

arts news release
scottsdale center for the performing arts

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SCOTTSDALE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS ANNOUNCES 2018-2019 CLASSICAL SEASON



Yekwon Sunwoo

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona — Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts' 2018–19 classical season showcases some of the world's most celebrated musicians in the intimate Virginia G. Piper Theater. Tickets go on sale April 23 at 10 a.m. Here are the upcoming performances:

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet:

An Evening with Pianist Joyce Yang

- On March 2, the innovative **Aspen Santa Fe Ballet** will present a program devoted to contemporary dance works accompanied by a live piano performance by Korean-born pianist **Joyce Yang**. Aspen Santa Fe Ballet is named after the Colorado and New Mexico cities where the company maintains homes, and is devoted to curating new ballets. Yang won fame when she was awarded the Silver Medal at the 2005 Van Cliburn

International Piano Competition. She has performed with major orchestras and received a Grammy Award nomination for her collaboration with violinist Augustin Hadelich on *Works for Violin and Piano* (2016).

Academy of St Martin in the Fields

Jeremy Denk, piano

● One of America's foremost pianists teams with legendary English chamber orchestra, the **Academy of St Martin in the Fields**, for a March 6 concert that is part of the ensemble's 68th anniversary tour. **Jeremy Denk**, winner of a MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship for his adventurous programming, will play two works with the orchestra: Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 12 in A Major, K. 414, and Benjamin Britten's one-movement study for piano and strings, *Young Apollo*. The remainder of the program will feature scores by Mozart contemporaries Josef Haydn and C.P.E. Bach, and Italian Baroque master Tomaso Albinoni.

VIRGINIA G. PIPER CONCERT SERIES

● The long-running Virginia G. Piper Concert Series begins Oct. 28 with a debut season performance by **Yekwon Sunwoo**, Gold Medalist in the 2017 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, and where *The New York Times* noted his "crisp, effervescent playing." He has been praised for "fastidious fingerwork" and "a true legato" (*The Dallas Morning News*), "animated, light-filled playing" (*The Washington Post*), and "subtle and powerful" playing (*Fort Worth Star-Telegram*).

● On Nov. 11, **David Finckel** on cello and **Wu Han** on piano — "America's power couple of chamber music," according to *The Wall Street Journal* — perform three works representing the peak of the Classical and Romantic traditions: Beethoven's lyrical Op. 69 Sonata, composed at the height of the Classical period; Brahms's soulful Sonata in E minor, with a fugue in homage to J. S. Bach; and Mendelssohn's exhilarating Op. 58 Sonata. The evening promises to be a tour de force, exhibiting the technical and expressive powers of this instrumental combination.

● Since shooting to classical stardom as the Gold Medal winner at the 1970 Chopin International Piano Competition, **Garrick Ohlsson** has commanded an international career of the first order. Known for bold interpretations of the Romantic repertoire, Ohlsson will perform a range of works on Jan. 6, focusing on the music of Brahms. The *Manchester Evening News* has called his playing "sheer magic."

● Stellar violinist **Midori** and renowned pianist **Jean-Yves Thibaudet** team for this April 6 concert of Romantic and early 20th-century masterpieces. While each enjoys a major solo career, Midori and Thibaudet will collaborate on this program featuring scores that challenge both instruments. Schumann's Sonata No. 1, composed in 1851, represents the Romantic era at its height. George Enescu's sonata "in Romanian folk style" from 1926 calls forth a late-blooming nationalism. Of special interest are two French works that frame the early and final stages of Impressionism: Gabriel *Fauré's* A Major sonata from 1876, and Claude Debussy's final completed work, his sole Violin Sonata from 1917.

● The **Jerusalem Quartet** rounds out the concert series on April 7 with a concert commemorating the 70th anniversary of the founding of Israel. These four Israeli musicians perform a program that traces the history of the string quartet from its roots to the mid-20th century. Haydn, who essentially created the string quartet in its current form, composed his Op. 76 in 1797. Bartók's quartets were famous for blending vigorous folk-music rhythms with the tradition of the string quartet; he composed his String Quartet No. 5 in 1934. Beethoven's Op. 127 Quartet, from 1825, was the first of the composer's five late quartets, a set famous for pushing the boundaries of the form.

