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Shanghai Quartet, Du Yun | Works by Beethoven, Ravel, and Du Yun

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.

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



Peak Performances

THE 2014-15 SEASON



Quartet-in-Residence Shanghai Quartet

World Premiere! *Tattooed in Snow* by Du Yun



February 8, 2015 • 3:00pm

Alexander Kasser Theater



MONTCLAIR STATE
UNIVERSITY



Dr. Susan A. Cole, President

Daniel Gurskis, Dean, College of the Arts

Jedediah Wheeler, Executive Director, Arts & Cultural Programming

Quartet-in-Residence

Shanghai Quartet

Weigang Li, violin

Yi-Wen Jiang, violin

Honggang Li, viola

Nicholas Tzavaras, cello

PROGRAM

String Quartet in F Major

Allegro moderato. Très doux

Assez vif. Très rythmé

Très lent

Vif et agité

Maurice Ravel (1875–1937)

World Premiere!

Tattooed in Snow

Du Yun (b. 1977)

~~Intermission~~

String Quartet no. 12 in E-flat Major, op. 127

Maestoso – Allegro

Adagio, ma non troppo e molto cantabile

Scherzando vivace

Finale. Allegro

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827)

Tattooed in Snow was commissioned by Peak Performances @ Montclair State (NJ).

Arts and Cultural Programming at Montclair State University is honored to have been awarded a 2015 Citation of Excellence from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts for achieving the highest standard of excellence as recognized by our peers.

Duration: 1 hour 35 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.

Program Notes

Tattooed in Snow explores the temporary and fragile crystallization of art in nature and in space, often formed by the repetition of a small idea or process over a long period of time. The four players of the quartet form the four pillars of a musical space, and as a chant begins to move among them, it layers, repeats, and takes shape in the manner of a sculpture in sand, or snow. Inspired by these delicate art forms, as well as by chant and poetry, and

building on my work with both visual artists and spoken-word artists, this piece provides a nuanced multilayered narrative trajectory.

Our final day has sunk from the sky to the salty main.

That moment will never return which once has been.

—Du Yun, *Composer*

About the Artists

Du Yun

Born and raised in Shanghai, China, and currently based in New York City, Du Yun is a composer, multi-instrumentalist, and performance artist. Her music exists at the intersection of orchestral and chamber music, theater, opera, cabaret, storytelling, pop music, visual arts, and noise. Known as “protean” and “chameleonic,” she was listed by NPR as one of 100 composers under 40.

Hailed by the *New York Times* as a leading figure in China's new generation of composers, Du Yun has had her music championed by some of today's finest performing artists, ensembles, orchestras, and organizations. Selected commissions include from the Seattle Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Mann Center for the Performing Arts, American Composers Orchestra, Berkeley Symphony, Whitney Museum of American Art, Fromm Foundation, Meet the Composer/Commissioning USA, Chamber Music America, and Shanghai Electronic Music Week. Du Yun's music has also been presented by Festival d'Avignon (France), Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ (The Netherlands), Musica Nova Helsinki (Finland), Ultima Oslo Contemporary Music (Norway), Internationale Ferienkurse für Neue Musik Darmstadt (Germany), Festival Internacional Cervantino (Mexico), Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, BAM Next Wave Festival, violinist Hilary Hahn, cellist Matt Haimovitz, and flutist Claire Chase, among others.

An avid performer, Du Yun has appeared in many assorted holes and halls across New York, nationally, and abroad. Her onstage persona has been described by the *New York Times* as “an indie pop diva with an avant-garde edge.” Her solo engagements as a performance artist include the 2012 Guangzhou Art Triennial (China) at the Guangzhou Opera House and the National Academy Museum (USA). Her ongoing collaborations of installation-performance-video with the Pakistani visual artist Shahzia Sikander have been on view at the Shanghai Rockbund Art Museum, the Tokyo Contemporary Museum of Art, San Francisco Art Institute, Pace Foundation (San Antonio), the Sharjah Biennial (United Arab Emirates), Auckland Art Triennial (New Zealand), Istanbul Biennial (Turkey), and Dhaka Art Summit (Bangladesh), as well as upcoming at the Bilbao Guggenheim in July 2015.

Du Yun's music can be heard on New Focus, Oxingale, ATMA Classique, and Deutsche Grammophon. An alumna of Shanghai Conservatory of Music, Oberlin College (BM), and Harvard University (MA, PhD), Du Yun is currently on the faculty of SUNY-Purchase. Since 2014, she has served as the artistic director of MATA, a pioneering organization dedicated to commissioning and presenting young composers from around the world.

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. 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. 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. The Quartet has performed regularly 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 24th 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 (co-commissioned by Peak Performances); *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. The tradition continues 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, including the complete String Quartets of Beethoven and the Schumann and Dvořák piano quintets with Rudolf Buchbinder. In 2003 Delos released the Quartet's most popular disc, *Chinasong*, a collection of Chinese folk songs arranged by Yi-Wen Jiang.

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 Thoastik-Infeld Strings. shanghaiquartet.com