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Artists in Residence

Daedalus Quartet

Featuring Meg Bragle

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

7:30 PM

St. Mary's Church

3916 Locust Walk, Philadelphia

Program

String Quartet in F minor, op. 965

I. Allegro con brio

Ludwig van Beethoven

(1770-1827)

Cant voi l'aube

Meg Bragle, mezzo soprano

Caroline Shaw

(b. 1982)

Strum

Jessie Montgomery

(b. 1981)

String Quartet No. 4

I. Allegro

II. Prestissimo con sordino

III. Non troppo lento

IV. Allegretto pizzicato

V. Allegro molto

Béla Bartók

(1881-1945)

About Daedalus Quartet

Praised by *The New Yorker* as “a fresh and vital young participant in what is a golden age of American string quartets,” the Daedalus Quartet has established itself as a leader among the new generation of string ensembles. Since winning the top prize in the Banff International String Quartet Competition in 2001, the Daedalus Quartet has impressed critics and listeners alike with the security, technical finish, interpretive unity, and sheer gusto of its performances. *The New York Times* has praised the Daedalus Quartet’s “insightful and vibrant” Haydn, the “impressive intensity” of their Beethoven, their “luminous” Berg, and the “riveting focus” of their Dutilleux. *The Washington Post* in turn has acclaimed their performance of Mendelssohn for its “rockets of blistering virtuosity,” while the *Houston Chronicle* has described the “silvery beauty” of their Schubert and the “magic that hushed the audience” when they played Ravel, the *Boston Globe* the “finesse and fury” of their Shostakovich, the *Toronto Globe and Mail* the “thrilling revelation” of their Hindemith, and the *Cincinnati Enquirer* the “tremendous emotional power” of their Brahms.

Since its founding the Daedalus Quartet has performed in many of the world’s leading musical venues; in the United States and Canada these include Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center (Great Performers series), the Library of Congress, the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, D.C., and Boston’s Gardner Museum, as well as on major series in Montreal, Toronto, Calgary, Winnipeg, and Vancouver. Abroad the ensemble has been heard in such famed locations as the Musikverein in Vienna, the Mozarteum in Salzburg, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the

Cité de la Musique in Paris, and in leading venues in Japan.

The Daedalus Quartet has won plaudits for its adventurous exploration of and commitment to contemporary music. Among the works the ensemble has premiered are Huck Hodge's *The Topography of Desire*, commissioned by the Fromm Foundation; Joan Tower's *White Water*, commissioned by Chamber Music Monterey Bay; David Horne's *Flight from the Labyrinth*, commissioned for the Quartet by the Caramoor Festival; Lawrence Dillon's *String Quartet No. 4*, commissioned by the Thomas S. Kenan Institute for the Arts; and Fred Lerdahl's *Third String Quartet*, commissioned by Chamber Music America, as well as Lerdahl's *Chaconne*, commissioned by New Music USA.

The Quartet has also collaborated with some of the world's finest instrumentalists: these include pianists Marc-André Hamelin, Simone Dinnerstein, Awadagin Pratt, Joyce Yang, and Benjamin Hochman; clarinetists Paquito D'Rivera, Ricardo Morales, Romie deGuise-Langlois, and Alexander Fiterstein; jazz bassist John Patitucci; and violists Roger Tapping, Nokuthula Ngwenyama, and Donald Weilerstein.

To date the Quartet has forged associations with some of America's leading classical music and educational institutions: Carnegie Hall, through its European Concert Hall Organization (ECHO) Rising Stars program; and Lincoln Center, which appointed the Daedalus Quartet as the Chamber Music Society Two (now the Bowers Program) quartet for 2005-07. The Daedalus Quartet has served as Quartet-in-Residence at the University of Pennsylvania since 2006. In 2007, the Quartet was awarded Lincoln Center's Martin E. Segal Award. The Quartet won Chamber Music America's Guarneri String Quartet Award, which funded a three-year residency in Suffolk County, Long Island from 2007-2010.

The quartet's debut recording, music of Stravinsky, Sibelius, and Ravel, was released by Bridge Records in 2006, and was praised by *Strad Magazine* for the quartet's "exemplary intonation and balance." Other recordings the quartet has released include music of Haydn, Fred Lerdahl, Arlene Sierra, George Perle, and Ursula Mamlock (for Bridge Records), music of Joan Tower (for Naxos), and Debra Kaye (for Navona Records). In the past season the Quartet recorded a string quartet and oboe quintet (with oboist James Austin Smith) by Anna Weesner, Huck Hodge's *Topography of Desire*, and Nathan Courtright's *On remembering, ceasing to be* (with the Arcana New Music Ensemble).

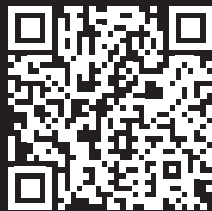
Highlights of the 23/24 season include two premieres and the quartet's first Bartok cycle. Daedalus will premiere Stewart Goodyear's piano quintet, with the composer at the piano, at the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, and will also perform as part of Lyric Fest's Christmas Cantata, in a new work by

composer Benjamin Wenzelberg on poetry of Jeanne Minahan for Philadelphia's Lyric Fest. At the University of Pennsylvania, the Quartet will embark on a multi-disciplinary investigation of the music of Bartok, featuring each of the six quartets contextualized in various ways. The members of the Daedalus Quartet hold degrees from the Juilliard School, Curtis Institute, Cleveland Institute, and Harvard University. [March 2023]

About Meg Bragle

Widely praised for her musical intelligence and “expressive virtuosity” (San Francisco Chronicle), Meg Bragle has earned an international reputation as one of today's most gifted mezzo-sopranos. An accomplished early music specialist, she has sung in North America and Europe with the English Baroque Soloists, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, Bavarian Radio Symphony, Netherlands Bach Society, Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra, and others. A leading interpreter of Baroque and Classical repertoire, Ms. Bragle has appeared with many symphony orchestras in the U.S. and Canada including the Philadelphia, Houston, Seattle, Toronto, Atlanta, National, Detroit, Cincinnati and Colorado Symphonies among others.

Ms. Bragle is an accomplished recording artist with over a dozen recordings to her credit. Her discography includes four recordings with Sir John Eliot Gardiner and the English Baroque Soloists, including Bach's Easter and Ascension Oratorios – the vehicle for her BBC Proms debut – and Bach's Mass in B Minor. She made several recordings with Apollo's Fire - Mozart's Requiem, Handel's Dixit Dominus and Ode for the Birthday of Queen Anne, Monteverdi's Vespro della Beata Vergine, and L'Orfeo. Other recordings include Bach's St. John Passion, the complete works of Chiara Margarita Cozzolani, Pergolesi's Stabat Mater, Toby Twining's Chrysalid Requiem, Anthony Newman's Requiem, Copland's In the Beginning and the Five Borough Songbook.



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