

# Music in Midtown

**THE  
GRADUATE  
CENTER**  
CITY UNIVERSITY  
OF NEW YORK

Elebash Recital Hall  
The Graduate Center  
365 Fifth Avenue (at 34th Street), NYC  
Thursdays 1:00–2:00 PM



Thursday, March 16, 2023  
1:00 p.m.

## **Beethoven: Master of Variations**

**Todd Phillips, Violin**

**Rachel Yunkyung Choo, Piano**

### **Program**

Sonata No. 6 in A Major, Opus 30, No. 1

*Allegro*

*Adagio molto espressivo*

*Allegretto con variazioni*

Ludwig van Beethoven

(1770–1827)

Sonata No. 9 in A Major, Opus 47 "Kreutzer"

*Adagio - Presto*

*Andante con variazioni*

*Presto*

**Music in Midtown** is a series of lunchtime concerts spotlighting the highly regarded musical performance program at the CUNY Graduate Center. Presented in the warm, intimate, acoustically rich Elebash Recital Hall, these performances feature the music program's renowned faculty, alumni, outstanding performers selected from students in the DMA program and noted guest artists. Some concerts are followed by a master class, which the public is invited to observe. Norman Carey is Director and Jacqueline Martelle is Assistant Director.

### **About the Artists**

Violinist **Todd Phillips** enjoys a varied career that harkens back to the traditions of previous generations of musicians who were in equal demand as soloist, chamber musician, orchestra leader/conductor, and teacher. Since making his solo debut with the Pittsburgh Symphony at the age of thirteen, he has appeared with many orchestras throughout the United States, Europe, and Japan, including the Brandenburg Ensemble, the Jacksonville Symphony, Camerata Salzburg, Honolulu Symphony, Sejong Soloists, and the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra. He made his Carnegie Hall debut in 1982 with the New York String Orchestra and conductor Alexander Schneider. Return engagements at Carnegie Hall soon followed, as well as solo performances in Avery Fisher Hall, Alice Tully Hall, the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., Boston Symphony Hall, and the Frankfurt Opera House.

He can be heard as soloist and chamber music artist on the Deutsche Grammophon, Sony Classical, RCA Red Seal, Koch International, Delos, Arabesque, Bridge Records, Albany, Finlandia, NY Philomusica Records, and Marlboro Recording Society labels.

Mr. Phillips is a founding member of the highly acclaimed Orion String Quartet, along with his brother Daniel Phillips, violist Steven Tenenbom, and cellist Timothy Eddy. The Orion String Quartet has been the quartet-in-residence at the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, the Mannes College of Music, and the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival. Isaac Stern invited the quartet to take part in a special chamber music concert celebrating Carnegie Hall's Centennial and also to participate as coaches at the prestigious Isaac Stern Chamber Music Workshop. The Quartet's television appearances have included PBS's Live from Lincoln Center, three performances on ABC's Good Morning America, and A&E's Breakfast with the Arts.

Mr. Phillips's other extensive chamber music activities have included performances at the Marlboro, Spoleto, Santa Fe, Aspen, Ravinia, Mostly Mozart, Chamber Music Northwest, and Lockenhaus festivals, the Great Mountains Music Festival (Korea), the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, and the 92nd Street Y. He has collaborated with such renowned artists as Rudolf Serkin, Jaime Laredo, Pinchas Zukerman, Peter Serkin, Richard Goode, and Andras Schiff and has participated in eighteen tours with Musicians from Marlboro.

His experience as a member of the conductorless Orpheus Chamber Orchestra has led to his being in great demand as a frequent leader of that group worldwide. This has prompted further invitations to lead/conduct the Brandenburg Ensemble, Haydn-Mozart Chamber Orchestra, the New World Symphony, Camerata Nordica of Sweden, the Tapiola Sinfonietta of Finland, Mannes Sinfonietta, and the festival chamber orchestras from Steamboat Springs, Colorado and Risør, Norway.

Todd Phillips serves on the violin and chamber music faculties of the Mason Gross School of the

Arts at Rutgers University, Manhattan School of Music, Mannes College of Music, and Bard College Conservatory of Music. He is also visiting chamber music faculty at the Cleveland Institute of Music.

Mr. Phillips began studying the violin at the age of four with his father, Eugene Phillips, a composer, and former violinist with the Pittsburgh Symphony, and later studied with Sally Thomas at the Juilliard School and with Sandor Vegh at the Mozarteum in Salzburg. He also studied the piano with his mother, Natalie Phillips, a professor in piano at the University of Pittsburgh.

Mr. Phillips lives in Brooklyn, New York with his wife, violinist Catherine Cho, and is the father of four children, Lia, Eliza, Jason, and Brandon and is grandfather of Theo.

Acclaimed by the critics for her strong technique and powerful tone, pianist **Rachel Yunkyung Choo** enjoys an active career as a soloist and chamber musician throughout the United States and Asia. A native of Seoul, South Korea, Ms. Choo found joy in singing and playing the keyboard along audio recordings as a young child. At the age of 12, Ms. Choo gave her debut public solo recital as part of the “Prodigy Concert Series” by The Kumho Cultural Art Foundation in Korea and later made her U.S. debut at the Avery Fisher Hall in Lincoln Center with the Juilliard Orchestra under maestro James Colon. The New York Sun lauded her Lincoln Center debut as “perfect” playing exhibiting “a strong-handed air of confidence.”

Ms. Choo has made appearances as a solo and chamber musician at the Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, the Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center, the Kumho Art Hall, the Seoul Arts Center, the Sejong Center for the Performing Arts, the National Gallery of Art in Washington DC, and the LOTTE Concert Hall. Her recent engagements have included live performances and interviews on Cleveland’s WCLV Radio, New Jersey’s WWFM, and Korea's KBS Classic FM Radio as well as appearances as a soloist with the Korean National University of Arts Orchestra, Gangnam Symphony Orchestra, Rutgers Symphony Orchestra, The Juilliard Orchestra, and TBC Broadcasting Symphony Orchestra. One of Ms. Choo's ongoing projects includes performing and recording the entire Beethoven *10 Sonatas for Piano and Violin* with violinist Todd Phillips, a member of the highly acclaimed Orion String Quartet. The recordings of this series have been distributed by numerous online platforms including The Violin Channel, Classic 107.3, Kirshbaum Associates, Purchase College, Bard Conservatory, Skillman Digital Concert Series, and Orpheus Chamber Orchestra Broadcast.

Ms. Choo completed her Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees at the Juilliard School where she studied with Yoheved Kaplinsky and Matti Raekallio and Graduate Performance Diploma at the Peabody Institute of The Johns Hopkins University with Yong Hi Moon. Ms. Choo is currently a Doctor of Musical Arts candidate in Piano Performance at the Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University.

An active chamber musician, Ms. Choo is a member of piano ensemble *At65*. In addition to her active performance career, she serves as a faculty member at the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University and a co-founder of a *non-profit organization*, ***gatchi*** where she focuses on promoting new music of Asia and America.

Ms. Choo spends her leisure time cooking, making flower arrangements, and playing tennis.