



CENTRAL
CHAMBER
SERIES

Psalms and Poetry
January 30, 2024 | 7:30pm

PSALMS AND POETRY

January 30, 2024 | 7:30 p.m. | Central Chamber Series

Jia Kim, Artistic Director

String Quartet Op. 76 No. 3 “Emperor”

*Franz Joseph Haydn
(1732-1809)*

- I. Allegro
- II. Poco adagio
- III. Menuett
- IV. Finale

Piano Quintet in E-Flat Major, Op. 44

*Robert Schumann
(1810-1856)*

- I. Allegro brillante
- II. In Modo d'una Marcia. Un poco largamente
- III. Scherzo. Molto vivace — Trio I— Trio II
- IV. Allegro ma non troppo

Rebecca Fisher, violin
Michelle Ross, violin
Leah Ferguson, viola
Jia Kim, cello
David Kaplan, piano

PERFORMER BIOS



Violist **Leah Ferguson** joined the New York Philharmonic in October 2018, having previously been a member Boston Symphony Orchestra since 2016. Originally from Chicago, she began playing the violin at age five and switched to the viola at age twelve, studying with Roland Vamos. As a chamber musician, Leah has performed at festivals including Music@Menlo, Ravinia's Steans Music Institute, the Verbier Festival,

and the Perlman Music Program. She has collaborated with musicians including Itzhak Perlman, Joshua Bell and Miriam Fried, and performed as a guest artist with the Academy of St Martin in the Fields Chamber Ensemble. Leah's performances have been broadcast by WCLV Cleveland, WFMT Chicago, WQXR The Greene Space, NPR's From the Top and HBO's documentary television series Masterclass.

Leah has also performed with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra as guest principal viola, with the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal as guest associate principal and with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra as assistant principal. Leah holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music and a Graduate Diploma from The Juilliard School, where she was a recipient of the Kovner Fellowship. Her teachers have included Robert Vernon, Mark Jackobs, Heidi Castleman, and Cynthia Phelps.



Praised for her “beautiful tone and nuanced phrasing” (*Boston Musical Intelligencer*), violinist **Rebecca Fischer** is sought after as a highly expressive, intuitive performer. As the first-violinist for 18 years with the Chiara Quartet, she toured, recorded the complete string quartets of Johannes Brahms, Béla Bartók and Jefferson Friedman (a Grammy-nominated album), premiered numerous works, and held residencies at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Harvard

University. Versatile as a chamber musician, concertmaster, soloist, and vocalist, Rebecca is one half of The Afield, a multidisciplinary collaboration combining new and original compositions for violin and voice with video and other media. Recent appearances with The Afield include Carnegie Hall, the Atlanta Contemporary Museum, and the Harare International Festival of the Arts in Zimbabwe. Rebecca is the concertmaster of Ensemble Baroklyn, a group run by pianist Simone Dinnerstein that specializes in the music of J.S. Bach, and she performs regularly with other groups such as the East Coast Chamber Orchestra.

Rebecca is the Executive Director and Director of Senior Greenwood Music Camp, a chamber music camp for teenage musicians in western Massachusetts. During the year she teaches violin and chamber music at the Mannes School of Music, where she is also String Department Co-chair. She has given masterclasses and run workshops at Carnegie Hall, the Eastman School, The Juilliard School, Rice University, Seoul National University, the University of Michigan, and San Francisco Conservatory, among others, and she served for over a decade on the faculty of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Rebecca holds degrees from Columbia

University and The Juilliard School, and her major teachers include Kathleen Winkler, Joel Smirnoff, Masao Kawasaki and members of the Juilliard, Cleveland, Concord and Takács quartets. Her book of essays *The Sound of Memory: Themes from a Violinist's Life* was released in 2022. She lives in New York City with her family and two cats, Stevie and Zepp.



David Kaplan, pianist, has been called “excellent and adventurous” by The New York Times, and praised by the Boston Globe for “grace and fire” at the keyboard. He has appeared as soloist with the Britten Sinfonia at London’s Barbican Centre, at Miami’s Arscht Center with Itzhak Perlman, and in recital at the Ravinia Festival, Sarasota Opera House, Washington’s National Gallery, Music on Main in Vancouver, and Strathmore in Baltimore.

This season, he makes his debut at the Berlin Philharmonie, performing Beethoven’s Concerto no. 3 with the Berlin Sinfonie Orchester.

David’s New Dances of the League of David, a recital infusing Schumann’s Davidsbündlertänze with 16 new works by composers including Augusta Read Thomas, Marcos Balter, Caroline Shaw, and Andrew Norman was cited among the “Best Classical Music Performances of 2015” by The New York Times. For a new program called Chaconne, music Beethoven, Brahms, Ligeti, Rzewski and Gubaidulina will accompany two new works from Anthony Cheung and Christopher Cerrone, to be premiered in 2019.

Balancing solo performances with meaningful collaborations, David has played with the Attacca, Ariel, Enso, Hausman, and Tesla String Quartets. As a core member of Decoda, the Affiliate Ensemble of Carnegie Hall, he performs frequently in New York’s most exciting venues, from the Metropolitan Museum of Art to National Sawdust, as well as creating innovative residencies as far away as Abu Dhabi, Mexico, and Scotland. He is a veteran of numerous distinguished chamber music festivals and series, such as the Seattle Chamber Music, Bard, and Mostly Mozart Festivals, the

Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Chamber Music Northwest, and Barge Music. He is an alumnus of Tanglewood, Ravinia-Steans Institute, and the Perlman Music Program. He is the Artistic Director of Lyrica Chamber Music, a community series in Morris County, NJ currently in its 31st season.

