



CURTIS
INSTITUTE OF MUSIC

CURTIS PRESENTS



STRING SEXTETS

**2023-24 SEASON
TIME TO DISCOVER**

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Curtis Presents
String Sextets

Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.
Field Concert Hall

PROGRAM

Sextet for Strings from *Capriccio*, Op. 85

RICHARD STRAUSS
(1864-1949)

Piano Sonata in B minor, Op. 1
transcr. Heime Müller

ALBAN BERG
(1885-1935)

Illuminating Arches

ALYSSA WEINBERG ('16)
(b. 1988)

INTERMISSION

String Sextet No. 2 in G major, Op. 36

JOHANNES BRAHMS
(1833-97)

Allegro non troppo

Scherzo. Allegro non troppo—Presto giocoso

Poco Adagio

Poco Allegro

Benjamin Beilman ('12), violin

Na Hyun Della Kyun, violin

Milena Pajaro-van de Stadt ('10, '11, '14), viola

Emad Zolfaghari, viola

Oliver Herbert ('19), cello

Francis Carr ('21), cello

Illuminating Arches was commissioned by the Curtis Institute of Music with the support of the Allen R. and Judy Brick Freedman Venture Fund for Music.

This concert is presented as part of a North American tour through Curtis on Tour, the Nina von Maltzahn global touring initiative of the Curtis Institute of Music.

PERFORMERS

Benjamin Beilman ('12), violin

Benjamin Beilman has won international praise both for his passionate performances and deep rich tone. The *Washington Post* has called him “mightily impressive” and the *New York Times* has praised his “handsome technique, burnished sound, and quiet confidence.”

Mr. Beilman’s commitment to and passion for contemporary music has led to new works written for him by Frederic Rzewski (commissioned by Music Accord), and Gabriella Smith (commissioned by the Schubert Club in St. Paul, and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music). He has also given multiple performances of Jennifer Higdon’s violin concerto, and recorded Thomas Larcher’s concerto with Hannu Lintu and the Tonkünstler Orchester, as well as premiered Chris Rogerson’s Violin Concerto (“The Little Prince”) with the Kansas City Symphony and Gemma New.

Mr. Beilman has performed with major orchestras worldwide including the Chicago Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, Rotterdam Philharmonic, London Philharmonic, Trondheim Symphony, Oslo Philharmonic, Taipei Symphony, Frankfurt Radio Symphony, Zurich Tonhalle, Sydney Symphony, and Houston Symphony.

In recital and chamber music, Mr. Beilman performs regularly at the major halls across the world, including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Kölner Philharmonie, Berlin Philharmonie, and Wigmore Hall. At festivals he has performed at Verbier, Aix-en-Provence Easter, Prague Dvorak, Robeco Summer Concerts (Amsterdam), Music@Menlo, Marlboro and Seattle

Chamber Music, amongst others.

At Curtis, Mr. Beilman studied with Ida Kavafian and Pamela Frank, and with Christian Tetzlaff at the Kronberg Academy, and has received many prestigious accolades including a Borletti-Buitoni Trust Fellowship, an Avery Fisher Career Grant and a London Music Masters Award. He performs with the ex-Balaković F. X. Tourte bow (c. 1820), and plays the “Ysaÿe” Guarneri del Gesù from 1740, generously on loan from the Nippon Music Foundation.

Mr. Beilman joined the faculty of the Curtis Institute of Music in 2022.

Francis Carr ('21), cello

English cellist Frankie Carr was born into a family of string players. He has performed at festivals across Europe and North America, including Kneisel Hall, Music from Angel Fire, Four Seasons Chamber Music, Loon Lake Live, Stichting Kamermusiek Amsterdam, Menuhin Festival Gstaad, and Greenwood.

Mr. Carr’s principal teachers include Colin Carr, Melissa Phelps, Thomas Carroll, Darrett Adkins, Carter Brey, and Peter Wiley. He has also worked with Johannes Goritsky, Joel Krosnick, and members of the Chiara, Emerson, and Juilliard string quartets. From 2023 to 2025 he will participate in Carnegie Hall’s Ensemble Connect Fellowship program. In his free time, he enjoys long walks and bird watching.

Oliver Herbert ('19), cello

Oliver Herbert is a cello soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician with a rapidly growing international presence. The recipient of a 2021 Avery

Fisher Career Grant, Mr. Herber's natural musicianship and connective performances are carving a unique path in the world of music.

As a soloist, Mr. Herbert has appeared with the San Francisco Symphony, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, New World Symphony, Buffalo Philharmonic, Warsaw Philharmonic, Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional de Colombia, Erfurt Philharmonic, and Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, among others. He has worked with conductors such as Michael Tilson Thomas, Juanjo Mena, and Alexander Shelley.

Driven by the living quality and relevance of the works he presents to audiences, Mr. Herbert sees his role as a cellist as being a conduit for magical musical messages. His work is fueled by a passion for music ranging from past centuries to the present, with concerto performances spotlighting works from C.P.E. Bach to Haydn, Schumann, Tchaikovsky, Dvorak, Ibert, Elgar, Barber, Shostakovich, Schnittke, Lutoslawski, and Vasks, among others. Current collaborations with composers include premieres of a new solo work by Chelsea Komschlies as well as a piece for cello, percussion, and electronics by Andrew Moses. His recent projects include performances of the complete Bach Cello Suites at Capital Region Classical and the complete Beethoven cello sonatas at Guarneri Hall in Chicago.

