie Orkest; the Minnesota Orchestra, Sydney Symphony, the Tokyo Symphony, and the National Symphony in both Washington, D.C., and on tour in Moscow. She also gives the world premiere of Matthias Pintscher’s Cello Concerto with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, which commissioned the piece for her.

As an exclusive Decca Classics recording artist, Weilerstein releases her fifth album in September 2016. Weilerstein’s career milestones include Elgar’s concerto with the Berlin Philharmonic and Barenboim in Oxford, England, and a performance at the White House for President and Mrs. Obama. An ardent champion of new music, she has worked on multiple projects with Osvaldo Golijov and Pintscher and premiered works by Lera Auerbach and Joseph Hallman. She appears
at major music festivals worldwide and regularly collaborates with Venezuela’s Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra and the El Sistema education program.

**About Inon Barnatan**
Celebrated for his poetic sensibility, probing intellect, and consummate artistry, Israeli pianist Inon Barnatan is embarking on his third and final season as the inaugural Artist-in-Association of the New York Philharmonic, appearing as soloist in subscription concerts, taking part in regular chamber performances, and acting as ambassador for the orchestra.

This summer Barnatan makes a host of high-profile festival appearances, including the Seattle, Santa Fe, Delft and Aspen Festivals, all capped by a solo recital marking his Mostly Mozart debut. In the 2016–2017 season he debuts with the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra under the baton of New York Philharmonic Music Director Alan Gilbert, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra under Jesús López-Cobos, the Baltimore Symphony under Vasily Petrenko, and the Seattle Symphony under Ludovic Morlot. He returns to the New York Philharmonic under Manfred Honeck, and embarks on three tours: of the U.S. with the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, of Europe with his frequent recital partner Alisa Weilerstein, and of the U.S. again performing a trio program with Weilerstein and clarinetist Anthony McGill.

A recipient of both the Avery Fisher Career Grant and Lincoln Center’s Martin E. Segal Award, Barnatan has performed extensively with many of the world’s foremost orchestras and has worked with many distinguished conductors.

Last October the pianist released Rachmaninov & Chopin: Cello Sonatas on Decca Classics with Weilerstein, which earned rave reviews on both sides of the Atlantic.

**About Anthony McGill**
Principal Clarinet of the New York Philharmonic Anthony McGill served as Principal Clarinet of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra for the past decade and has been recognized as one of the classical music world’s finest solo, chamber, and orchestral musicians.

He has appeared as soloist with many orchestras including the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, the American Symphony Orchestra, and the New York String Orchestra, all at Carnegie Hall. As a chamber musician McGill has performed throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia with such quartets as the Guarneri, Tokyo, Brentano, Pacifica, Shanghai, Miro, and Daedalus; with musicians from Marlboro and Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center; and on such series as the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society and the University of Chicago Presents. Festival appearances include Tanglewood, Marlboro, Mainly Mozart, Music@Menlo, Santa Fe, and Seattle chamber music festivals.

McGill has collaborated with Emanuel Ax, Yefim Bronfman, Gil Shaham, Midori, Mitsuko Uchida, and Lang Lang. On January 20, 2009 he performed with Itzhak Perlman, Yo-Yo Ma, and Gabriela Montero at the inauguration of President Barack Obama.

He has appeared on Performance Today, MPR’s St. Paul Sunday Morning, and Mr. Roger’s Neighborhood. In 2013 with his brother Demarre, he appeared on NBC Nightly News, the Steve Harvey Show and on MSNBC with Melissa Harris-Perry.
In demand as a teacher, McGill serves on the faculty of the Juilliard School, the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University, Bard College Conservatory of Music, and Manhattan School of Music, and has given master classes throughout the United States, Europe, and South Africa.

**Program Details**

**Fortas Chamber Music Series**  
Monday, January 9, 2017, at 7:30 p.m.  
**Joel Link,** violin  
**Bryan Lee,** violin  
**Milena Pajarova-van de Stadt,** viola

W.A. MOZART  
Quartet in F major, K. 590  
CAROLINE SHAW  
*Plan & Elevation (The Grounds of Dumbarton Oaks)*  
SMETANA  
Quartet No. 1 in E minor, “From My Life”

Tickets: $45

**Fortas Chamber Music Series**  
Thursday, January 19, 2017, at 7:30 p.m.  
**Alisa Weilerstein,** cello  
**Inon Barnatan,** piano  
**Anthony McGill,** clarinet

BEETHOVEN  
Clarinet Trio in B-flat major, Op. 11  
JOSEPH HALLMAN  
“Short Stories” for clarinet, cello, and piano (D.C. premiere)  
BRAHMS  
Clarinet Trio in A minor, Op. 114

Tickets: $45

**About The Fortas Chamber Music Concerts**  
The 2016–2017 season marks the 34th 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.

Through its history the series has featured frequent appearances by artists such as the Guarneri, Emerson, Juilliard, 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 ensembles that actively perform and commission new works, among them David Lang’s *love fail*, Imani Winds; as well as many other distinguished artists.
**FORTAS CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERTS SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Artists</th>
<th>Venue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 13, 2017</td>
<td>Venice Baroque Chamber Ensemble</td>
<td>Theater Lab</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 20, 2017</td>
<td>Aizuri Quartet</td>
<td>Theater Lab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 26, 2017</td>
<td>Elena Urioste and Michael Brown</td>
<td>Family Theater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 16, 2017</td>
<td>Maurizio Pollini in Recital</td>
<td>Concert Hall</td>
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**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.

**TICKETS AND INFORMATION:**
Tickets are $59 and information is available from the Kennedy Center Box Office, web site, and Instant-Charge, (202) 467-4600. Patrons living outside the metropolitan Washington area may call toll-free at (800) 444-1324, or online at [kennedy-center.org](http://kennedy-center.org).

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

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