

HARLEM QUARTET

Tuesday, February 21, 2017

8:00 p.m.

Gorell Recital Hall, John Sutton Hall

Ilmar Gavilán, violin

Melissa White, violin

Jaime Amador Medina, viola

Felix Umansky, cello

Program

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

String Quartet No.17 "The Hunt"

in B-flat major, K.458

I. Allegro vivace assai

II. Minuetto. Moderato

III. Adagio

IV. Allegro assai

Antonio Carlos Jobim (arr. Dave Glenn)

The Girl from Ipanema

Guido Gavilan

Guaguango

- *Intermission* -

Edvard Grieg

String Quartet: No.1 in G minor, Op.27

I. Un poco andante

Allegro molto ed agitato

II. Romanze. Andantino

III. Intermezzo. Allegro molto marcato

Più vivo e scherzando

IV. Finale. Lento

Presto al saltarello

You're Invited

Please join us and members of the quartet in the lobby for a post-concert reception of light refreshments.

Guaguango is both a dance and a distinctive rhythmic pattern. Like most Cuban music, the rhythmic foundation for *Guaguango* is based on the clave—a rhythmic ostinato that can be arranged in several ways. *Guaguango* is known for its characteristic delay on the third clave accent. This delay creates what is known as a rumba clave pattern, the rhythmic underpinning for the Cuban rumba style. This piece is quite unique for the string quartet repertoire not only for these Cuban rhythmic elements but also for the way it traces its sonority back to melodic chanting of the West African Yoruba tradition. Written in 2005 for chamber orchestra and arranged for Harlem Quartet in 2016.



HARLEM QUARTET, praised for its “panache” by *The New York Times*, is “bringing a new attitude to classical music, one that is fresh, bracing and intelligent,” says the *Cincinnati Enquirer*. The quartet’s mission is to advance diversity in classical music, engaging young and new audiences through the discovery and presentation of varied repertoire that includes works by minority composers. The 2015-16 concert season marked the debut of Felix Umansky formerly of the Linden String

Quartet, as Harlem Quartet's cellist.

Since its public debut in 2006 at Carnegie Hall, the New York-based ensemble has performed throughout the U.S. as well as in France, the U.K., Belgium, Brazil, Panama, Canada, Venezuela, and South Africa, where under the auspices of the U.S. State Department in May 2012 they spent two weeks performing concerts and engaging in outreach activities. In 2013 they completed their third and final year in the Professional String Quartet Training Program at New England Conservatory and participated in NEC's string quartet exchange program in Paris, working with violinist Günter Pichler in a masterclass setting.

In addition to performing on chamber-music series around the country, they have collaborated with such distinguished performers as violinist Itzhak Perlman; cellist Carter Brey; clarinetist Paquito D'Rivera; pianist Misha Dichter, with whom the quartet made their Kennedy Center debut in February 2013; and jazz legends Chick Corea and Gary Burton, whom they joined for their six-month "Hot House" tour that began at Tanglewood in summer 2012. Later that year the quartet made their performance debut with another jazz virtuoso, the British saxophonist, clarinetist, and composer Tim Garland.

Each member of the quartet is a seasoned solo artist, having appeared with such orchestras as the New York Philharmonic, the Boston Pops, and the Atlanta, Baltimore, Cleveland, Detroit, National, New World, and Pittsburgh symphony orchestras. As an ensemble they perform not only in chamber-music settings but also as soloists in works written for Solo String Quartet and orchestra. Their most recent such collaboration was with Music Director Mei-Ann Chen and the Chicago Sinfonietta, where in June 2012 they gave the world premiere of Bernstein's *West Side Story* as arranged for string quartet and orchestra by Randall Craig Fleischer. The quartet reprised their performance of that score in September 2012 with the Anchorage Symphony Orchestra under Fleischer's direction, and again in December 2012 with the Santa Fe Concert Association. Chicago Sinfonietta and the quartet recorded the *West Side Story* arrangement, along with works for string quartet and orchestra by Michael Abels and Benjamin Lees, for the Cedille label.

Harlem Quartet has been featured on WNBC, CNN, *The Today Show*, WQXR-

FM, and the *News Hour with Jim Lehrer*. In 2009 they performed for President Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama at the White House and appeared Christmas morning on NBC's *Today Show*. They made their European debut in October 2009 performing at the residence of the U.S. ambassador to the U.K., and returned to Europe as guest artists and faculty members of the Musica Mundi International Festival in Belgium. In early 2011 they were featured guest artists at the Panama Jazz Festival in Panama City. In June 2012 they made their debut with the Montreal Jazz Festival.

