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Shanghai Quartet

Office of Arts + Cultural Programming

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Office of Arts + Cultural Programming and PEAK Performances at Montclair State University, "Shanghai Quartet" (2016). *2015-2016 Art Between Real and Imagined*. 9.

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Peak Performances

2015 | 2016 SEASON

Shanghai Quartet

Montclair State University's Quartet-in-Residence



May 7, 2016 • 8:00pm
Alexander Kasser Theater



MONTCLAIR STATE
UNIVERSITY

Photo by Xiao Dong

Dr. Susan A. Cole, President

Daniel Gurskis, Dean, College of the Arts

Jedediah Wheeler, Executive Director, Arts & Cultural Programming

Shanghai Quartet

Montclair State University's Quartet-in-Residence

Weigang Li, violin

Yi-Wen Jiang, violin

Honggang Li, viola

Nicholas Tzavaras, cello

Program

String Quartet no. 20 in D Major, K.499 ("Hoffmeister")

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791)

Allegretto

Menuetto: Allegretto

Adagio

Allegro

String Quartet no. 6 in F Minor, op. 80, MWV R 37

Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847)

Allegro vivace assai

Allegro assai

Adagio

Finale: Allegro molto

~~Intermission~~

String Quartet no. 1 in G Minor, op. 27 Edvard Grieg (1843–1907)

Un poco andante – Allegro molto ed agitato

Romanze: Andantino – Allegro agitato

Intermezzo: Allegro molto marcato – Più vivo e scherzando

Finale: Lento – Presto al saltarello

Duration: 1 hour 40 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.

About the Artists

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, masterpieces 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 tours the major music centers of Europe, North America, and Asia. Recent festival performances range from the International Music Festivals of Seoul and Beijing to the Festival Pablo Casals in France, Beethoven Festival in Poland, Yerevan Festival in Armenia, and Cartagena International Music Festival in Colombia as well as numerous concerts in all regions of North America. They have appeared at Carnegie Hall in chamber performances and with orchestra; in 2006 they gave the premiere of Takuma Itoh's Concerto for Quartet and Orchestra at Carnegie Hall. Among innumerable collaborations with noted

artists, they have performed with the Tokyo, Juilliard, and Guarneri Quartets; cellists Yo-Yo Ma and Lynn Harrell; pianists Menahem Pressler, Yuja Wang, Peter Serkin, and Jean-Yves Thibaudet; pipa virtuosa Wu Man; and the male vocal ensemble Chanticleer. They have been regular performers at many of North America's leading chamber music festivals, including the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, Chamberfest Ottawa, and Maverick Concerts, where they recently made their 25th consecutive annual appearance.

The Quartet has a long history of championing new music and juxtaposing traditions of Eastern and Western music. The Quartet's 30th-anniversary season brought five new commissions: *Bullycide*, for piano, string quartet, and bass by David Del Tredici; *Fantasie*, 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 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. The Penderecki premiered at a special 75th-birthday concert in Poland honoring the composer. The US premieres took place at Peak Performances and the Modlin Center, University of Richmond, and were followed by numerous performances worldwide. Penderecki's String Quartet no. 3 was featured at the composer's 80th-birthday celebration in November 2013. Chen Yi's *From the Path of Beauty*, co-commissioned with Chanticleer, premiered in San Francisco, followed by performances at Tanglewood, Ravinia, Beijing, and Shanghai. Other important commissions and premieres include works by Bright Sheng, Lowell Lieberman, Sebastian Currier, Marc Neikrug, and Zhou Long. Bright Sheng's *Dance Capriccio* had its premiere in spring 2012 with pianist Peter Serkin. Dan Welcher's *Museon Polemos* for double quartet premiered in September 2012 with the Miró Quartet at the University of Texas at Austin, and Du Yun's *Tattooed in Snow* premiered in 2015. The tradition continues with the premiere of *Red Lantern* for pipa and string quartet by Zhao Lin and Zhao Ji-Ping, 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). Delos released the Quartet's most popular disc, *Chinasong*, a collection of Chinese folk songs arranged by Yi-Wen Jiang reflecting on his childhood memories of the Cultural Revolution in China. In 2009 Camerata released the Quartet's recordings of the complete Beethoven String Quartets, a highly praised seven-disc project.

A diverse and interesting array of media projects includes PBS television's *Great Performances* series and a cameo appearance playing Bartók's String Quartet no. 4 in Woody Allen's film *Melinda and Melinda*. Violinist Weigang Li appeared in the documentary *From Mao to Mozart: Isaac Stern in China*, and the family of cellist Nicholas Tzavaras was the subject of the film *Music of the Heart*, starring Meryl Streep.

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 Thomastik-Infeld Strings.

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Office of Arts & Cultural Programming (ACP) presents and produces remarkable works of dance, music, theater, and opera at the Alexander Kasser Theater under the banner Peak Performances. Specific to its mission is a willingness to offer work by artists whose ideas are singular and worthy examples of creative innovation. Notable past productions include Richard Schechner's *Imagining O*; Robert Woodruff's *Dog Days* by David T. Little and Royce Vavrek; Robert Wilson's *Zinnias: The Life of Clementine Hunter* by Bernice Johnson Reagon, Toshi Reagon, and Jacqueline Woodson; David Gordon's *Shlemiel the First* by Robert Brustein, Arnold Weinstein, and Hankus Netsky; Ridge Theater's *The Difficulty of Crossing a Field* by David Lang; and The Builders Association's *Elements of Oz*. ACP has commissioned works by Vijay Iyer, Liz Gerring, Bill T. Jones,

Susan Marshall, Jan Fabre, Richard Alston, Liz Lerman, Wayne McGregor, Laurie Anderson (for the Kronos Quartet), Romeo Castellucci, Pat Graney, Fred Hersch, and Nora Chipaumire. ACP has fostered several unique initiatives, such as the Creative Thinking course, which takes the artistic process as impetus for problem solving in all academic disciplines, and Dance for Film on Location at MSU, a multiyear project funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

ACP is the proud recipient of the New Jersey Theatre Alliance/New Jersey State Council on the Arts Cultural Access Network Innovator Award and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts Citation of Excellence and Designation of Major Impact.

Programs in this season are made possible in part by funds from:

The New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Dept. of State,
a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Alison and James T. Cirenza

Holly and Robert Gregory

I. Michael Kasser

The Honorable Mary Mochary



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

