

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 U.S., Europe and Asia. The group has also recorded 15 CDs including 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 emotionally rich” 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.” In the last 25 years, Mendelssohn Piano Trio has enjoyed several multi-year artistic residences including annual performances at the Smithsonian American Arts Museum and Embassy Series in Washington DC, and a 20-year residency at Messiah University which included cross disciplinary collaborations with choreographer Alan Hineline and Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, as well as the MU English department faculty.

Described by the *Washington Post* as “stylistically refined” “electrifying” and “brilliant,” violinist **PETER SIROTIN** has performed extensively as a chamber musician, soloist, and concertmaster since his debut at the age 14 performing Paganini’s First Violin Concerto with the Kharkiv Philharmonic in his native Ukraine.

In 1997 Sirotin founded with his wife, pianist Ya-Ting Chang, the Mendelssohn Piano Trio, which performed over 500 concerts in the US, Europe, and Asia, was featured on NPR’s “Performance Today” and WETA’s “Front Row Washington,” as well as recorded 15 CDs including the complete Haydn Piano Trios on Centaur Records. Mr. Sirotin has collaborated in performance with pianists Ann Schein, Igor Zhukov, Alexei Lubimov, violinists Alexander Kerr and Earl Carlyss, former Juilliard String Quartet member, violist Michael Isaac Strauss, cellists Natalia Gutman, Julian Schwarz and Sophie Shao, flutist Claudi Arimany, oboist Gerard Reuter, harpsichordist Arthur Haas, guitarist Jason Vieaux and members of the Jasper, Jupiter, Daedalus, Parker, Avalon, Miro, Dali and Fry Street quartets.

In 2012, Sirotin and Chang, gave the world premiere of Ching-Ju Shih double concerto for violin, piano and orchestra at the National Concert Hall in Taipei, Taiwan. Recently, he appeared as a soloist with the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra, Gettysburg Chamber Orchestra, American Youth Philharmonic and Baltimore Chamber Orchestra. He is currently a Concertmaster of the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra, Artist-in-Residence at Messiah University and Co-Director of Market Square Concerts in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.



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” and “radiant” with an “unfailingly handsome” sound.

She has performed across the U.S., 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 recordings 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.

Thompson’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, she also plays for the Washington Ballet Orchestra, the Wolf Trap Orchestra, the National Philharmonic and the Baltimore Symphony.

Thompson began her studies at Chetham’s School of Music in Manchester, England, studying with Elizabeth Wilson and Gillian Thoday. She graduated from the Royal Northern College of Music with honors as a pupil of Leonid Gorokhov. Her postgraduate was at the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music where she studied with Ronald Leonard.

Her background and performance experience has also contributed to her role as a music educator. She has given master classes in the U.S. and abroad, and she was an artist in residence at Messiah University in Pennsylvania and had 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 co-director of Market Square Concerts in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and a member of the piano faculty at Messiah University in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania.

Chang came to the U.S. in 1988. She has performed extensively throughout the U.S., 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 University 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, Washington National Opera, 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 Dohnányi.

In 1997, Chang together with her husband, violinist Peter Sirotin, co-founded the Mendelssohn Piano Trio. With this group, she has performed over 500 concerts in U.S., Europe and Asia and recorded 15 CDs, including most recently the complete Haydn Piano Trios on Centaur Records. In 2012, she 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. Recently, she has appeared as a soloist with the Harrisburg Symphony and Gettysburg Chamber Orchestra. Chang studied with Imane Wu, Enrique Graf and Ann Schein.