

MENDELSSOHN PIANO TRIO



"Superb and bracing"

Fanfare Magazine

"Technically immaculate and often very eloquent, with a finely calibrated sense of dramatic flow."

The Washington Post

Since its founding in 1997, the **MENDELSSOHN PIANO TRIO** has performed over 500 concerts in the US, Europe and Asia. The group has also recorded 15 CDs including most recently a cycle of the complete Haydn Piano Trios released on Centaur Records. The Mendelssohn Piano Trio's extensive repertoire of over 100 works embraces music from all periods of the genre's history. Ensemble members are superb soloists in their own right, having enjoyed diversified musical careers that transcend international boundaries and range from solo appearances with various orchestras to chamber music collaborations with such artists as Earl Carlyss, Ann Schein, Ronald Leonard, Igor Zhukov, Natalia Gutman, as well as many other musicians of international stature.

Pianist, Ya-Ting Chang is from Taiwan; violinist, Peter Sirotin is from Ukraine; and cellist, Fiona Thompson is from England. The Washington Post described their Brahms as "unfathomably beautiful" and "electrifying," while praising their "technically immaculate" and "rich in psychological insight" Tchaikovsky. American Record Guide hailed the Mendelssohn Piano Trio's recording of Smetana and Suk piano trios as "brilliant," and Fanfare magazine lauded their recording of complete Haydn Piano Trios as "bracing as a breath of crisp winter air, enlivening and rejuvenating in a way that earlier performances were not." European reviewers noted "freshness and energy" in "rarely emotional" interpretations of Haydn piano trios, while Audiophilia magazine praised these recordings as "warm, sonorous and lively." The Mendelssohn Piano Trio performances and recordings can be frequently heard on many classical radio stations including NPR's Performance Today.

Violinist **PETER SIROTIN** has performed hundreds of concerts as a chamber musician, soloist and concertmaster in Europe, North America and Asia since his debut at the age of fourteen performing the Paganini Concerto No. 1 with the Kharkiv Philharmonic in his native Ukraine. After graduating with honors from Moscow's Central Music School, Mr.

Sirotin became the youngest member of the Moscow Soloists chamber ensemble. With this group he has toured extensively, performing in the major music centers such as Royal Albert Hall in London, Pleyel Hall in Paris, Concertgebouw in Amsterdam and Beethoven Hall in Bonn among others.

Mr. Sirotin studied in the Moscow Conservatory and the Peabody Institute at Johns Hopkins University, where he received a full scholarship for a Graduate Performance Diploma in violin performance and a Graduate Performance Diploma in chamber music. His teachers included Earl Carlyss, Victor Danchenko, Berl Senofsky and Adolf Leschinsky, pupil of Carl Flesch.

With his wife, pianist Ya-Ting Chang, Mr. Sirotin founded the Mendelssohn Piano Trio in 1997. The group has toured internationally, and its many critically acclaimed recordings can be often heard on classical radio stations in the US. The Mendelssohn Piano Trio is currently involved in recording the complete Haydn Piano Trios for Centaur Records.

An active educator, Mr. Sirotin is currently artist-in-residence at Messiah College in Grantham PA, where he has co-founded a summer chamber music and composition program for young musicians. He has given masterclasses in the US and abroad and has served as an adjudicator in competitions.

Mr. Sirotin has collaborated in performance with pianists Ann Schein, Igor Zhukov, and Alexei Lubimov, cellist Natalia Gutman, flutist Claudio Arrimani, violinist and former Juilliard String Quartet member Earl Carlyss, and other great performers. His performances have been described by critics as “stylistically refined,” “electrifying” and “brilliant.” Together with his wife Ya-Ting Chang, Mr. Sirotin has recently appeared as a soloist in the world premiere of Ching-Ju Shih’s Double Concerto for Violin, Piano and Orchestra at the National Concert Hall in Taipei, Taiwan.

Peter Sirotin is Artistic Director of Market Square Concerts and Concertmaster of the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra.

