

Old Dominion University's
F. Ludwig Diehn Concert Series



The Harlem Quartet and Ida Kavafian

The Harlem Quartet
Ilmar Gavilán, violin
Melissa White, violin
Jaime Amador, viola
Felix Umansky, cello

Ida Kavafian, violin

Concert: Monday, February 29, 2016, 8:00 p.m.
Master Class: Tuesday, March 1, 2016, 12:30 p.m.

Wilson G. Chandler Recital Hall
F. Ludwig Diehn Center for the Performing Arts



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I D E A F U S I O N

Program

String Quartet No. 6, Op. 80

Felix Mendelssohn
(1809–1847)

I. Allegro vivace assai

II. Allegro assai

III. Adagio

IV. Finale: Allegro molto

The Adventures of Hippocrates

Chick Corea
(b. 1941)

Part 1: Quasi Tango

Part 2: Quasi Waltz

Part 3: Ballad

Part 4: Rock Feel

Part 5: Quasi Fugue

INTERMISSION

String Quintet No. 5 in G Minor, K 516

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756–1791)

I. Allegro

II. Menuetto: Allegretto

III. Adagio ma non troppo

IV. Adagio (G minor) - Allegro



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IDEA FUSION

**An endowment established at the Hampton Roads Community Foundation,
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The Harlem Quartet

Praised for its “panache” by The New York Times, the Harlem Quartet is “bringing a new attitude to classical music, one that is fresh, bracing and intelligent,” says the Cincinnati Enquirer. The Quartet’s mission is to advance diversity in classical music, engaging young and new audiences through the discovery and presentation of varied repertoire that includes works by minority composers.

Since its public debut in 2006 at Carnegie Hall, the New York-based ensemble has performed throughout the U.S. as well as in France, the U.K., Belgium, Panama, Canada, and in South Africa, where under the auspices of the U.S. State Department they spent two weeks on tour performing concerts and participating in outreach activities. The Quartet completed the Professional String Quartet Residency Program at New England Conservatory in 2013, and participated in NEC’s string quartet exchange program in Paris, working extensively with violinist Günter Pichler.

In addition to performing on chamber music series around the world, Harlem Quartet has collaborated with such distinguished performers as Itzhak Perlman, Ida Kavafian, Carter Brey, Paul Katz, Fred Sherry, Anthony McGill, Paquito D’Rivera, and Misha Dichter (with whom the quartet made its Kennedy Center debut in February 2013). Harlem Quartet has also worked closely with jazz legends Chick Corea and Gary Burton, with whom the quartet recorded the album titled “Hot House.” Following a concert tour of 25 major cities, the Harlem

Biographies

Quartet's recording with Corea and Burton titled "Mozart Goes Dancing" won a Grammy Award for Best Instrumental Composition in February 2013. The winning ensemble also took its "Hot House Tour" to Japan in 2014.

Each member of the quartet is a seasoned solo artist, having appeared with such orchestras as the New York Philharmonic, the Boston Pops, and the Atlanta, Baltimore, Cleveland, Detroit, National, Utah, Puerto Rico, Juilliard, New World, and Pittsburgh symphony orchestras. Harlem Quartet's solo work as an ensemble is also a significant part of the musicians' careers. One collaboration was with music director Mei-Ann Chen and the Chicago Sinfonietta, where in June 2012 they gave the world premiere of Bernstein's "West Side Story" arranged for string quartet and orchestra by Randall Craig Fleischer. The quartet repeated performances of that score in September 2012 with the Anchorage Symphony Orchestra under Fleischer's direction, and again in December 2012 with the Santa Fe Concert Association. Chicago Sinfonietta and the quartet have recorded the "West Side Story" arrangement, along with works for string quartet and orchestra by Michael Abels and Benjamin Lees, now available on the Cedille Records label.

