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Shanghai Quartet | Wu Han Quintets by Dvořák and Schumann

Office of Arts + Cultural Programming

PEAK Performances at Montclair State University

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Montclair State's Office of Arts & Cultural Programming (ACP) presents and produces leading artists of the world in dance, music, theater, and opera. Under its signature series Peak Performances, ACP has produced works such as Zinnias: The Life of Clementine Hunter by Robert Wilson, Bernice Johnson Reagon, Toshi Reagon, and Jacqueline Woodson; Dog Days by David T. Little and Royce Vavrek; Harry Partch's Oedipus; and Ridge Theater's The Difficulty of Crossing a Field by David Lang. In addition, ACP has commissioned works by Bill T. Jones, Kronos Quartet, Jan Fabre, Liz Lerman, Wayne McGregor, Laurie Anderson, Romeo Castellucci, Richard Alston, Susan Marshall, Fred Hersch, and David Gordon.
Eighth Doctor, 40th-anniversary season brought five new commissions: Bullycide, for piano, string quartet, and bass, by David Del Tredici; Fantasia, a piano quintet by Australian composer Carl Vine; a concerto for string quartet and symphony orchestra by Jeajoon Ryu; Verge Quartet by Lei Liang; and Scherzo by Robert Aldridge, commissioned by Yu Long and the Beijing Music Festival. Their 25th-anniversary season featured Krzysztof Penderecki’s String Quartet no. 3: Leaves from an Unwritten Diary, Chen Yi’s From the Path of Beauty, String Quartet no. 2 by Vivian Fung, and jazz pianist Dick Hyman’s String Quartet.

Other important commissions and premieres include works by Bright Sheng, Lowell Lieberman, Sebastian Currier, Marc Neikrug, and Zhou Long. Dan Welcher’s Museon Polemos for double quartet premiered in 2012 with the Miró Quartet at the University of Texas at Austin, followed by performances at Montclair State in Fall 2013. The tradition will continue in 2014–15 with the premiere of Du Yun’s Tattooed in Snow at Peak Performances and in 2015–16 with the premiere of a quintet for string quartet and pipa by Zhao Jiping, China’s most renowned film composer (Raise the Red Lantern; Farewell, My Concubine…), with Wu Man.

The Shanghai Quartet has an extensive discography of more than 30 recordings, ranging from the Schumann and Dvořák piano quintets with Rudolf Buchbinder to Zhou Long’s Poems from Tang for string quartet and orchestra with the Singapore Symphony (BIS). In 2003 Delos released the Quartet’s most popular disc, Chinasong, a collection of Chinese folk songs arranged by Yi-Wen Jiang. In 2009 Camerata released the Quartet’s recordings of the complete Beethoven String Quartets, a seven-disc project.

The Shanghai Quartet currently serves as Quartet-in-Residence at the John J. Cali School of Music at Montclair State University, Ensemble-in-Residence with the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, and visiting guest professors of the Shanghai Conservatory and the Central Conservatory in Beijing. They are proudly sponsored by Thostak-Infeld Strings.