KEYBOARD CONVERSATIONS®

Acclaimed pianist **Jeffrey Siegel** will return for his 40th season of Keyboard Conversations, his brilliantly polished series of concerts with commentary accessible to audiences of all ages that combine captivating remarks with world-class performances of masterpieces of the piano repertoire. Siegel's four 2018–19

concerts are *The Joyous Music of Beethoven* on Dec. 11, *Celebrating Rachmaninoff and Debussy* on Jan. 15, *The Romantic Connection: Chopin, Schumann and Liszt* on Feb. 12 and *Chopin in Paris* on March 12.

The Denver Post writes of Siegel: "...a pianist with a bravura technique and a big, gorgeous sound...and when the artist himself offers the inside scoop, the musical experience becomes vastly more personal."

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH MUSIC

An enriching concert experience that brings together sublime chamber music, distinguished performers and insightful commentary. Artistic Director and cellist Yehuda Hanani introduces each program from the stage, placing the composers' works and their times in perspective.

- On Jan. 16, *Romantic Quintets: Brahms and Schumann*, features **Soyeon Kate Lee**, piano; **Irina Muresanu**, violin; **Peter Zazofsky**, violin; **Michael Strauss**, viola; and **Yehuda Hanani**, cello. This concert presents the essence of Romanticism in works by two 19th-century giants, scored for piano and strings: Johannes Brahms's Piano Quintet in F minor and Robert Schumann's breakthrough Piano Quintet.
- **Alexander Shtarkman**, piano, and **Yehuda Hanani**, cello, collaborate on *Three Russian Giants: Rachmaninoff, Prokofiev and Stravinsky* on Feb. 6. Featured are the cello-and-piano sonatas of Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943) and Serge Prokofiev (1891-1953), plus the dazzling solo-piano version of *Petrushka* by Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971).

SCOTTSDALE ARTS

Through its partnership with the City of Scottsdale, the nonprofit Scottsdale Arts (formerly known as Scottsdale Cultural Council) creates diverse, inspired arts experiences and educational opportunities that foster active, lifelong community engagement with the arts. Since its founding in 1987, Scottsdale Arts has grown into a regionally and nationally significant, multi-disciplinary arts organization offering an exceptional variety of programs through three acclaimed divisions — Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art (SMoCA) and Scottsdale Public Art — serving more than 400,000 participants annually.

SCOTTSDALE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Since 1975, Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts has provided a stage for a wide range of artists and genres, creating shared, inspiring experiences for the community that celebrate artistic excellence and cultural awareness. Today one of the premier performing-arts halls in the western United States, the Center presents a diverse season of music, dance, theater, comedy and film from around the world.

LOCATION AND PARKING

Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts is located at 7380 E. Second St. in downtown Scottsdale. Free parking is available in the public parking garage located to the west of Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts on Wells Fargo Avenue. Additional free parking is available at the Old Town Parking Corral at East Second Street and Brown Avenue and at the Civic Center Library parking garage located on Drinkwater Boulevard at East Second Street.

ACCESSIBILITY

Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts offers performance accommodations to enhance audience members' experience, including: American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation or live audio description with two weeks advance notice. Assistive-listening devices and wheelchair seating are also available. Visit www.ScottsdalePerformingArts.org/visit/accessibility/ or contact the Member and Patron Services Box Office

at 480-499-TKTS (8587) [TDD: 480-874-4694] for further details. Please inquire about services when ordering tickets.

TICKET DISCOUNTS

Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts offers a variety of ticket discounts for Scottsdale Arts members at the Friends level and above, groups of 10 or more and those purchasing packages to four or more events in one order. The Center provides free tickets to selected events for eligible students, teachers and active-duty military and veterans, and 50-percent off tickets to selected events for patrons 29 and under. Visit www.ScottsdalePerformingArts.org/visit/tickets-discounts/ or call 480-499-TKTS (8587) for more information.

THE STORE

The award-winning Store at Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts supports the mission and diverse programs of the nonprofit Scottsdale Arts. The Store's unique selection of merchandise includes artist-made jewelry, stylish furnishings for home and office, unique creations by Arizona artists, fair-trade and upcycled/recycled global crafts, music, books, greeting cards and imaginative toys. Purchases are tax free, and members receive a 10 percent discount. Gift wrapping and shipping are also available. The Store is open seven days a week: Monday–Saturday, 10 a.m.– 5 p.m.; Sunday, noon–5 p.m.; and throughout most evening events. Phone: 480-874-4644.

HOW TO REACH US

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