Their recording career began in 2007 when White Pine Music issued *Take the "A" Train*, a release featuring the string quartet version of that jazz standard by Billy Strayhorn; the CD was highlighted that year in the November issue of *String*s magazine. A second CD, featuring works of Walter Piston, was released in 2010 by Naxos. The quartet's third recording, released in early 2011, is a collaboration with pianist Awadagin Pratt and showcases works by American composer Judith Lang Zaimont. More recently the quartet collaborated with jazz pianist Chick Corea in two recording projects, including a Grammy-winning *Hot House* album that included "Mozart Goes Dancing," which won a separate Grammy as Best Instrumental Composition.

Harlem Quartet was founded in 2006 by The Sphinx Organization, a national non-profit organization dedicated to building diversity in classical music and providing access to music education in underserved communities. The quartet is represented worldwide by Sciolino Artist Management in New York City.

Ilmar Gavilán, violinist

First Violinist Ilmar Gavilán is a native of Cuba, where he began his studies at the Havana Conservatory of Music. At the age of 14 he was selected for advanced studies at the Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow, and he furthered his training at the Reina Sofia School of Music in Spain and the Manhattan School of Music in New York. Mr. Gavilán's mentors have included Glenn Dicterow, Zachar Bron, Maia Glizarova, and Abraham Stern. He has had private lessons with Yehudi Menuhin, Ruggiero Ricci and Isaac Stern. Mr. Gavilán is currently a Doctor of Music candidate at Rutgers University, where he is mentored by Arnold Steinhardt.

He has performed concertos with the Atlanta, Baltimore, Denver, Detroit, Milwau-

kee, Phoenix and Saint Louis symphony orchestras, and has made solo appearances in Mexico, Cuba, Venezuela, Spain, Portugal, and Moscow. Mr. Gavilán is a prizewinner in the Sphinx Competition, the Lipinsky-Wieniawski International Violin Competition in Poland, and the International Henryk Szeryng Violin Competition. He made his U.S. recording debut with Aires Y Leyendas, released in 2002; his 2008 recording *Gavilán Plays Gavilán* includes music composed by his father, Guido Gavilán.

Ilmar Gavilán is currently concertmaster of the Philadelphia Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra and performs as a regular substitute musician for the New Jersey Symphony.

Melissa White, violinist

Melissa White is a founding member of the esteemed Harlem Quartet. Her passion and dedication with the group has led to performances around the world on stages that range from Carnegie Hall and the White House for President Obama and First Lady Michelle, to La Maison Symphonique de Montréal to the residence of the US Ambassador to the UK. In addition to her active chamber music career, as First Prize Winner of the 4th Annual Sphinx Competition, Ms. White has been an acclaimed soloist with many of the nation's leading orchestras including the Cleveland, Detroit, Baltimore, Atlanta Symphonies and the Boston Pops. In 2012, Melissa performed in the William Kapell International Piano Competition and Festival. Her collaboration with Yekwon Sunwoo won first prize in the Chamber Music round. In 2011 she made her South American solo debut with the Colombian Youth Philharmonic on a tour throughout Colombia as well as her hometown debut with the Lansing Symphony Orchestra. Melissa's 2012-2013 season includes an international six-month tour entitled, Hot House Tour, with jazz pianist, Chick Corea

and vibraphonist, Gary Burton, a debut performance with classical pianist, Misha Dicter at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., and solo appearances with the Anchorage and Santa Fe Symphonies.

Melissa graduated with a Bachelors degree in performance from the Curtis Institute of Music as well as a Masters degree in performance and a Graduate Diploma in professional quartet studies from the New England Conservatory of Music. Her versatility as a violinist has allowed her to collaborate with distinguished artists such as Itzhak Perlman, Robert Spano, Roger Tapping, Misha Dicter, Chick Corea, Gary Burton, Paquito D'Rivera and Bruno Mars to name a few. In 2012 she made her improvisational debut with legendary jazz bassist, Stanley Clarke, at the world-renowned International Montreal Jazz Festival. Other recent festivals and program appearances as teacher and performer include Tanglewood Music Festival, the Brevard Summer Institute, the Hilton Head International Young Musician's Festival--a chamber music series hosted by noted pianist Christopher O'Riley, Detroit Jazz and Panama Jazz Festivals, and Musica Mundi International Festival working alongside Maxim Vengerov and Ivry Gitlis.

