

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 30, 2023
1:00 p.m.

Portraits of the Heroic, Classical and Modern

Manhattan String Quartet

Curtis Macomber, Violin Marka Gustavsson, Viola

Sunghae Anna Lim, Violin Chris Finckel, Cello

Program

String Quartet No. 3, Opus 73 in F Major (1946)

Allegretto

Moderato con moto

Allegro non troppo

Adagio (attacca)

Moderato

Dmitri Shostakovich
(1906–75)

String Quartet No. 8, Opus 59, No. 2 in E Minor (1808)

Allegro

Molto adagio. Si tratta questo pezzo con molto di sentimento

Allegretto – Maggiore (Thème russe)

Finale: Presto

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770–1827)

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

Hailed as “an artist able to cast a spell” by the New Yorker magazine, cellist **Chris Finckel** has been a member of the Manhattan String Quartet since 1995. He is also the cellist of the New York New Music Ensemble and the North Country Chamber Players of New Hampshire. A graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music, he studied with Orlando Cole and chamber music with Mischa Schneider and the Guarneri Quartet.

A frequent guest artist with such renowned ensembles as the Tokyo String Quartet and the Orpheus Chamber Ensemble, Mr. Finckel has appeared at the Casals, Santa Fe, Ravinia, Saratoga, Norfolk, and Rockport Chamber Music festivals, and has recorded for the Nonesuch, New World, CRI, Bridge, and Vanguard record labels.

A dedicated performer of 20th century music, Mr. Finckel has been involved in New York City's contemporary music scene for many decades. Through his affiliations with such organizations as the New York New Music Ensemble, Parnassus, The Contemporary Chamber Ensemble, and Speculum Musicae, he has participated in the premieres of the works of over 100 composers including Milton Babbitt, Elliot Carter, George Crumb, Mario Davidovsky, Jacob Druckman, Donald Martino, Steve Reich, and Charles Wuorinen.

Mr. Finckel is the co-founder and artistic director of the Sarajevo Chamber Music Festival, a performing and teaching festival produced in conjunction with the Sarajevo Academy of Music in the Bosnian capital.

A dedicated chamber musician and current member of the Manhattan String Quartet, violist **Marka Gustavsson** enjoys a varied performance schedule. She has been a guest at festivals including Bard Music Festival, Mostly Mozart, Vancouver's Music in the Morning, WQXR's Showcase, Yale Faculty Artists. Marka has performed chamber works of John Halle, Joan Tower, Kyle Gann, Harold Farberman, George Tsontakis, Martin Bresnick, Richard Wernick, Laura Kaminsky, Tania Leon, and Tan Dun. Previously a member of the award-winning Colorado Quartet (1999–2014), Marka now holds a position at Bard as Associate Director and Coordinator of Chamber Music for the Conservatory. In the summer, she coaches chamber music for the Young Artists' Program of Yellow Barn in Putney, VT. Marka is an alum of the DMA program at the CUNY Graduate Center. At home in Red Hook, NY, she loves eating, reading, and hiking with her husband, pianist and composer John Halle, son Ben, and Russell—the dog.

Violinist **Sunghae Anna Lim** is a passionate chamber musician and has played in ensembles such as the Laurel Piano Trio, Richardson Chamber Players, and Cassatt String Quartet. She joined the Manhattan String Quartet in 2019. As the violinist of the Naumburg Award-winning New Millennium Ensemble, she has premiered and recorded the music of numerous living composers. Anna also is also an avid baroque violinist and has played with many early mu-

sic groups since her time as a student of Nikolaus Harnoncourt in Salzburg. A devoted teacher, she has taught violin for 20 years at Princeton University and is on the faculty of the Maine Chamber Music Seminar and the Composers Conference. She appears regularly at Prussia Cove in the UK, the Weekend of Chamber Music in the Catskills, the Portland Chamber Music Festival and White Mountains Music Festival. Anna serves on the advisory board for the Trenton Music Makers, an El-Sistema inspired program for children in Trenton, NJ and is the faculty advisor for Princeton University's Trenton Youth Orchestra. She received a BA from Harvard University in History and Literature and completed her Diploma at the Mozarteum under violinist Sandor Vegh.

The playing of violinist **Curtis Macomber** was praised recently by *The New York Times* for its "thrilling virtuosity" and by *Strad Magazine* for its "panache." He enjoys a varied and distinguished career as soloist, chamber musician, and teacher, and he has for several decades been recognized as one of this country's foremost interpreters and proponents of new music. Mr. Macomber's extensive discography includes the complete Brahms and Grieg Sonatas; violin concertos by Martin Boykan and Laura Schwendinger; and hundreds of critically praised recordings of contemporary solo and chamber works.

His CD of Roger Sessions *Solo Sonata* was acclaimed by American Record Guide as "one of the best recordings of 20th-Century solo violin music ever made." A solo CD entitled *Songs of Solitude* was named by the *New York Observer* as one of 1996's best instrumental solo discs—"Macomber's intensely human fiddle...seems an entire universe, sufficient unto itself." He has recorded for Nonesuch, Koch, Bridge, Arabesque, Naxos and Musical Heritage and Albany; he has performed, commissioned, and made first recordings of solo violin and chamber works by, among others, Carter, Davidovsky, Perle, Wuorinen, and Mackey.

Mr. Macomber is a founding member of the Apollo Piano Trio and a member of the Da Capo Chamber Players and the Manhattan String Quartet. Past memberships have included the Walden Chamber Players and the New York Chamber Soloists. He was for many years the violinist of Speculum Musicae and has also appeared with the New York New Music Ensemble, Group for Contemporary Music, and in chamber music series across the country and in Europe. He has been a regular participant at La Musica in Sarasota, at the Yellow Barn Festival and at the Monadnock Music Festival.

As first violinist of the award-winning New World String Quartet for eleven years (1982–93), Mr. Macomber performed the standard repertoire as well as numerous contemporary works in performances in major halls throughout the United States and Europe, and, with the Quartet, was appointed Artist-in-Residence at Harvard University from 1982–90; with that group he also recorded 14 discs and performed numerous times on Public Radio and Television in this country, and the BBC in Great Britain.

Macomber is a longtime member of the chamber music faculty of The Juilliard School and the violin faculties of the Manhattan and Mannes Schools of Music, and has also taught at the Tanglewood Music Center and Taos School of Music. Other recent summer engagements have included Chamber Music Northwest and the Bard Festival. He holds his B.M., M.M., and D.M.A. degrees from the Juilliard School, where he was a scholarship student of Joseph Fuchs and winner of the Morris Loeb and Walter Naumburg Prizes.