



String Theory

AT THE HUNTER

SEASON
XVI

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
LEE UNIVERSITY AND
THE HUNTER MUSEUM
OF AMERICAN ART

TWENTY 24
25

Gloria Chien, Artistic Director



WELCOME

to String Theory Season Sixteen!

XVI

Dear Friends,

With great excitement, I invite you to String Theory Season 16 - a season filled with returning favorites and memorable debuts.

Our season opens with five treasured musicians playing two of the most beloved works written for the clarinet: Brahms Clarinet Sonata in Eb and Mozart Clarinet Quintet. Legendary clarinetist, **David Shifrin**, will be joined by the celebrated **Miró Quartet** for this timeless opening concert. **Will Liverman**, a shining star in the opera world who sang the title roles in both Metropolitan Opera's productions of *Fire Shut Up My Bone* and *Malcolm X*, will share with us a soulful evening of songs.

The highly-anticipated return of the **Danish Quartet** will feature Schubert's grand string quartet in G major. Violin virtuoso **Benjamin Beilman** will present a program inspired by his "Ysaÿe" Guarneri del Gesù from 1740, and the pieces that were performed on this storied instrument. Two of my favorite musicians, cellist **Paul Watkins** and pianist **Alessio Bax** will join me in a program of solo, duo, and trio treasures for the cello and piano! Our season will end with a bang - literally and figuratively - with three of the most striking percussionists, **Ji Hye Jung**, **Ayano Kataoka**, and **Ian Rosenbaum**. One of my all-time favorite performances at String Theory is *Table Music* by Thierry De Mey - a theatrical piece written for three percussionists sitting at a table. I cannot wait to experience it again in the hands of these three virtuosi.

String Theory Season 16 promises to be the most spectacular season yet. I hope you will subscribe today and come immerse yourselves in the greatest chamber music right here in Chattanooga!

With warmest regards,



Gloria

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR,
STRING THEORY AT THE HUNTER

SEASON 16

concert dates

Tuesday Evenings at 6:30 pm

OCTOBER 1, 2024
DAVID SHIFRIN
MIRÓ QUARTET
GLORIA CHIEN

OCTOBER 29, 2024
WILL LIVERMAN
GLORIA CHIEN

NOVEMBER 19, 2024
DANISH STRING QUARTET

FEBRUARY 4, 2025
BENJAMIN BEILMAN
GLORIA CHIEN

MARCH 4, 2025
ALESSIO BAX
PAUL WATKINS
GLORIA CHIEN

MARCH 25, 2025
AYANO KATAOKO
JI HYE JUNG
IAN ROSENBAUM

Pregame with Bob

5:45PM BEFORE EACH CONCERT*
*EXCEPT OCTOBER 29



Join us for a pre-concert exploration with Chattanooga Symphony Orchestra's Music Director Emeritus, Bob Bernhardt, as he dives into the evening's program for an in-depth look at the featured masterworks! In addition to the CSO, Maestro Bernhardt is also the Principal Pops Conductor at both the Louisville Orchestra in Kentucky and the Grand Rapids Symphony in Michigan.

Broadcasts made possible by our Platinum Media Sponsor, WSMC 90.5 FM, allow us to share String Theory performances across the Tennessee Valley and into neighboring states



1 OCT

TIMELESS CLARINET

Season sixteen opens with the highly anticipated return of legendary clarinetist **David Shifrin**, joined by the renowned **Miró Quartet** and our **Artistic Director Gloria Chien**. The program features two of the most beloved masterpieces for the clarinet. Brahms' Clarinet Sonata No.2 in E-flat opens with a glowing warmth, sweet tenderness, and rich harmonies ensue. Inspired by clarinetist Richard Mühlfeld, Brahms came out of retirement to compose four major works for the clarinet. The evening ends with Mozart's sublime Clarinet Quintet in A major. The first of its kind, the quintet is a groundbreaking work in its exquisite blend of the clarinet and the strings. Come hear the dialogue between Brahms and Mozart, the clarinet, strings, and piano as showcased by our celebrated artists!

David Shifrin CLARINET

MIRÓ QUARTET

Daniel Ching VIOLIN

William Fedkenheuer VIOLIN

John Largess VIOLA

Joshua Gindele CELLO

AND

Gloria Chien PIANO



BRAHMS

Clarinet Sonata in E-flat, Op.120, No.2

MOZART

Clarinet Quintet in A major, K.581

CONCERT
SPONSORED BY

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& COMPANY
Investment Counsel

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT
GENEROUSLY PROVIDED BY

The William L. Montague
Performing Arts Fund of the



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF
GREATER CHATTANOOGA



29 OCT

AN EVENING OF SONGS WITH
WILL LIVERMAN

Called "a voice for this historic moment" (*Washington Post*), GRAM-MY Award-winning baritone **Will Liverman** is described as "nothing short of extraordinary" (*Opera News*) with a "beaming, high baritone that easily asserts" (*LA Times*).

