

Merkin Hall at Kaufman Music Center
Saturday, March 16, 2024 at 11 am and 2 pm

New York Philharmonic
presents

Very Young People’s Concerts

Philharmonic Playdates: “Games and Toys”

Rebecca Young, host
Doug Fitch, director / designer

Fun with the Philharmonic
Join a musician for musical games! Throughout the Hall.

The Concert
Find your seat when you hear the bell!

SCHUBERT
(1797–1828)

**Selections from Quintet for Piano and Strings
in A major, D.667, *Trout* (1819)**
Scherzo. Presto
Theme and Variations
Allegro giusto

YULIA ZISKEL, violin; PETER KENOTE, viola
NATHAN VICKERY, cello; SATOSHI OKAMOTO, bass
STEVEN BECK*, piano

*Guest artist

Support for NY Phil Very Young People’s Concerts is provided by the **Henry and Lucy Moses Fund**.

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THE ARTISTS

Pianist **Steven Beck** made his concerto debut with the National Symphony Orchestra (Washington, DC), and has toured Japan as soloist with the New York Symphonic Ensemble. His annual Christmas Eve performance of Bach's *Goldberg Variations* at Bargemusic has become a New York institution. He has performed as soloist and chamber musician at Alice Tully Hall, the Kennedy Center, the Library of Congress, Weill Recital Hall, Merkin Hall, Miller Theatre, and, in the summer, at the Aspen Music Festival. He has performed as an orchestral musician with the New York Philharmonic, New York City Ballet Orchestra, and Orpheus. Beck is an experienced performer of new music, having worked with Elliott Carter, Pierre Boulez, and Henri Dutilleux, among others, and is a member of The Knights, Talea Ensemble, Quattro Mani, and Da Capo Chamber Players. His discography includes George Walker's piano sonatas, on Bridge Records, and Carter's Double Concerto, on Albany Records. A Steinway Artist, Beck is on the faculty of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and Sewanee Music Center. He is a graduate of The Juilliard School.

Visual artist, designer, and director **Doug Fitch** has created projects for the New York Philharmonic including Ligeti's *Le Grand Macabre*, Janáček's *The Cunning Little Vixen*, *A Dancer's Dream: Two Works by Stravinsky*, and HK Gruber's *Gloria — A Pig Tale*, as well as Young People's Concerts and Very Young People's Concerts. Fitch's career highlights include designing and directing Puccini's *Turandot* at Santa Fe Opera; Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel* at Los Angeles Opera; and *Peter and the Wolf in Hollywood* at the Los Angeles Philharmonic; he designed sets and costumes for the PBS *Great Performances* broadcast of *Black Lucy and the Bard* for the Nashville Ballet, and Suzanne Farrin's *Dolce la Morte* for MetLiveArts. He created Tanglewood's production of Carter's *What Next?*, which was filmed and screened at The Museum of Modern Art. Fitch's production of *Orphic Moments* was premiered at National Sawdust and reprised at Salzburg's Landestheater and The Rose Theater at Jazz at Lincoln Center. Fitch devised a puppet production titled *Punkitititi*, featuring the Salzburg Marionette Theater and starring Geoff Sobelle, which was presented by Mozart Woche 2020.

Violist **Peter Kenote** has been a member of the New York Philharmonic since 1983. He was born in Seattle, and received his undergraduate degree from the University of Washington, going on to earn master's and doctoral degrees in music performance from The Juilliard School. In February 2008 he performed Berio's *Sequenza VI* for solo viola at Jazz at Lincoln Center's Rose Theater as part of the New York Philharmonic's *Day of Berio*. With the South Dakota Symphony in the 2009–10 season he played the premieres of a viola concerto written for him by Neal Harnly, and *Moto Perpetuo*, a new work for viola and percussion ensemble by Braxton Blake. He especially enjoys performing in concert with his daughters, soprano Rebekah and mezzo-soprano Ruth. He plays a viola made for him by David Wiebe in 1977.

