

Violinist **Aaron Boyd** enjoys a growing international reputation as a soloist, chamber musician, orchestral leader, recording artist, lecturer, and pedagogue. Since making his New York recital debut in 1998, he has concertized throughout North America, Europe, and Asia. Formerly a member of the Escher String Quartet, together with whom he was a recipient of an Avery Fisher Career Grant and the Martin E. Segal prize from Lincoln Center, he was also awarded a Proclamation by the City of Pittsburgh for his musical accomplishments. An advocate for new music, he has been involved in numerous commissions and premieres and has worked directly with such legendary composers as Milton Babbitt, Elliott Carter, and Charles Wuorinen. He was also founder of the Zukofsky Quartet, the only ensemble to have played all of Milton Babbitt's notoriously difficult string quartets in concert. As a recording artist, he can be heard on the BIS, Music@Menlo Live, Naxos, Tzadik, North/South, and Innova labels. He has been broadcast on television and radio by PBS, NPR, WQXR, WQED, and was profiled by Arizona Public Television. Born in Pittsburgh, Boyd began his studies with Samuel LaRocca and Eugene Phillips and graduated from The Juilliard School where he studied with Sally Thomas and coached extensively with Paul Zukofsky and Harvey Shapiro. He serves as Director of Chamber Music and Professor of Practice in Violin at the Meadows School of the Arts at Southern Methodist University and lives in Plano, Texas with his wife Yuko, daughter Ayu, and son Yuki.

Sihao He first came into international prominence in 2008 as a 14-year old cellist winning first prize at the International Antonio Janigro Cello Competition in Croatia. Later that same year, he won the National Cello Competition in his native China. He is also the Grand Prize winner of the prestigious 3rd Gaspar Cassadó International Cello Competition in Japan and third prize recipient at the 2019 ARD International Competition in Munich, Germany. As a soloist, he has performed with many leading orchestras including the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, Munich Radio Orchestra, Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra, Brussels Philharmonic, Münchener Kammer orchester, Royal de Chambre de Wallonie, and Orquestra the Sinfônica de Piracicaba in Brazil. In the US, important performances took place before audiences at the Metropolitan Museum, the U.S Supreme Court Historical Society in Washington, DC, and a recital at the Myra Hess Concert series in Chicago. As a chamber musician, he appeared at the Shanghai Electronic Music Week, in the US at Music@Menlo, and in Europe at the Rome Festival. He has performed with the Joseph Silverstein, Pinchas Zukerman, Donald Weilerstein, and the Calidore Quartet. Before coming to the US his string Quartet, Simply Quartet, won first prize at the Haydn Invitational Chamber Music Competition in Shanghai, and was awarded "The Most Promising Young String Quartet" at the 4th Beijing International Chamber Music Competition. He is a member of CMS's Bowers Program.

Violist **Paul Neubauer** has been called a "master musician" by the *New York Times*. He recently made his Chicago Symphony subscription debut with conductor Riccardo Muti and his Mariinsky Orchestra debut with conductor Valery Gergiev. He also gave the US premiere of the newly discovered *Impromptu* for viola and piano by Shostakovich with pianist Wu Han. In addition, his recording of the Aaron Kernis Viola Concerto with the Royal Northern Sinfonia was released on Signum Records and his recording of the complete viola/piano music by Ernest Bloch with pianist Margo Garrett was released on Delos. Appointed principal violist of the New York Philharmonic at age 21, he has appeared as soloist with over 100 orchestras including the New York, Los Angeles, and Helsinki philharmonics; National, St. Louis, Detroit, Dallas, San Francisco, and Bournemouth symphonies; and Santa Cecilia, English Chamber, and Beethovenhalle orchestras. He has premiered viola concertos by Bartók (revised version of the Viola Concerto), Friedman, Glière, Jacob, Kernis, Lazarof, Müller-Siemens, Ott, Penderecki, Picker, Suter, and Tower and has been featured on CBS's *Sunday Morning*, *A Prairie Home Companion*, and in *Strad*, *Strings*, and *People* magazines. A two-time Grammy nominee, he has recorded on numerous labels including Decca, Deutsche Grammophon, RCA Red Seal, and Sony Classical and is a member of SPA, a trio

with soprano Susanna Phillips and pianist Anne-Marie McDermott. Neubauer is the artistic director of the Mostly Music series in New Jersey and is on the faculty of The Juilliard School and Mannes College.