In addition to being a violinist, Melissa is a restaurateur and enjoys practicing Bikram yoga as well as spending time with her family.

Jaime Amador Medina, violist

Born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Jaime Amador Medina began his studies in the String Program for Children at the Puerto Rico Conservatory of Music as a student of Francisco Figueroa and Guillermo Figueroa. He was accepted to The Juilliard School, where he worked under Toby Appel. Mr. Amador later continued his studies at the Manhattan School of Music, during which time he participated in the International Videoconference with renowned violist Pinchas Zuke-

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rman. He has participated in several other master classes with Roberto Díaz, Michael Tree, Helen Callus, Paul Neubauer, Pamela Frank, Sylvia Rosenberg, and Hartmut Rohde, to name a few.

As a chamber musician, Mr. Amador has collaborated with such notable musicians as Emanuel Borok, Mikhael Kopelman, David Geber, Michael Lewin, Emilio Colon, Vanessa Perez, Mykola Suk and Eric Himy, among others. He was principal viola of the New England Ensemble, Camerata New York, and the New Bach Players, having played in prestigious venues in New York, such as Carnegie Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, Alice Tully Hall, as well as several concert halls across Europe.

Mr. Amador has participated in important international music festivals including the Meadowmount School of Music (where he was teaching assistant to Eugene Becker), Accademia Musicale Chigiana in Siena, Escuela Superior de Música Reina Sofía in Santander, the Academy of Music in New Jersey, the Norfolk Music Festival in Connecticut, and, most recently, the Carl Flesch Akademie in Baden-Baden, Germany.

Mr. Amador is a former member of the Puerto Rico Symphony Orchestra, where he was the winner of its Soloist Competition, awarded in 2007. On this occasion, the newspaper *El Nuevo Día* reviewed his interpretation of Béla Bartók's concerto for viola and orchestra as "outstanding, having displayed sound technical mastery and a sobriety most appropriate to the nature of the piece. From the moment the viola alone is introduced, this young musician exuded confidence and aplomb, which was mirrored in the precision of his execution throughout the entire performance."

Felix Umansky, cellist

Praised for his "sublime" playing by Cleveland Classical, cellist Felix Umansky is a frequently sought-after recitalist, chamber musician, and pedagogue. His versatile career has taken him throughout Europe and North America where he has performed in concert halls including Carnegie Hall, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Lincoln Center, the Krannert Center, and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Prior to joining the Harlem Quartet, Mr. Umansky spent six seasons as a founding member of the Linden String Quartet. Accolades with the Linden include first prize in 2009 at the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition and Coleman Chamber Ensem-

ble Competition; first prize in 2010 at the Hugo Kauder Competition, Concert Artists Guild Victor Elmaleh Competition, as well as the ProQuartet Prize at the 2011 Borciani International String Quartet Competition, and an honorable mention at the Banff International String Quartet Competition in 2013.

One of Mr. Umansky's missions as a performer is to bring a wide range of classical music to as many people as possible. In addition to performing in concert halls, he has performed music from Bach to newly composed works in libraries, coffee shops, restaurants, bars and even performances on the street. An avid supporter of contemporary music, Mr. Umansky has performed and premiered works by numerous living composers such as William Bolcom, John Corigliano, Kelly-Marie Murphy, Vivian Fung, John Harbison, Chen Yi, Aaron Jay Kernis, and Chick Corea. He has been an artist-in-residence at Yale University and the Caramoore Center for Music and the Arts. Mr. Umansky has performed and given master classes at the University of Idaho, University of Iowa, University of Wyoming, and Utah State University. His festival appearances include Aspen, La Jolla, Music Mountain, Perlman Music Program, Music at Port Milford (Ontario), Highland Cashiers (NC), Madison (GA), and Amelia Island.

A native of Carmel, Indiana, Felix Umansky holds Bechors and Masters degrees from the Cleveland Institute of Music, and an Artist Diploma from Yale University. His teachers have included Richard Aaron, Desmond Hoebig, Clive Greensmith, Janos Starker, and Plina Umansky.

