

Rolston String Quartet & David Shifrin, Clarinet

presented by

CONCERTS
INTERNATIONAL

*Tuesday
October 11, 2022
7:30 pm
Harris Hall*



CONCERTS INTERNATIONAL

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Rolston String Quartet & David Shifrin, Clarinet

Luri Lee, Violin Jason Issokson, Violin
Eric Wong, Viola Peter Eom, Cello

Clarinet Quintet in A Major, K. 581 (1789)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Allegro

1756-1791

Larghetto

Menuetto with trios

Allegretto con variazioni

String Quartet No. 3 (“Jagdquartett” [Hunting Quartet])
(2003)

Jörg Widmann
b. 1973

— Intermission —

Clarinet Quintet in B Minor, Op. 115 (1891)

Johannes Brahms

Allegro

1833-1897

Adagio

Andantino - Presto non assai, ma con sentimento

Con moto

Please silence your mobile devices for tonight’s performance.

Rolston String Quartet appears by
arrangement with Sciolino Artist Management.

Luri Lee plays a Carlo Tononi violin, generously on loan from Shauna Rolston Shaw.
The Rolston String Quartet performs on the Eugène Ysaÿe quartet of
instruments and is endorsed by Jargar Strings of Denmark.

Mr. Shifrin performs on a Backun “Lumiere” cocobolo wood clarinet made by
Morrie Backun in Vancouver, Canada and uses Légère Reeds exclusively.



Tonight’s performance is broadcast live on
WKNO 91.1 FM by Darel Snodgrass.
Concerts International deeply appreciates this broadcast
and our pre-concert interviews on
WKNO 91.1 FM’s Checking on the Arts.



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Clarinet Quintet in A Major, K. 581 (1789)

Mozart's only completed clarinet quintet, is one of the earliest and best-known works written especially for the clarinet. It was written as a showpiece for Mozart's friend, clarinet virtuoso Anton Stadler. After Mozart's death in 1791, the manuscripts of this quintet and also his Clarinet Concerto were lost, Stadler claiming they were stolen from him, but Mozart's widow Constanza believed that Stadler had pawned them. Kai Christiansen usefully describes the quintet as a richly inventive "little chamber opera for five," and particularly praises the beauty of the second movement as perhaps having inspired "a rich tradition of clarinet quintets that extend from Weber to Brahms to Paul Schoenfeld in the present day."

Jörg Widmann

String Quartet No. 3 ("Jagdquartett" [Hunting Quartet]) (2003)

Jörg Widmann (b. 1973) German composer, conductor, and clarinetist. In 2018 he was the third most performed contemporary composer in the world. Widmann studied as a clarinetist at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater München (1986–1997, with Gerhard Starke) and also at the Juilliard School (1994–1995, with Charles Neidich.)

The *Jagdquartett* ("Hunt Quartet") (2003) is Widmann's third string quartet in a five-part string quartet cycle. With each cycle representing the characters of the movements of the classical quartet, the *Jagdquartett* represents the fast middle movement, the scherzo.

The "Hunt" captures the spirit of the chase with all its exhilaration, drama, and deadliness. It begins by quoting romantic composer Robert Schumann's *Papillons* Op.2 and quickly dissolves into an avant-garde take on the tale of the hunt. The cellist, playing the role of the animal, is pursued by colleagues and releases a blood-curdling scream of death near the conclusion.

Johannes Brahms

Clarinet Quintet in B Minor, Op. 115 (1891)

Brahms' Clarinet Quintet is one of his final compositions, written after he had announced in 1890, at age 57, that his creative output had concluded. But when he then met virtuoso clarinetist Richard Mühlfeld he returned to composing with his Clarinet Trio (Op. 114, 1891), this quintet (Op. 115) and two clarinet sonatas (Op. 120, Nos. 1 and 2, 1894). Richard Mühlfeld premiered the quintet.

Andreas Ottensamer (Austrian, 1989-) one of the solo clarinetists of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, has described Brahms Clarinet Quintet as "genuinely one of the monuments of the entire clarinet repertoire, a piece that every clarinetist dreams of playing."

About the Musicians

Rolston String Quartet

With their debut recording, “Souvenirs” recently named BBC Music Magazine ‘recording of the year’, Canada’s Rolston String Quartet continues to receive acclamation and recognition for their musical excellence. As the 2018 recipient and first international ensemble chosen for the prestigious Cleveland Quartet Award from Chamber Music America, their accolades and awards precede them. In 2016, a monumental year, they won First Prize at the 12th Banff International String Quartet Competition, Grand Prize at the 31st Chamber Music Yellow Springs Competition, and Astral’s National Auditions.

Recent highlights include debut performances at Carnegie Hall, Wigmore Hall, The Freer Gallery, and Chamber Music Houston, two major Canadian tours under the Prairie Debut and Debut Atlantic touring networks, and three European tours with dates in Leipzig, Berlin, Lucerne, Heidelberg, Barcelona, and Graz among others. Their 2019-20 season includes concerts at UCLA’s Herb Alpert School of Music, Texas Performing Arts, Chamber Music Northwest, and Calgary Pro Musica; the chamber music societies of Detroit, Fort Worth, Kansas City, Philadelphia, and Vancouver; and the Louvre Museum. As *Süddeutsche Zeitung* states, “they showed such delicacy, slender elasticity, impeccable intonation, and such eminent sense of tonal balance...This is a new bright star on the truly not empty string quartet sky of our day.”