The Harlem Quartet has been featured on WNBC, CNN, the "Today" show, WQXR-FM, and the "News Hour with Jim Lehrer." In 2009 the musicians performed for President Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama at the White House and appeared Christmas morning on NBC's "Today" show. They made their European debut in October 2009 performing at the residence

of the U.S. ambassador to the U.K., and returned to Europe as guest artists and faculty members of the Musica Mundi International Festival in Belgium. Harlem Quartet is regularly featured at jazz festivals around the world, including the Panama Jazz Festival in Panama City, Montreal Jazz Festival, and Miami Nice Jazz Festival.

The ensemble's recording career began in 2007 when White Pine Music issued "Take the 'A' Train," a release featuring the string quartet version of that jazz standard by Billy Strayhorn; the CD was highlighted in the November 2007 issue of Strings magazine. A second CD, featuring works of Walter Piston, was released in 2010 by Naxos. A third recording, released in early 2011, is a collaboration with pianist Awadagin Pratt and showcases works by American composer Judith Lang Zaimont. Two recording projects in collaboration with Chick Corea were completed at the end of the 2010-11 season. In May 2013, the quartet released a live CD from New York City's Merkin Hall with works by Mozart and Schubert.

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Ida Kavafian

Born in Istanbul of Armenian descent, Ms. Kavafian immigrated to the United States with her family when she was 3. She began her studies at age 6 with Ara Zerounian, and continued with Mischa Mischakoff. In 1973, Kavafian traveled to Lisbon and took first prize at the Vianna da Motta International Violin Competition. Two years later, she earned her master's degree, with honors, from the Juilliard School, where she was a student of Oscar Shumsky. Ida Kavafian made her New York debut with pianist Peter Serkin, as a winner of the Young Concert Artists International Auditions, and also received the coveted Avery Fisher Career Grant.

Her first major appearance with her sister was at Carnegie Hall in 1983, which, like the debut concerts, received positive notices. Kavafian expanded her career to include performance of jazz compositions when she went on an international tour with an ensemble led by Chick Corea in 1983-84. From 1989 until 1993, Kavafian was an artist member of the Chamber Music Society. She became a member once again in 1996, a post she retained through 2002. She was a member of the Beaux Arts Trio from 1992 to 1998 and still performs regularly with the group.

Since her founding membership in the innovative group TASHI, Ida Kavafian's chamber music appearances have included many renowned festivals and series throughout the world. She has toured and recorded as violist with the Guarneri String Quartet. During her six-year tenure as the violinist of the legendary Beaux Arts Trio, the group was named Ensemble

of the Year by Musical America and received a Grammy nomination. She formed the ensemble Opus One with pianist Anne-Marie McDermott, violist Steven Tenenbom and cellist Peter Wiley, which recently commissioned and premiered new works by George Tsontakis, Marc Neikrug, Lowell Liebermann and Stephen Hartke. She is a frequent guest artist with ensembles such as the Orion, American and Shanghai string quartets and with such celebrity musicians as Chick Corea, Mark O'Connor, and Wynton Marsalis. She has also co-founded the Trio Valtorna ensemble as well as the Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival, which she ran for 10 years. In addition to serving on the faculties of the Curtis Institute and the Bard College Conservatory, she joined The Juilliard School faculty for the 2012-13 academic year, and has served on numerous competition juries and boards, including Chamber Music America.

Her close association with the Curtis Institute continues with her large and superb class, the recent endowment of her faculty chair by Nina von Maltzahn, her service on the Curtis board of directors and most recently, the awarding of the Lindback Foundation Award for Distinguished Teaching, which is presented in recognition of outstanding service in stimulating and guiding Curtis students.

F. Ludwig Diehn Concert Series 2015–2016 Season

Sept. 18 and 21, 2015

Birth of an Answer: Within Our Gates

Oct. 19, 2015

Glen Velez and Loire Cotler

Nov. 16, 2015

Measha Brueggergosman

Jan. 25, 2016

Jim Walker

Feb. 29, 2016

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March 21, 2016

Penelope Crawford and Martha Guth

April 18, 2016

Kenny Washington with the John Toomey Trio



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