Liverman is joined by pianist Gloria Chien in an unforgettable program that explores the lineage of art song from the classical period to today. Lyricism and introspection pervades the music of Finzi and Schubert, while the masterworks of Margaret Bonds and Harry T. Burleigh blend traditional spirituals with classical forms. Contemporary composer Libby Larsen continues this fusion, influenced by American popular music, jazz, and folk.

Will Liverman BARITONE

Gloria Chien PIANO

Works by

MARGARET BONDS

LIBBY LARSEN

GERALD FINZI

SCHUBERT

HARRY T. BURLEIGH



DANISH STRING QUARTET

19th CON



Rune Tonsgaard Sørensen VIOLIN

Frederik Øland VIOLIN

Asbjørn Nørgaard VIOLA

Fredrik Schøyen Sjölin CELLO

CAROLINE SHAW

Entr'acte

SCHUBERT

String Quartet no.15 in G-major, D.887

CONCERT SPONSORED BY



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Described by *The New York Times* as “ensemble music at its finest,” the **Danish String Quartet** returns to String Theory in a dramatic and poignant program. Known for her musical ingenuity, Caroline Shaw’s “Entr’acte” showcases a distinctive style complete with intricate textures and inventive use of strings. In her own words, the piece is “structured like a minuet and trio, riffing on that classical form but taking it a little further.” Musical innovation also prevails in Schubert’s towering String Quartet no.15 in G Major. Written two years before his death, the work’s emotional extremes and sublime beauty foreshadow the signature characteristics of the Romantic Era. Come witness the brilliance of the Danish String Quartet!



4 FEB

THE VIRTUOSIC VIOLIN WITH
BENJAMIN BEILMAN

Hailed as one of the leading violinists of his generation, **Benjamin Beilman** has won international praise for his passionate performances and a deep, rich tone which the *Washington Post* called “mightily impressive.” With pianist Gloria Chien, Beilman presents a program inspired by his storied instrument, an “Ysaÿe” Guarneri del Gesù from 1740. Ysaÿe’s Sonata No.3 was performed on this violin by the composer himself, and showcases technical prowess and deep musical expression. Composed as a wedding present for Ysaÿe, Franck’s Violin Sonata displays an audacious, show-stopping virtuosity between the violin and piano. Rearranged as a wedding present for Beilman, contemporary composer Chris Rogerson’s *Arietta* provided the sweet, intimate sound as Beilman’s bride walked down the aisle. Come join us for an evening of tales as illustrated by Beilman’s legendary instrument!

Benjamin Beilman VIOLIN

Gloria Chien PIANO

EUGÈNE YSAÏE

Solo Sonata No.3, *Ballade*

CHRIS ROGERSON

Arietta for Violin and Piano

CÉSAR FRANCK

Violin Sonata





4
MAR

BACH TO RACHMANINOFF

Prepare for an array of beautiful performances featuring unusual combinations by two pianists and one cellist - exceptional pianist **Alessio Bax** and acclaimed cellist **Paul Watkins** join Artistic Director Gloria Chien for this serendipitous evening of musical gems. From the intimacy of Bach's solo cello, the refinement in Schubert's Andantino varié, the allure in Rachmaninoff's Waltz and Romance, to the exuberance in Beethoven's final sonata for cello and piano in D, you will hear the exploration of humanity through the hands of these grand masters!

Paul Watkins CELLO

Alessio Bax PIANO

Gloria Chien PIANO

BACH

Cello Suite No.3 in C Major, BWV 1009

SCHUBERT

Andantino varié, D.823

RACHMANINOFF

Two Pieces for Piano Six Hands

BEETHOVEN

Sonata for Cello and Piano No.5 in D Major, Op.102, No.2

SUPPORT FOR THIS CONCERT
IS PROVIDED BY

A FRIEND OF STRING THEORY

In Memory of
Laura Lewis Hutcheson



25
MAR

TABLE MUSIC

Our season goes out with a bang, literally, with the power-house trio of percussionists **Ji Hye Jung**, **Ayano Kataoka**, and **Ian Rosenbaum**. You will be immersed in the musical spirit of Spain through Alejandro Viña's *Book of Grooves*, a dynamic work for two marimbas. Takemitsu's *Rain Tree* is an atmospheric meditation on natural phenomena depicted in the novels of Japanese novelist Kenzaburō Ōe. Weinberg's *Table Talk* uses inventive "prepared vibraphone," complete with stacks of paper and soda cans. The fusion of avant-garde techniques with non-Western musical traditions inspired Reich's *Nagoya Marimbas* and Xenakis's astonishing *Okho*, scored for three djembes and a large-sized African membranophone. Finally, Mey's *Table Music* is a theatrical highlight that proved to be one of the most memorable performances in all of String Theory's fifteen-year history. We cannot wait for you to experience it!