Notable collaborations include performances with renowned artists Janina Fialkowska, Gary Hoffman, Nobuko Imai, Miguel da Silva, and David Shifrin, as well as the St. Lawrence, and Dover Quartets. The quartet are associated artists at the Queen Elizabeth Music Chapel, and completed a two-year term as the Yale School of Music’s fellowship quartet-in-residence in spring 2019. Previously, they were the graduate quartet-in-residence at Rice University’s Shepherd School of Music. Keeping in the teaching tradition, they have taught at the Yale School of Music, University of Toronto, and the Bowdoin International Music Festival among others. Primary mentors include the Brentano Quartet, James Dunham, Norman Fischer, and Kenneth Goldsmith, and the quartet has received additional guidance from the St. Lawrence String Quartet, Miguel da Silva, and Alastair Tait.

The Rolston String Quartet was formed in the summer of 2013 at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity’s Chamber Music Residency. They take their name from Canadian violinist Thomas Rolston, founder and long-time director of the Music and Sound Programs at the Banff Centre. The original members are all graduates of The Glenn Gould School (GGS), and it was at the GGS that they founded their passion for chamber music and, under the guidance of Barry Shiffman, focused their artistic growth and ensemble playing. In addition, Ms. Lee, was an alumna of The Rebanks Family Fellowship and International Performance Residency Program at the GGS.



David Shifrin, Clarinet

Winner of both the Avery Fisher Career Grant (1987) and the Avery Fisher Prize (2000), David Shifrin is in constant demand as an orchestral soloist, recitalist, chamber music collaborator and educator.

Mr. Shifrin has appeared with the Philadelphia and Minnesota Orchestras and the Dallas, Seattle, Houston, Milwaukee, Detroit, Fort Worth, Hawaii and Phoenix symphonies among many others in the US; and internationally with orchestras in Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Japan, Korea and Taiwan. He has also received critical acclaim as a recitalist, appearing at such venues as Alice Tully Hall, Zankel Hall at Carnegie Hall and the 92nd Street Y in New York City, as well as at the Library of Congress in Washington D.C. A much sought after chamber musician, he has collaborated with such distinguished ensembles and artists as the Guarneri, Tokyo, Emerson, Orion, Dover and Miro String Quartets, trumpeter and

Tokyo, Emerson, Orion, Dover and Miro String Quartets, trumpeter and composer Wynton Marsalis, and pianists Emanuel Ax, Andre Previn and André Watts.

An artist member of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center since 1989, David Shifrin served as its Artistic Director from 1992 to 2004. He has toured extensively throughout the US with CMSLC and hosted and performed in several national television broadcasts on PBS’s Live From Lincoln Center. He concluded his tenure with Chamber Music Northwest in Portland, Oregon in summer 2020 after having been the festival’s Artistic Director since 1981. He is currently also the Artistic Director of the Phoenix Chamber Music Festival.

In addition, he has served as principal clarinetist with the Cleveland Orchestra, American Symphony Orchestra (under Stokowski), the Honolulu and Dallas and New Haven symphonies, the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra and the New York Chamber Symphony.

David Shifrin joined the faculty at the Yale School of Music in 1987 and since 2008 has been Artistic Director of the Chamber Music Society of Yale and Yale’s annual concert series at Carnegie Hall. In January 2022, he was named the Samuel S. Sanford Professor in the Practice of Clarinet. He has also served on the faculties of The Juilliard School, University of Southern California, University of Michigan, Cleveland Institute of Music and the University of Hawaii.

Mr. Shifrin has been instrumental in broadening the repertoire for clarinet and orchestra by commissioning and championing the works of 20th and 21st century American composers including John Adams, Joan Tower, Stephen Albert, Bruce Adolphe, Ezra Laderman, Lalo Schifrin, David Schiff, John Corigliano, Bright Sheng, Ellen Zwilich, Alvin Singleton, Hannah Lash, Martin Bresnick, Aaron Jay Kernis, Valerie Coleman, Richard Danielpour and Peter Schickele.

Mr. Shifrin’s recordings on Delos, DGG, Angel/EMI, Arabesque, BMG, SONY, and CRI have consistently garnered praise and awards. He has received three Grammy nominations and his recording of the Mozart Clarinet Concerto with the Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra, performed in its original version on a specially built elongated clarinet, was named Record of the Year by Stereo Review. Recent releases include the Beethoven, Bruch and Brahms Clarinet Trios with cellist David Finckel and pianist Wu Han on the ArtistLed label and a recording for Delos of works by Carl Nielsen, which includes the first recording of the Nielsen Clarinet Concerto arranged for chamber orchestra. In 2018, Delos released a recording of three clarinet quintets which were written for Mr. Shifrin by Peter Schickele, Richard Danielpour and Aaron J. Kernis with the Miro, Dover and Jasper Quartets respectively, as well as a second volume of clarinet quintets featuring David Schiff’s arrangement of Duke Ellington pieces. In early 2021, the Musica Solis label released a recording of original music and several newly arranged works for clarinet by Francis Poulenc.

In addition to the Avery Fisher Prize, David Shifrin is the recipient of a Solo Recitalists’ Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts and the 2016 Concert Artist Guild Virtuoso Award. He received an Honorary Membership to the International Clarinet Society in recognition of lifetime achievement and at the outset of his career, he won prizes at both the Munich and the Geneva International Competitions. He is also the recipient of Distinguished Alumni Awards from the Interlochen Center for the Arts and the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara and a Cultural Leadership Citation from Yale University. In January 2018 he received the Richard J. Bogomolny National Service Award at the Chamber Music America Conference, an award which recognizes an individual or entity who has provided historic service to the small ensemble music field.



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