

MENDELSSOHN PIANO TRIO

“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 “unusually 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. The highlights of the Mendelssohn Piano Trio 20th Anniversary season include performances of the Beethoven Triple Concerto with the Harrisburg Symphony, an all-Mendelssohn anniversary concert at the Smithsonian American Arts Museum, as well as collaboration with Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet on a creation of new ballet to the dramatic score of the Piano Trio No. 2 by Dmitri Shostakovich.

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 14 performing the *Paganini Concerto No. 1* with the Kharkiv Philharmonic in his native Ukraine. After graduating with honors from Moscow’s Central Music School, Sirotin became the youngest member of the Grammy Award-winning 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.

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

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. Together with his wife Ya-Ting Chang, 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.

FIONA THOMPSON, principal cellist with the Harrisburg Symphony and cellist of the Mendelssohn Piano Trio, 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 studies at Chetham's School of Music in Manchester, England and graduated from the Royal Northern College of Music with honors, and from the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music. She has performed across the U.S., Europe and Asia. In addition to the Mendelssohn Piano Trio, her chamber music experience includes performances with the Melos Ensemble, the Cygnus Chamber Ensemble and the Rasumovsky Quartet. As a soloist, Thompson has performed with the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra, Westwood Chamber Orchestra and the Bakersfield Symphony.

She is currently an Artist-in-Residence with the Mendelssohn piano trio at Messiah College, and also on the cello faculty at the Levine School of Music in D.C.

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

Taiwanese-American pianist **YA-TING CHANG** is executive director of the Market Square Concerts in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and a member of the piano faculty at Messiah College.

Chang came to the United States in 1988. She studied with Enrique Graf, a pupil of Leon Fleisher and Ann Schein, a pupil of Mieczyslaw Munz, Arthur Rubinstein and Myra Hess. Chang 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. 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 has collaborated with many instrumentalists, including pianist/conductor Stuart Malina, oboist Gerard Reuter, 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.