Bassist **Satoshi Okamoto** joined the New York Philharmonic in 2003. Previously he was an assistant principal double bassist in the San Antonio Symphony for eight years and a member of the New York City Ballet Orchestra for one year. He received a master's degree from The Juilliard School and a bachelor's degree from Tokyo University of Fine Arts. An eight-time Aspen Music Festival participant, he won the festival's bass competition twice, in 1993 and 1997. He was a finalist at the International Society of Bassists Solo Competition in 1997, and at the Izuminomori International Double Bass Competition in 2001. His teachers have included former Philharmonic Principal Bass Eugene Levinson, Paul Ellison, Al Laszlo, Bruce Bransby, Yoshio Nagashima, and Osamu Yamamoto.

Cellist **Nathan Vickery** joined the New York Philharmonic in September 2013. He has appeared as a soloist with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra and as a recitalist and chamber musician at festivals including the Marlboro Chamber Music Festival, Ravinia's Steans Music Institute, and the Chamber Music Workshop at the Perlman Music Festival, as well as throughout Europe with Curtis on Tour. As a chamber musician he has collaborated with violinists Joshua Bell, Pamela Frank, and Miriam Fried; pianist Jonathan Biss; and the contemporary music ensemble Eighth Blackbird, among others. Vickery has appeared on NPR's *From the Top* and WFMT in Chicago. He has won numerous competitions, including the Second International David Popper Cello Competition (Hungary) and the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra's Maurer Young Musicians Contest. He received his bachelor's degree from the Curtis Institute of Music. Nathan Vickery has served on the faculty of the Indiana University Summer String Academy.

Host **Rebecca Young** joined the New York Philharmonic in 1986 as its youngest member, and in 1991 was named the Orchestra's Associate Principal Viola, The Joan and Joel Smilow Chair. After serving as principal viola of the Boston Symphony Orchestra in 1992–93, she resumed her Philharmonic Associate Principal position in 1994. She has performed at the Boston Chamber Music Society, Boston Symphony Chamber Players, and The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, and she recorded Schubert's *Trout* Quintet with Yo-Yo Ma, Emanuel Ax, Pamela Frank, and Edgar Meyer (on Sony Classical). Her NY Phil solo performances include the 1999 World Premiere of Sofia Gubaidulina's *Two Paths*, a concerto for two violas commissioned by the Philharmonic and underwritten by then NY Phil Music Director Kurt Masur's wife, Tomoko, for Young and Philharmonic Principal Viola Cynthia Phelps. The two reprised the work with the Philharmonic on several of the Orchestra's tours and in New York in April 2011. She also gave the World Premiere of Oscar Bettison's *Threaded Madrigals* for solo viola during the Orchestra's 2014 contemporary music festival. She is a graduate of The Juilliard School and host of the Philharmonic's popular Very Young People's Concerts.

Violinist **Yulia Ziskel**, The Friends and Patrons Chair, has been a member of the New York Philharmonic since 2001. Other appearances include a tour of Spain and the Balearic Islands and recitals at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall, Alice Tully Hall, and Merkin Hall as well as venues in Italy, Germany, and Russia. Her solo appearances have included performances with the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra, South Florida Symphony, New York Chamber Symphony Orchestra, and St. Petersburg Chamber Orchestra. She has performed chamber music at Minato Mirai Hall in Yokohama, Japan; the late Lorin Maazel's private theater for the Chateaufville Foundation; Lyric Chamber Music Society of New York for the Kosciuszko Foundation; and with Philharmonic colleagues on Saturday Matinee Concerts in David Geffen Hall and on the NY Phil Ensembles series at Merkin Hall. Born in St. Petersburg, Russia, Yulia Ziskel earned her bachelor of music degree from Indiana University and her master's degree from The Juilliard School. Her debut solo CD was released on the Sonoris label, and her recording of chamber music was released on the Naxos label.