Na Hyun Della Kyun, violin

Na Hyun Della Kyun, from Seoul, entered the Curtis Institute of Music in 2022 and studies violin with Shmuel Ashkenasi and Benjamin Beilman. Ms. Kyun is the Dorothy Richard Starling Foundation Fellow.

Ms. Kyun has won numerous prizes at competitions such as the Sungjung Competition, the Singapore Violin Festival Online Competition, the Seoul Youth Chamber Music Competition, and the Ewha and Kyunghyang Music Competition.

Ms. Kyun has performed as a soloist with the Mostly Philharmonic Orchestra and was featured in the 2021 House Concert July Festival and the 2019 Kumho Prodigy Concert. She has been a member of the Korea National Institute for the Gifted in Arts Ensemble, the Seoul Arts High School Ensemble, the Korea National Institute for the Gifted in Arts Symphony Orchestra, and the Yewon School Orchestra and its chamber ensemble.

When Ms. Kyun is not performing, she is an avid reader and enjoys playing sports.

Milena Pajaro-van de Stadt ('10, '11, '14), viola

Praised by *Strad* magazine as having "lyricism that stood out...a silky tone and beautiful, supple lines," violist Milena Pajaro-van de Stadt has established herself as one of the most sought-after violists of her generation. In addition to appearances as soloist with the Tokyo Philharmonic, the Jacksonville Symphony, and the Sphinx Chamber Orchestra, she has performed in recitals and chamber music concerts throughout the United States, Latin America, Europe and Asia, including an acclaimed debut recital at London's Wigmore Hall, which was described in *Strad* as being "fleet and energetic...powerful and focused."

Ms. Pajaro-van de Stadt was the founding violist of the Dover Quartet, and played in the group from 2008 to 2022. During her time in the group, the

Dover Quartet won first prize and every special award at the Banff International String Quartet Competition 2013, and won the Gold Medal and Grand Prize in the 2010 Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition. Her numerous awards also include first prize of the Lionel Tertis International Viola Competition and top prizes at the the Sphinx Competition and the Tokyo International Viola Competition.

She is a member of the newly formed piano quartet ESPRESSIVO! along with acclaimed artists Jaime Laredo, Sharon Robinson, and Anna Polonsky.

A violin student of Sergiu Schwartz and Melissa Pierson-Barrett for several years, she began studying viola with Michael Klotz at the Bowdoin International Music Festival in 2005. At Curtis, Ms. Pajaro-van de Stadt graduated studied with Roberto Díaz, Michael Tree, Misha Amory, and Joseph de Pasquale.

Emad Zolfaghari, viola

Emad Zolfaghari, from Oakville, Ontario, entered the Curtis Institute of Music in 2021 and studies viola with Hsin-Yun Huang and Misha Amory. Mr. Zolfaghari is the Elaine W. Camarda and A. Morris Williams Jr. Fellow.

He has received many prestigious awards, including first prize at the 2023 Irving M. Klein International String Competition, the François Schubert Grand Prize at the 2022 OMNI Music Competition, second prize at the 2022 Johansen International String Competition, and in 2023 was the

first violist to receive first prize at the International Morningside Music Bridge Competition. His other accolades include prizes at the Ronald Sachs International Music Competition, the Shean Strings Competition, and the Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra Competition

Mr. Zolfaghari has appeared as a soloist with several major symphony orchestras, including l'Orchestre Métropolitain at the Maison Symphonique in Montréal under the baton of Yannick Nézet-Séguin, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra in Roy Thomson Hall, the National Philharmonic in Strathmore Hall, the Oakville Chamber Orchestra, and the National Metropolitan Philharmonic.

Mr. Zolfaghari was member of the Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra, often performing as principal viola, and a member of the Phil and Eli Taylor Performance Academy for Young Artists where he studied with Theresa Rudolph, assistant principal viola of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra.

He currently plays a 1785 Lorenzo Storioni viola on generous loan from Reuning & Sons Violins, Brookline.

ABOUT CURTIS ON TOUR

Curtis on Tour provides audiences with the unique experience of hearing celebrated artists alongside the most gifted emerging musicians. Curtis on Tour brings together students, alumni, and faculty to perform concerts that are infused with both the passion, enthusiasm, and fresh perspectives of young artists and the finely honed expertise and insight of more seasoned musicians. For 15 years, Curtis on Tour has been a valued presence at top concert halls around the world, from New York to Berlin, Hong Kong to Buenos Aires.

ABOUT CURTIS PRESENTS

Past and future meet through Curtis Presents, which features a diverse collection of artists—alumni, faculty, students, and contemporary creators—whose musical foundations are rooted in the Curtis community. This series of intimate and innovative recitals offers a unique experience with exceptional artistry and one-of-a-kind programs.

Next Curtis Presents Concerts

Ned Rorem Celebration Concert

April 2, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.

The Curtis Institute of Music honors the life, legacy, and genius of alumnus, longtime faculty member, and Pulitzer Prize-winning composer and prolific writer Ned Rorem ('44) with a concert at Field Concert Hall.

Curtis Composers

April 23, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.

The final concert of the Curtis Presents series builds upon the school's longstanding tradition of innovation, inspiration, and artistic excellence as it celebrates eight of its distinguished composition alumni.

Learn more and discover other upcoming concerts at
Curtis.edu.

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