THIS CONCERT SPONSORED BY



Ayano Kataoka
PERCUSSION

Ji Hye Jung
PERCUSSION

Ian Rosenbaum
PERCUSSION

ALEJANDRO VIÑA
Book of Grooves
(IV. Dance Groove Drifting)

TŌRU TAKEMITSU
Rain Tree

ALYSSA WEINBERG
Table Talk

THIERRY DE MEY
Musique de tables
(Table Music)

STEVE REICH
Nagoya Marimbas

IANNIS XENAKIS
Okho





String Theory

For Season 16, we are committed to continuing String Theory's mission of bringing high-quality classical music education to our local schools and community organizations. This season we will have not one, but two groups present a day of outreach to the local community. These residencies will focus on the greater Chattanooga communities and will be filled with school presentations, visits to our local nonprofit partners, retirement communities, and engagements in other community spaces. The first is an outreach day in October. String Theory will host the Miró Quartet after their October 1st concert for an extra day of in-school residency in the greater Chattanooga community. This Spring, we will host an additional day of residency with percussionists Ji Hye Jung, Ayano Kataoka, and Ian Rosenbaum on March 25th. String Theory is excited to bring these extremely gifted educators and artists to our local community as well as to our mainstage!

ARTIST RESIDENCY DAYS



SUPPORT FOR STRING THEORY'S SEASON 16
ARTIST RESIDENCY PROGRAM GENEROUSLY
PROVIDED BY



The William L. Montague
Performing Arts Fund of the



TICKETING *information*

STXVI TICKET PRICING	REGULAR	HUNTER MEMBERS*	STUDENTS & MUSIC TEACHERS
Season Subscription 6 Concerts	\$300	\$240	\$60
Single Tickets	\$54	\$42	\$10

*To become a member of the Hunter Museum, please visit huntermuseum.org/membership or call 423.267.0968.

Groups of 10 or more can receive a discount. Please call 423.414.2525 for group ticket sales.

Tickets may be purchased

ONLINE

Beginning August 1, 2024 at StringTheoryMusic.org

BY PHONE

Beginning August 1, 2024 at 423.414.2525. Our office is open Monday-Friday from 9am-5pm.

IN PERSON ON CONCERT DAY ONLY

At the Hunter Museum beginning at 5:00pm. Credit cards only.

ALL TICKETS ARE "WILL CALL"

We do not print paper tickets. You will be checked in using a ticket list upon arrival.

CONCERTS START AT 6:30 PM

Your ticket includes the pre-concert engagement **Pregame with Bob** starting at 5:45pm on select concert dates. The Pre-Concert Bar opens at 5:00pm.

PARKING

Parking is available in the paid parking lot at the Houston Museum of Decorative Arts and along High Street, E 2nd Street, and Riverfront Parkway. The Hunter Museum parking lot is reserved for String Theory Donors at the **Jubiloso** and **Maestoso** levels, guests with handicapped permits, and String Theory Artists and staff.



IS MADE POSSIBLE by music lovers like you!

DID YOU KNOW THAT ticket sales make up less than 20% of our annual budget? That's why your gift of any amount is so important to continue incredible music experiences right here in Chattanooga. This is only possible with the dedicated support of the individuals, businesses, and foundations who partner with us to fund String Theory each year! In addition to supporting the best in chamber music in Chattanooga, your gift will:

Enhance the Arts and Culture offerings in our community by providing the opportunity to experience world-renowned artists right here in Chattanooga!

Support our outreach program to schools and community groups with our artist residency program

WAYS TO GIVE TO STRING THEORY

Donations are made to Lee University where funds are restricted solely for String Theory. Donations are tax-deductible and can be one-time or recurring.

ONLINE

- Go to stringtheorymusic.org/donate
- Click the DONATE button
- Select "one-time" or "recurring"
- Under FUND scroll down to select "String Theory"
- Enter your payment information

BY MAIL

Please make your gift payable to Lee University with **"String Theory"** in the memo line and mail it to:

Dr. Jayson VanHook
Lee University
PO Box 3450
Cleveland, TN 37320

DONOR LEVELS *and benefits* XVI

In addition to the benefits of your membership level, you will enjoy the benefits associated with all previous levels

Friends \$100

Prominent acknowledgment in concert programs

Piccolo \$250

Special ticket pricing of \$25 for 2 of your guests during Season 16

Dolce \$500

Special ticket pricing of \$25 for 4 of your guests during Season 16
Season Highlights CD

Espresso \$1,000

Special ticket pricing of \$25 for up to 6 of your guests during Season 16
2 complimentary drinks per concert at pre-concert reception
CD from a String Theory artist

Maestoso \$5,000

10% discount on season subscription
Special ticket pricing of \$25 up to 8 of your guests during Season 16
4 complimentary drinks per concert at pre-concert reception
Reserved parking in the Hunter Museum lot*
Reserved seating for your party*

Jubiloso \$10,000

Dedication of one concert in your honor
Complimentary admission for 2 to all Season 16 concerts and
Special ticket pricing of \$25 for your guests at each concert
Invitation for 2 to dinner with the artists after one Season Sixteen concert
4 complimentary drinks per concert at pre-concert reception
Reserved parking in the Hunter Museum lot*
Reserved seating for your party*



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