

## 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.

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*, as well as WETA's *Front Row Washington*. The highlights of the Mendelssohn Piano Trio 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary season included 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 a new ballet choreographed by Alan Hiline to the dramatic score of Shostakovich E Minor Piano Trio.

Since his debut at the age of 14, performing Paganini Concerto No. 1 with Kharkiv Philharmonic in his native Ukraine, violinist **PETER SIROTIN** has performed hundreds of concerts as a chamber musician, soloist and concertmaster in Europe, North America and Asia. After graduating with honors from Moscow’s Central Music School, Mr. 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.

Mr. Sirotin’s performances as a concertmaster include a wide range of projects from concerts in Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center and Verizon Hall to the performances of the Verdi Requiem, Bach’s St. John Passion and Beethoven’s Missa Solemnis with the

Cathedral Choral Society in the National Cathedral in Washington, DC. He is currently Concertmaster of the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra and Director of Market Square Concerts in Harrisburg, PA.

An active educator, Mr. Sirotin is currently artist-in-residence at Messiah College in Grantham, PA, where he has co-founded Chamber Music in Grantham, 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. Ms. Sirotin is currently completing a book on the future music training in higher education for Routledge Press and CMS, together with co-author and long-time chamber music partner, Michael Stepniak, Dean of the Shenandoah Conservatory.

In 1997 Mr. Sirotin founded with his wife, pianist Ya-Ting Chang, the Mendelssohn Piano Trio. With this group he has performed over five hundred concerts in the US, Europe and Asia and recorded fifteen CDs including most recently the complete Haydn Piano Trios on Centaur Records. Mr. Sirotin has collaborated in performance with pianists Ann Schein, Igor Zhukov, Alexei Lubimov, violinist Earl Carlyss, former Juilliard String Quartet member, cellist Natalia Gutman, flutist Claudio Arrimani, oboist Gerard Reuter, harpsichordist Arthur Haas and members of the Jasper, Jupiter, Daedalus, Parker, Avalon and Fry Street quartets. His performances have been described by critics as "stylistically refined" "electrifying" and "brilliant."

In 2012, Mr. Sirotin together with his wife, Ya-Ting Chang, 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. Recently, Mr. Sirotin appeared as a soloist with the Harrisburg Symphony, Gettysburg Chamber Orchestra, American Youth Philharmonic and Baltimore Chamber Orchestra.

Serving as Principal Cellist with the Harrisburg Symphony, Concert Artists of Baltimore and 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 has performed across the US, Europe and Asia with the Mendelssohn Piano Trio, and she has recorded over a dozen CD's on Centaur Records with them, including the complete Haydn Piano trios. All of these recording are frequently heard on radio stations across the country. The Trio's live performances have been heard on NPR's Performance Today as well as WETA's Front Row Washington.

Fiona's other chamber music experience includes performances with pianist Andrew Harley, Market Square Concerts Summermusic, Harrisburg Symphony Chamber Players, the Melos Ensemble of D.C, the Cygnus Chamber Ensemble and the Rasumovsky Quartet

As a sought after orchestral cellist in addition to her principal positions, 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 also had the privilege to play with the Metropolitan Orchestra, as principal cellist on its Arlo Guthrie tour at Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall. Fiona also plays for the Washington Ballet Orchestra, the Wolf Trap Orchestra and the National Philharmonic.

Fiona began her musical education 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.

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 an Artist in Residence at Messiah College in Pennsylvania and has served as part of the faculty at Levine School of Music.

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

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

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 the Messiah College Orchestra, Gettysburg Chamber Orchestra, Shippensburg University Festival Orchestra as well as the Hong Kong Chamber Orchestra. She has given masterclasses and served as an adjudicator in competitions. She has collaborated with pianist/conductor Stuart Malina, oboist Gerard Reuter, bassoonist Peter Kolkay, members of Baltimore Symphony, National Symphony, Memphis Symphony and Harrisburg Symphony orchestras, as well as renowned cellist Ronald Leonard, with whom she recorded a CD of cello sonatas by Grieg and Dohnanyi.

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