David has recorded for Naxos, as well as with Timo Andres in the acclaimed disc, *Shy and Mighty* (2010), for Nonesuch. David's distinguished mentors over the years include the late Claude Frank, Walter Ponce, Alfred Brendel, Richard Goode, and Emanuel Ax. He studied conducting at the Universität der Künste Berlin with Lutz Köhler, under the auspices of a Fulbright Fellowship from 2008-2010. The recipient of a DMA from Yale University in 2014, David also graduated from UCLA, where he is now Lecturer in Piano for 2016-18.

David is proud to be a Yamaha Artist, and when at home in New York City, he enjoys practicing on his childhood piano, a 1908 Hamburg Steinway model A. Away from the keyboard, he loves cartooning and cooking, and is mildly obsessed with classic cars.



Violinist and composer **Michelle Ross** is unique as both a solo artist and collaborative visionary. In 2013, she had her Carnegie Hall debut with Maestro Harry Bicket, and her European debut as both soloist and conductor, with the Orchestre de Chambre de Paris as part of Play/Direct, in Cite de La Musique. She is the recipient of the 2012 Leonore Annenberg Fellowship Fund for the Performing and Visual Arts. Her debut CD *Discovering Bach: the*

Complete Sonatas and Partitas of J.S. Bach was recently released by Albany Records, and her public performance project 'Discovering Bach' and blog was noted by Alex Ross.

A noted soloist and chamber musician, Michelle is also in demand as guest concertmaster all around the world, recent highlights including appearances with the Mahler Chamber Orchestra throughout Europe, MusicAeterna and Teodor Currentzis in Russia, the Orchestre National du Capitol de Toulouse and the Orchestre d'Auvergne. Michelle is the Artistic Director and Founder of Music in the Mountains, a classical chamber music festival atop Summit Powder Mountain in Eden, Utah. In 2016 Michelle also launched the inaugural season of Chamber Music at Eleventh Street Arts Gallery in NYC.

As a chamber musician, she has toured extensively with Itzhak Perlman, and also collaborates with Mitsuko Uchida and Dénes Várjon, as well as members of the Juilliard, Guarneri, and Cleveland String Quartets. Michelle was an artist at the Marlboro Music Festival from 2011-2014, and has toured with Musicians from Marlboro since 2012.

As a composer and improviser, Michelle is extremely interested in creating multimedia and collaborative works, and was recently awarded a New Music USA grant for her work with RendezVous. Her work has toured with the Aspen Sante Fe Ballet for three seasons. She has also had premieres in Baryshnikov Arts Center, the Joyce Theater and in Lincoln Center's Beyond the Machine Festival.

Michelle holds a M.M. from the Juilliard School and a B.A. in English and Comparative Literature from Columbia University, where she studied in the Columbia/Juilliard joint degree program. She has studied with Dorothy DeLay, Itzhak Perlman, Catherine Cho and Ronald Copes.



Cellist **Jia Kim**, recipient of the prestigious 2017 career grant from the Leonore Annenberg Foundation for Performing and Visual Arts, leads a dynamic musical life as a performer, educator, and a passionate advocate for the Arts. She has appeared on stages across the United States, South America, Europe, Asia and the Middle East with performances broadcasted on WQXR, PBS, KMZT Classical, and acclaimed by

the New York Times. An avid chamber musician, Jia has performed at Tanglewood, Ravinia, Caramoor, Carnegie Hall, Disney Hall and Chicago's Orchestra Hall. Jia has been invited as Visiting Artist at the University of Hawaii, American Academy of Jordan, College of William and Mary, Grand Valley State University, and served as a Tone Judge for the Violin Society of America's 2016 International Competition.

Jia currently serves on the Faculty of The Juilliard School Pre College Division, The Mannes School of Music, The Perlman Music Program, and New York Youth Symphony's Chamber Music Program. As Artistic Director of Central Chamber Series in NYC and Spruce Peak Chamber Music Society in Stowe, VT, she is committed to connecting with a wider audience through the powerful language of Chamber Music. Jia is a member of the award-winning Aeolus Quartet.

Jia is evermore grateful to her mentors and teachers Itzhak and Toby Perlman, Ronald Leonard, and to Joel Krosnick, with whom she studied at The Juilliard School for a Bachelor and Master Degree in Music. Jia performs on a Testore cello made in 1748 and a cello made by Sam Zygmuntowicz.

SEASON 7 OF THE CENTRAL CHAMBER SERIES

Bach in the Sanctuary | March 5, 2024

Youthful Masters | May 7, 2024

SUNDAYS AT CENTRAL

10 a.m. Worship Service

11:30 a.m. Worship Service

Childcare is provided at both services and each service is followed by a meal in the sixth-floor fellowship hall.



Central Church is committed to building a strong community of faith in Jesus Christ that enables people from diverse backgrounds to experience the transformative power of the gospel through insightful biblical teaching, expressive worship, authentic prayer, and meaningful relationships. At the same time, we aim to provide a setting in which people who are undecided about their religious commitments may freely investigate the claims of Christianity. Together, we strive to serve the people of New York in humility and love so that we might have a positive impact on the world around us. Join us for worship services on Sundays at 10 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. in the sanctuary or watch the sermon via our website, YouTube channel or the Central Church NYC app!

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