As cellist of the Mendelssohn Piano Trio, **FIONA THOMPSON** has become known among devoted audiences for what one Washington Post critic has described as her “eloquent”, “radiant” and “unfailingly handsome” sound. She began her cello studies at the age of seven in her native England, and over a musical career that spans nearly twenty years, she has performed across the US, Europe and Asia.

In addition to the Mendelssohn Piano Trio, Fiona’s Chamber music experience also includes performances with the Melos Ensemble, the Cygnus Chamber Ensemble and the Rasumovsky Quartet. She has played with a number prominent chamber musicians, including violinist Earl Carlyss, pianist Ann Schein, clarinetist Gervaise de Peyer, pianist Stanley Babin, bandoneonist Raul Jaurena and pianist and conductor Stuart Malina.

Much of Fiona's career success can be attributed to her education. She began at Chetham's School of Music in Manchester, England, and then she attended the Royal Northern College of Music, a well-known performance institution also in Manchester. In 1994 she graduated from the Royal Northern with honors and was accepted to the University of Southern California (USC) Thornton School of Music on a full scholarship. She has studied with many fine teachers, including Elizabeth Wilson, Gillian Thoday, Moray Welsh, Leonid Gorokov and Ronald Leonard.

As a soloist, Fiona Thompson has performed with the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra, Westwood Chamber Orchestra and the Bakersfield Symphony. As an orchestral musician, Fiona is active with a number of well-known groups. She has played with Baltimore Symphony Orchestra as well as the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra, including the opera's 2002 tour in Japan. She is principal cellist with the Harrisburg Symphony orchestra, where she has been a member since 1998. She has also played with the Metropolitan Orchestra, as principal cellist on its Arlo Guthrie tour at Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall.

Fiona's background and performance experience has also contributed to her role as a music educator. She has given master classes in the US and abroad, and she is currently a teacher and Artist in Residence at Messiah College in Pennsylvania. She is also a frequent judge for competitions.

Ms. Thompson plays on a cello by Paolo Testore, circa 1750.

Pianist **YA-TING CHANG** is a member of the piano faculty at Messiah College in Grantham, Pennsylvania, and executive director of the Market Square Concerts in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. As the pianist of the Mendelssohn Piano Trio, Chang has toured in the U.S. and abroad as well as recorded numerous CDs with this group.

Ya-Ting Chang began studying piano at age six. After winning first prize in the 1987 Taiwan National Piano Competition, she came to the United States in 1988 as part of the Taiwanese Government's Gifted Children program. She studied piano with Enrique Graf, and flute with Gail Cameron and Bonnie Lake. Ms. Chang entered the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University as a scholarship student of Ann Schein, a pupil of Arthur Rubinstein, Myra Hess and Mieczyslaw Munz.

Since then, she has performed extensively throughout the United States, Germany, Hong Kong and Taiwan. For three years she participated in the Collaborative Artist Program at the Aspen Summer Festival and performed in the International Piccolo Spoleto Music Festival in Charleston, South Carolina. Ms. Chang appeared as a soloist with Messiah College Orchestra, Gettysburg Chamber Orchestra, Shippensburg University Festival Orchestra as well as Hong Kong Chamber Orchestra. She has given masterclasses and served as an adjudicator in competitions. She is also a very active chamber musician who enjoys making music with performers outside of her piano trio. She has collaborated with many instrumentalists including members of the Razumovsky String Quartet, National Chamber Ensemble, Fessenden Ensemble, principal flutists of Memphis and Harrisburg Symphony

Orchestras as well as renowned cellist, Ronald Leonard, with whom she recently recorded a cd of cello sonatas by E. Grieg and E. Dohnanyi. The cd will be released by Centaur Records in 2013.

The Washington Post critics described her recent performances in Washington DC Embassy Series as “impressive” and “eloquent”. Recently, Ms. Chang together with her husband, Peter Sirotnin has appeared as a soloist in the world premiere of Ching-Ju Shih double concerto for violin, piano and orchestra at the National Concert Hall in Taipei, Taiwan.