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Shanghai Quartet with Haochen Zhang

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THE 18/19 SEASON
THE HEIGHTS OF IMAGINATION

Quartet-in-Residence

Shanghai Quartet with Haochen Zhang, piano

Celebrating the Shanghai Quartet's 35th Anniversary

Photo by Dong Yan



April 6, 2019 • 8:00pm
Alexander Kasser Theater

**Large
Print**

Arts + Cultural
Programming



**MONTCLAIR STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Dr. Susan A. Cole, President

Daniel Gurskis, Dean, College of the Arts

Jedediah Wheeler, Executive Director, Arts + Cultural Programming

John J. Cali School of Music

Department of Theatre and Dance

Jon Robert Cart, Director

Randy Mugleston, Chair

Quartet-in-Residence

Shanghai Quartet

Celebrating the Shanghai Quartet's 35th Anniversary

Weigang Li, violin

Yi-Wen Jiang, violin

Honggang Li, viola

Nicholas Tzavaras, cello

Guest Artist

Haochen Zhang, piano

Program

String Quartet no. 1 in F Major, op. 18 no. 1 Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827)

Allegro con brio

Adagio affetuoso ed appassionato

Scherzo: Allegro molto

Allegro

Dance Capriccio for piano and string quartet

Bright Sheng (b. 1955)

~~Intermission~~

Piano Quintet in F Minor, op. 34

Johannes Brahms (1833–1897)

Allegro non troppo

Andante, un poco adagio

Scherzo: Allegro

Finale: Poco sostenuto—Allegro non troppo—Presto, non troppo

Duration: One hour 35 minutes, including one 15-minute intermission.

In consideration of both audiences 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

***Dance Capriccio* (2011)**

Dance Capriccio was commissioned by the Maxine and Stuart Frankel Foundation in honor of Lois Beznos, the President of Chamber Music Society of Detroit. The work was written for Peter Serkin and the Shanghai Quartet, who premiered the work on February 11, 2012, at the Seligman Performing Arts Center in Detroit.

Dance Capriccio is inspired by the dance folk music of Sherpa, a small ethnic group (population ca. 150,000) mostly living in western Nepal, in the high mountains of the Himalayas. In Tibetan language, Sherpa means “people of the east,” as it is believed Sherpa moved from eastern Tibet to their current site centuries ago. Sherpa are regarded as excellent mountaineers and guides for expeditions of the Himalayas, especially Mt. Everest.

Sherpa language is essentially an atypical dialect of Tibetan. The same phenomenon is reflected in Sherpa folk music, which is similar to Tibetan but with its distinctive characters and twists of melodic turns. Like the Tibetans, Sherpa people love to dance, and along with love songs and drinking songs, dance music is an important genre among Sherpa folk music.

In *Dance Capriccio*, I try to capture the various characters of Sherpa dance, from slow to fast, tender to raucous, even wild.

This work is dedicated to Maxine and Stuart Frankel, my dear friends and passionate patrons and promoters for arts and art education.

—*Bright Sheng, composer*



“On Shanghai Time: The history of a city intertwines with the history of its famous quartet.” by Samantha Culp in *PEAK Journal*, Claudia La Rocca, editor

About the Artists

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, 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 and the Beethoven Festival in Poland as well as numerous concerts in all regions of North America. The Quartet has 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 in Isaac Stern Auditorium. 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, Peter Serkin, Jean-Yves Thibaudet, and Yuja Wang; pipa virtuoso Wu Man; and the vocal ensemble Chanticleer. The Shanghai Quartet has been a regular performer at many of North America's leading chamber music festivals, including Maverick Concerts where it recently made its 28th consecutive annual appearance.

The Quartet has a long history of championing new music and juxtaposing traditions of Eastern and Western music. With more than 30 commissioned works, their recent premieres include Du Yun's *Tattooed in Snow* (2015), Zhao Lin's *Red Lantern* (2015) for pipa and string quartet, and String Quartet No. 12, *Fantasia notturna* by William Bolcom (2017). The Quartet's 30th-anniversary season in 2013 brought five new commissions: *Bullycide* by David Del Tredici; *Fantasia* 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 commission works by Penderecki (String Quartet No. 3: *Leaves From an Unwritten Diary*), Chen Yi (*From the Path of Beauty*), Vivian Fung, and jazz pianist Dick Hyman. The Penderecki quartet was premiered at the composer's 75th-birthday concert, followed by numerous performances worldwide. They performed it again at the composer's 80th-birthday celebration and for his 85th-birthday concert in November 2018, where the Shanghai Quartet performed String Quartets Nos. 2, 3, and 4 at the Royal Castle in Warsaw. Chen Yi's *From the Path of Beauty*, co-commissioned with Chanticleer, premiered in San Francisco, with 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. The tradition continues during their 35th-anniversary season with Judith Weir's *March*, premiered at the Quartet's Wigmore Hall debut in London in February 2019; Tan Dun's revised *Feng Ya Song* (String Quartet No. 1), premiered at Dartmouth's Hopkins Center for the Arts the same month; and a forthcoming work by Wang Lei. 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. The complete Beethoven

String Quartets, a highly praised, seven-disc project, can be heard on an acclaimed Camerata set, released in 2009.

