

# 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, November 3, 2022  
1:00 p.m.

## **Orion String Quartet The Final Word**

**Daniel Phillips, Violin  
Steven Tenenbom, Viola**

**Todd Phillips, Violin  
Timothy Eddy, Cello**

### **Program**

String Quartet No. 6 in D Minor, Sx.114, BB 119

*Mesto – Più mosso, pesante – vivace*

*Mesto – Marcia*

*Mesto – Burletta – moderato*

*Mesto*

Béla Bartók  
(1881–1945)

String Quartet No. 16 in F Major, Op. 135

*Allegretto*

*Vivace*

*Lento assai, cantante e tranquillo*

*“Der schwer gefaßte Entschluß.” Grave, ma non troppo tratto (“Muss es sein?”) – Allegro (“Es muss sein!”) – Grave, ma non troppo tratto – Allegro*

Ludwig van Beethoven  
(1770–1827)

## About the Artists

The Orion Quartet is one of the leading chamber music ensembles on the classical music scene today. Admired for diverse programming that juxtaposes masterworks of quartet literature with key works of the 20th and 21st centuries, the Orion provides singularly rich dimension to its music-making. The members of the Orion String Quartet—violinists Daniel Phillips and Todd Phillips, brothers who share the first violin chair equally, violist Steven Tenenbom, and cellist Timothy Eddy—have worked closely with illustrious musicians, such as Pablo Casals, Sir Andrés Schiff, Rudolf Serkin, Isaac Stern, Pinchas Zukerman, Peter Serkin, members of the ensemble TASHI, and the Beaux Arts Trio, as well as the Budapest, Végh, Galimir, and Guarneri String Quartets. The Orion String Quartet are Artist Members of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center.

In the 2021-2022 season, they appeared in the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center's Winter Festival, performing selections from Wynton Marsalis's *At the Octoroon Balls* and Milhaud's *La Création du Monde*, and repeated this program at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts in Virginia in the spring. The Quartet's concerts last season also included appearances with the Phoenix Chamber Music Society and the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society in music by Haydn, Bach, Bartók and Beethoven, and with Linton Chamber Music in Cincinnati, in collaboration with Anthony McGill for Reger's Clarinet Quintet and quartet works by Beethoven.

In the upcoming 2022-2023 season, the Quartet performs Beethoven String Quartet No. 16 in a winter concert for Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and appears again with both the Phoenix Chamber Music Society and Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, in works by Mozart, Schubert, and Brahms.

During the Quartet's 30th-anniversary season in 2017-2018, the group celebrated at principal chamber music series throughout North America. They played the complete Beethoven string quartets in a series of six concerts at Mannes School of Music, where they held the position of Quartet-in-Residence for 27 years; at the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center they performed in an all-Haydn program and presented a contemporary music concert of works written for the group, including the world premiere of Sebastian Currier's *Etudes and Lullabies* commissioned by the Chamber Music Society, David Dzubay's "Astral" Quartet No. 1 for Strings, and Brett Dean's Quartet No. 2 for Strings and Soprano *And once I played Ophelia*. New music specialist Tony Arnold joined the Orion as vocal soloist for this performance.

The Orion String Quartet has contributed to the development and expansion of the string quartet repertoire through commissions from composers Chick Corea, David Del Tredici, Alexander Goehr, Thierry Lancino, John Harbison, Leon Kirchner, Marc Neikrug, Lowell Liebermann, Peter Lieberson, and Wynton Marsalis. As a hallmark of its 25th anniversary, the group collaborated with the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company in a two-week project that featured music by Mozart, Schubert, Mendelssohn, and Ravel, and Beethoven. WQXR's The Greene Space produced a live broadcast of the collaboration, including the performance and a discussion among members of the Orion Quartet and choreographer Bill T. Jones.

Heard frequently on National Public Radio's *Performance Today*, the Orion has also appeared on PBS's *Live from Lincoln Center*, A&E's *Breakfast with the Arts*, and on ABC television's *Good Morning America*.

The Orion String Quartet was established in 1987 and takes its name from the Orion constellation as a metaphor for the personality each musician brings to the group in its collective pursuit of the highest musical ideals.

\*\*\* "Memo to the chamber music world: emulate the Orion String Quartet." – ***Pittsburgh Post-Gazette***

"The persuasive power of [their] performance came from the exquisiteness and eloquence the four players brought their lines...but it also came from how all of them phrased together— and, it seemed, breathed together. The Orion Quartet is a configuration of particular sensitivity and bravado." –***The New York Times***

"The Orion performed with confidence, precision, fluidity, and surprising wit. The ensemble's style is tightly cohesive, with attention to nuance and crisp ornamentation." – ***The Los Angeles Times***