Timothy Ridout, a BBC New Generation Artist and Borletti-Buitoni Trust fellow, is a sought-after violist in the UK and internationally. This season he appears as soloist with the BBC Symphony Orchestra at BBC Proms, Orchestre de chambre de Paris, Orchestre Philharmonique de Strasbourg, Luzerner Sinfonieorchester, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, the Hallé Orchestra, and makes his Viennese solo debut at the Wiener Konzerthaus with the Graz Philharmonic. Other highlights this season include recitals and chamber concerts at Wigmore Hall, Wiener Musikverein, Concertgebouw Amsterdam, and Auditorio Nacional de Música in Madrid. Further afield, he embarks on a California tour with Camerata Pacifica, and returns to Japan to perform Bartók's Viola Concerto at the Hyogo Performing Arts Centre. Sought after as a chamber musician, he has taken part in numerous festivals across Europe, including Rheingau, Bergen, Rosendal, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Sion, and Lockenhaus. He records for the Harmonia Mundi label. His latest album—*A Poet's Love*—was recorded with pianist Frank Dupree and features selections from Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* and their own transcription of Schumann's *Dichterliebe*. Born in London, Ridout studied at the Royal Academy of Music graduating with the Queen's Commendation for Excellence. He completed his master's at the Kronberg Academy with Nobuko Imai in 2019, and is a member of CMS's Bowers Program. He plays on a viola by Peregrino di Zanetto c.1565–75 on loan from a generous patron of Beare's International Violin Society.

Praised by *The Strad* as an “utterly dazzling” artist, violinist **Danbi Um** captivates audiences with her virtuosity, individual sound, and interpretive sensitivity. She is a Menuhin International Violin Competition Silver Medalist, winner of the prestigious Salon de Virtuosi Career Grant, and a top prizewinner of the Naumburg International Violin Competition. This season she joins guitarist Jiji for a duo program at the Scottsdale Performing Arts Center and Cooperstown Music Festival, and travels to The Cliburn in Fort Worth for a program with pianist Juho Pohjonen and tenor Karim Sulayman. Other recent and upcoming engagements include solo appearances with the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia at the Kimmel Center, a national tour with the Chamber Music Society, and performances at premier national series including Wolf Trap, Saratoga Performing Arts Center, Society of Four Arts in Palm Beach, Parlance Chamber Series, Chamber Music Society of Fort Worth, and Chicago's Dame Myra Hess Concerts. Notable recent recitals include an appearance on Music@Menlo's “Carte Blanche” series and her New York recital debut at the Chamber Music Society, where she is a former member of The Bowers Program. Born in Seoul, South Korea, Um moved to the United States to study at the Curtis Institute, where she earned a bachelor's degree. She also holds an Artist Diploma from Indiana University. Her teachers have included Shmuel Ashkenasi, Joseph Silverstein, Jaime Laredo, and Hagai Shaham. She plays a 1683 “ex-Petschek” Nicolo Amati violin, on loan from a private collection.

Pianist **Wu Han**, recipient of *Musical America's* Musician of the Year Award, the highest honor bestowed by the organization, enjoys a multi-faceted musical life that encompasses performing, recording, and artistic direction at the highest levels. Currently co-artistic director of the Chamber Music Society and Music@Menlo, Silicon Valley's innovative chamber music festival, she also serves as artistic advisor for Wolf Trap's Chamber Music in the Barns series and for Palm Beach's Society of the Four Arts. In addition to countless performances of virtually the entire chamber repertoire, her recent concerto performances include appearances with the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Atlanta Symphony, and the Aspen Festival Orchestra. She is the founder and artistic director of ArtistLed, classical music's first artist-directed, internet-based recording label (1997). Her more than 80 releases on ArtistLed, CMS *Live* and Music@Menlo *Live* include masterworks of the chamber repertoire with numerous distinguished musicians, the latest being Schubert's *Winterreise* with baritone Nikolay Borchev. During the past season, Wu Han designed and produced more than 200 digital media projects, including concerts and innovative educational programs, which have sustained the art of chamber music in dozens of communities across the United States. Wu Han was privileged to serve on multiple occasions as a faculty member of Isaac

Stern's Chamber Music Encounters in Israel, New York, and Japan. A recipient of the prestigious Andrew Wolf Award, she was mentored by an elite selection of some of the greatest pianists of our time, including Lilian Kallir, Rudolf Serkin, and Menahem Pressler.