A diverse and interesting array of media projects include a cameo appearance playing Bartók's String Quartet No. 4 in Woody Allen's film *Melinda and Melinda*, and PBS television's *Great Performances* series. 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 is the subject of a documentary film, *Behind the Strings*, currently in production, to be released in 2019.

The Shanghai Quartet performs on four exceptional instruments by Goffriller, Guarneri, and Stradivari, generously loaned through the Beare's International Violin Society, to honor the quartet's 35th Anniversary. The instruments will be featured in eight cycles of the complete Beethoven String Quartets throughout the world. 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 and BAM Cases.

Haochen Zhang

Since his gold medal win at the Thirteenth Van Cliburn International Piano Competition in 2009, Haochen Zhang has captivated audiences in the United States, Europe, and Asia with a unique combination of deep musical sensitivity, fearless imagination, and spectacular virtuosity. In 2017, he received the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant, which recognizes talented musicians with the potential for a major career in music.

Zhang has already appeared with many of the world's leading festivals and orchestras, including the BBC Proms with Yu Long and the China Philharmonic; the Munich Philharmonic with the late Lorin Maazel in a sold-out tour in Munich and China; the Easter Festival in Moscow by special invitation of Maestro Valery Gergiev; the Sydney Symphony and David Robertson in a China tour; and the NDR Hamburg and Thomas Hengelbrock in a tour of Tokyo, Beijing, and Shanghai. Highlights of the 2018–19 season include his debut with the Lucerne Festival Orchestra, an Asian

tour with Philadelphia Orchestra, and performances with the National Philharmonic, Hong Kong Philharmonic, San Angelo Symphony, Guangzhou Symphony, China Philharmonic, Shanghai Symphony, and Spokane Symphony, in addition to recitals in Berlin, Paris, Madrid, Lucerne, and Brussels, among others.

In recent seasons Zhang recorded a recital CD, released by BIS Records in February 2017, which includes works by Schumann, Brahms, Janáček, and Liszt. He gave extensive recital and concerto tours in Asia with performances in China, Hong Kong, and Japan. In October 2017, he gave a concerto performance at Carnegie Hall with the China National Centre for the Performing Arts Orchestra, which was followed by his recital debut at Carnegie's Zankel Hall.

Zhang has performed with the Philadelphia Orchestra, Munich Philharmonic, London Symphony, London Philharmonic, WDR Symphony Orchestra, Frankfurt Radio, San Francisco Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Pacific Symphony, Kansas City Symphony, Seattle Symphony, Israel Philharmonic, Sydney Symphony, Japan Philharmonic, Singapore Symphony, Mariinsky Orchestra, Warsaw Philharmonic, Taiwan Philharmonic, and Hong Kong Philharmonic orchestras. In recital, he has performed at Spivey Hall, La Jolla Music Society, Celebrity Series of Boston, CU Artist Series, Cliburn Concerts, Krannert Center, Wolf Trap Discovery Series, Lied Center of Kansas, and UVM Lane Series, among others. Zhang is also an avid chamber musician, collaborating with colleagues such as the Shanghai Quartet, Tokyo Quartet, Brentano Quartet, and active, young soloists such as violinist Benjamin Beilman and cellist Aurélien Pascal. He is frequently invited by chamber music festivals in the United States, including the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival and La Jolla Summerfest.

Zhang's performances at the Cliburn Competition were released to critical acclaim by Harmonia Mundi in 2009. He is featured in Peter Rosen's award-winning documentary chronicling the 2009 Cliburn Competition, *A Surprise in Texas*.

Zhang is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, where he studied under Gary Graffman. He has also been studying periodically with Andreas Haefliger in Vienna. He was previously trained at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music and the Shenzhen Arts School, where he was admitted in 2001 at the age of 11 to study with professor Dan Zhaoyi.



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PEAK Previews

April 9 & 10 at 7:30pm

PEAK Premiere!

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Faye Driscoll

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The **Office of Arts + Cultural Programming** (ACP) enhances the cultural, creative, and academic life of the Montclair State campus and the broader community. Its signature program, Peak Performances, features innovative works by international contemporary artists of exceptional merit, and by the next generation of great artists training at Montclair State University's College of the Arts. Through its Cultural Engagement program, ACP offers master classes, workshops, lectures, and discussions designed to deepen participants' understanding of the aesthetic, cultural, and social contexts of the performances presented.

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Undergraduate students at Montclair State University attend performances without charge through the Performing Arts Fee.

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

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