Program copy for this performance has been provided, unedited, by the artist.

Outreach

As part of their visit to Indiana, Harlem Quartet presented a question and answer session in the IUP Library today as part of our ongoing outreach to students and community members made possible through the **Leonard A. and Mary Jane Schafer Foundation**.

We would also like to acknowledge the **College of Humanities and Social Sciences, History Department, Music Department, Living Learning Community**, and **Center for Multicultural Student Leadership and Engagment** for organizing and conducting a pre-concert talk with students surrounding the history and artistic contributions made by African Americans during the Harlem Renaissance and beyond.

Upcoming Events

Now through March 11: Frank Mason—
A Passion for Painting, University
Museum, 1st Floor Sutton Hall*

Now through March 9: Now Is For
Dreaming—Vanessa German, Kipp
Gallery, Sprowls Hall*

Feb. 21-26, 8:00 p.m.; Theater-by-the-
Grove: The Electriad; Waller Hall
Mainstage, IUP Performing Arts
Center

Feb. 24-Mar. 22; Exhibit: High School
Art Invitational; Annex Gallery,
Sprowls Hall*

Feb. 25, 1:00 p.m.; Reception: High
School Art Invitational; Sprowls
Hall*

Feb. 25, 2:30 p.m.; Concert: IMTA: 4th
Annual Piano Monster Concert;
DiCicco Hall, Cogswell Hall, Room
121

Feb. 26, 3:00 p.m.; Sound Choices: The
Armed Man: A Mass for Peace;
Fisher Auditorium, IUP Performing
Arts Center

Feb. 27, 8:00 p.m.; Faculty Recital: Fac-
ulty Recital: Joren Cain, saxophone;
DiCicco Hall, Cogswell Hall, Room
121*

Mar. 2, 7:00 p.m.; Guest Recital: Tom
Lukowics, tuba; DiCicco Hall, Cog-
swell Hall, Room 121*

Mar. 2, 8:00 p.m.; Concert: IUP Sym-
phony Orchestra, Winter; Gorell
Recital Hall, Second Floor Sut-
ton Hall

Mar. 4, 5:00 p.m.; Crimson Squawk Fes-
tival; Gorell Recital Hall, Second
Floor Sutton Hall*

Mar. 4, 8:00 p.m.; Concert: IUP Sym-
phony Wind Ensemble, Winter;
Fisher Auditorium,

Mar. 5, 3:00 p.m.; Concert: IUP Con-
cert Brass Ensemble, Winter; Fish-
er Auditorium, IUP Performing Arts
Center

Mar. 5, 7:00 p.m.; Ovations!: Caladh
Nua; Gorell Recital Hall, Second
Floor Sutton Hall

Mar. 9, 7:00 p.m.; Ensemble: IUP Tuba-
phonium; DiCicco Hall, Cogswell
Hall, Room 121*

Mar. 19, 7:30 p.m.; Concert: Tubaphoi-
um Day Mass Ensemble Concert;
DiCicco Hall, Cogswell Hall, Room
121*

Mar. 23, 7:30 p.m.; Faculty Recital: Fac-
ulty Recital: Heidi Lucas, horn, Hen-
ry Wong Doe, piano; Gorell Recital
Hall, Second Floor Sutton Hall*

Mar. 25, 6:00 p.m.; Opening Reception:
2017 MFA Thesis Exhibition; Uni-
versity Museum, Sutton Hall*

Mar. 25-Apr. 27; Exhibit: 2017 MFA The-
sis Exhibition; University Museum
(Sutton Hall) and the Kipp & Annex
Galleries (Sprowls Hall)*

Mar. 26, 3:00 p.m.; Guest Artist Recit-
al: Guest Artist, Ann Labounsky Re-
cital: Organ; DiCicco Hall, Cogswell
Hall, Room 121*

Mar. 27, 8:00 p.m.; Recital: Saxophone
Studio Recital; DiCicco Hall, Cog-
swell Hall, Room 121*

Mar. 28, 8:00 p.m.; Joint Faculty Recital:
Joseph Baunoch, baritone and Sun
Min Kim, piano; Gorell Recital Hall,
Second Floor Sutton Hall*

Mar. 30, 8:00 p.m.; Ovations!: 42nd
Street; Fisher Auditorium, IUP Per-
forming Arts Center

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