10-6-2013

Shanghai Quartet with Miró Quartet

Office of Arts + Cultural Programming

PEAK Performances at Montclair State University
2013-14 season

Peek Performances at Montclair State University presents Shanghai Quartet with Miró Quartet on Sunday, October 6, 2013 / 3:00pm

Alexander Kasser Theater

PROGRAM

Two Pieces for String Octet, op. 11
Prelude: Adagio
Scherzo: Allegro molto

Museon Polemos
I. Prologue: Introduction of the Rival Teams
II. The Challenge: Introduction and Barcarolle
III. The Battle—Epilogue

~Intermission~

Octet in E-Flat Major, op. 20
Allegro moderato ma con fuoco
Andante
Scherzo: Allegro leggerissimo
Presto

Dan Welcher’s Museon Polemos for double quartet was commissioned by Texas Performing Arts, made possible by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. It was premiered by the Shanghai and Miró Quartets at The University of Texas at Austin on September 28, 2012.

Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes, including one 15-minute intermission.

In consideration of both audience and performers, please turn off all electronic devices. The taking of photographs or videos and the use of recording equipment are not permitted. No food or drink is permitted in the theater.

The 2013/14 season is made possible in part by funds from:

The National Endowment for the Arts
The New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State
The New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts
The Prudential Insurance Company of America
The Bank of America
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Photo courtesy of the Shanghai Quartet

To view our complete season and for more information, visit peakperfs.org.
Program Notes

Museon Polonium

The year 2012–13 marked the 100th anniversary of classical music’s most notorious scandal: the world premiere of Igor Strawinsky’s epoch-making ballet Le Sacre du Printemps, usually translated as The Rite of Spring. This piece not only spectacularly captured the imagination of the world but also sent shockwaves of fear and excitement. The work’s success set the stage for a whole new generation of composers and performers, and over time, the scandal became a source of inspiration for many more works of music.

About the Miró Quartet

The dynamic Miró Quartet, one of America’s highest-profile chamber groups, enjoys its place at the top of the international quartet scene. New York’s classical music aficionado, with over five decades of experience, the quartet continues to captivate audiences and critics around the world with its standing intensity, fresh perspective, and mature approach.

Founded in 1993 at the Oberlin Conservatory, the Miró Quartet met with immediate success, winning first prize at the 50th annual Coleman Chamber Music Competition in April 1996 and taking both the first and grand prizes at the Fischoff National Chamber Music Competition two months later. Earning both the first prize and the prize of the concert prize at the 1996 Banff International String Quartet Competition, the Miró Quartet also won the prestigious Naumburg Chamber Music Award in 2000. In 2005, the quartet received the Cleveland Award and the Arthur Vogel Award with ensemble to be awarded the coveted Avery Fisher Career Grant.

Recent Miró Quartet music seasons have included concerts in some of the worlds most important concert venues such as Amsterdam’s Concertgebouw, the Berlin Philharmonie’s Konzerthaus, the Konzerthaus in Vienna, Italy’s Festival Internazionale di Quartieri d’Arte Pesquisa, the Dresden Music Festival, London’s Wigmore Hall, and Palacio Real de Madrid, as well as performances in Stockholm, Brussels, and Athens. In recent seasons, the ensemble has collaborated with such artists as Alfred Brendel, Emanuel Ax, Gil Shaham, Elis Fisk, Lynn Harrell, Midori, Jon Kimura Parker, and Piers Zuckerman. The Miró Quartet is also a favorite of major orchestras and welcomes them as soloists in their repertoire. They have performed at the annual Orca Island Chamber Music Festival, Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, Music@Menlo, and Chamber Music Northwest in recent seasons.

In summer 2012, the Miró Quartet returned to the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival and Orcas Island Chamber Music Festival, where the quartet was the recipient of Chamber Music America’s annual Grant. The quartet is one of the most prolific chamber ensembles in the United States and has a long history of performing with leading artists and composers.

About the Shanghai Quartet

Renowned for its passionate musicality, impressive technique, and multicultural innovations, the Shanghai Quartet has become one of the world’s foremost chamber ensembles. Its elegant style melds the delicacy of Eastern music with the emotional breadth of Western repertoire, allowing it to traverse musical genres including traditional Chinese folk music, masterworks of Western music, and cutting-edge contemporary works.

Formed at the Shanghai Conservatory in 1983, the Quartet has worked with the world’s most distinguished artists and regularly performs the major music centers of Europe, North America, and Asia. Recent festival performances include the International Music Festival of Brussels and the Beijing Festival at the Peking University in China, Venice, Cesena, and Seoul, among many others.

The Shanghai Quartet has an extensive discography of more than 30 recordings, ranging from the Schumann and Dvořák quartets to works by Béla Bartók and Arnold Schoenberg. The quartet has been heard on numerous national radio broadcasts, including American Public Media’s Performance Today and Minnesota Public Radio’s Saint Paul Sunday. Internationally, the Miró Quartet has been featured on radio broadcasts across Europe, including in Italy. The Shanghai Quartet’s performances range from the International Music Festival at Carnegie Hall in New York City, to the Festival Pablo Casals in Puerto Rico, to the Festival Pablo Casals in France, the Beethoven Festival in Poland, Yerevan Festival of Armenia, and Cadiz International Music Festival in Spain.

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