



MFTWR.org

presents

CAVANI STRING QUARTET

Annie Fullard - *violin*
Eric Wong - *viola*

Mari Sato - *violin*
Rebecca Merblum, *cello*, guest artist

Sunday, November 4, 2018

Quartet No.14, in G Major K. 387 'Spring'

- I. Allegro vivace assai
- II. Menuetto: Allegretto
- III. Andante cantabile
- IV. Molto Allegro

Wolfgang A. Mozart
(1756 – 1791)

Quartet No.12, in F Major Opus 96 'American'

- I. Allegro ma non troppo
- II. Lento
- III. Molto Vivace
- IV. Finale: Vivace ma non troppo

Antonin Dvorak
(1841 – 1904)

Midnight Child

Based on spiritual *Sometimes I Feel Like of Motherless Child*

Charles G. Washington
(1111 – 1111)

Pablo Casals said, "The greatest respect an artist can give to music is to give it life." **The Cavani Quartet** has dedicated its artistic life to communicating excellence and beauty, and to sharing the joy of discovery in the service of some of the most powerful music ever written. "Their artistic excellence, their generous spirit, and their fervent ambassadorship for great music make them unique among America's greatest string quartets. They may be the single most valuable role model for the classical chamber music field in our time, an inspiration to fellow musicians and audiences across the country." ~ *Detroit Chamber Music Society*.

The quartet's musical career maintains an energetic balance between performing masterpieces by composers such as Mozart, Beethoven and Bartok; collaborating with living composers including Joan Tower and Margaret Brouwer; and creating new programming that joins multiple disciplines, such as visual art, poetry, and dance. The quartet's motivation to interact with all audiences enhances their approach to performing, teaching and mentoring. The Cavani Quartet is thrilled to shape the musical lives of the next generation through seminars that featuring audience engagement and rehearsal techniques which accentuate a "team - work" approach.

It is the empathy and connectivity of playing and teaching chamber music, which the Quartet views as a metaphor for the kind of communication that we should strive for between cultures and nations.

Formed in 1984, the Cavani Quartet has toured throughout all fifty states, performing at some of the world's most prestigious festivals, and series including The Aspen Music School, The New World Symphony, Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, Kniesel Hall Chamber Music Festival, Interlochen Center for the Arts, Madeline Island Music Festival, The Chautauqua Festival, and The Perlman Music Program. The Quartet has been featured on National Public Radio's Performance Today and St. Paul Sunday Morning, as well as, syndicated quiz show "Says You". The Cavani Quartet's discography includes works by Ravel, Bartók, Dvořák, Schumann, Brahms, Shostakovich, Erb, Chausson, Brouwer and Primosch.

The quartet's impressive thirty-year legacy has garnered significant recognition including the Ohio Governors Award for the Arts, Musical America Magazine's Young Artists of the Year, Naumburg Chamber Music Award, The Cleveland Quartet Fellowship Award at The Eastman School, and the ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming.

The Cavani Quartet has commissioned, premiered and performed the music of more than thirty living composers. Nationally recognized for their superlative approach as both performers and teaching-artists, they have received a number of Chamber Music America Residency Partnership Awards, and in recognition of their performance, twice winning the Guarneri String Quartet Award for Artistic Excellence from Chamber Music America.

From 1988 -2018 the Quartet served as faculty and Artists- in -Residence at the Cleveland Institute of Music where they developed and curated nationally acclaimed programs for student ensembles devoted to the serious study of chamber music. These include The Intensive Quartet Seminar, The Apprentice Quartet Program, The Art of Collaboration: Rehearsal Techniques Seminar, and The Art of Engagement: Careers and Leadership in Music. The Cavani Quartet has also performed

their multi discipline program COLLAGE: Music & Poetry, with Poet and Professor of Pan African Studies, Mwatabu Okantah at universities and communities through the country.

Other innovative programs include CONFLUENCE: New Music by Female Composers, The Art of Listening: Music and Color, as well as inspiring school workshops: MAP: Music, Art and Poetry and for elementary school children TEAM UP WITH MUSIC™.

The Cavani Quartet's unique approach to chamber music rehearsal techniques and mentorship skills have garnered national acclaim, and in collaboration with Dr. Dorianne Cotter Lockard, will be publishing the book *Empowered Performers: Rehearsal Techniques and Coaching Strategies for Musicians*.

The Quartet regularly provides their workshop, *Coaching Strategies and Techniques: Building Empowered and Collaborative Teams by Applying Principles of Chamber Music Pedagogy* for business schools and Executive MBA classes around the country including The Weatherhead School of Management at Case Western Reserve University.

The Quartet has served as Visiting Artists-in-Residence at The University of Texas, Austin, The University of Southern Illinois, Carbondale, and The University of California, Riverside, The Mc Duffie Center for Strings, and The University of Iowa String Quartet Residency Program.

The Quartet has been on the Advisory Board of Amateur Chamber Music Players and currently serves on the Honorary Board of the Suzuki Association of the Americas and was honored to participate in The Violins of Hope Project.

Rebecca Merblum, a Connecticut native, has been devoted herself to a life in chamber music performance and education. During her formative years she studied at The Hartt School with the Emerson String Quartet and Mitchell Stern (American String Quartet). It continued through her studies at the Cleveland Institute of Music and the New England Conservatory where she went on to earn her Bachelor and Master Degrees respectively. As a founding member of the Azmari Quartet, she participated in the Graduate Quartet Residency at Northern Illinois University under the tutelage of the Vermeer Quartet. The Azmari Quartet served as the Corbett String Quartet in Residence at Northern Kentucky University from 2004-2009.

Merblum joined the Artaria Quartet for the 2016-2017 season. During the 30th anniversary season with the Artaria Quartet, Rebecca collaborated with renowned artists Andres and Roberto Diaz, Geoff Nuttal and former members of the Artaria Quartet. The quartet performed throughout the Twin Cities while remaining dedicated to nurturing the growth of students at the Artaria Chamber Music School and Stringwood, the summer festival directed by the ensemble.

Ms. Merblum has appeared with the St Paul Chamber Orchestra including a recording project with the ensemble in the Spring of 2017. She has continued to perform regularly with the Grammy Award winning SPCO and toured with the ensemble in the Spring of 2018.

Rebecca has performed with the Salastina Chamber Music Series, Sundays at LACMA, the Green Umbrella Series (Los Angeles Philharmonic) and Classical Encounters. Additional chamber music performances involved collaborations with Michele Zukovsky, Martin Chalifour, Ronald Leonard, Andrew Schulman and Panic Group, an ensemble dedicated to the presentation of new music. Rebecca was also a substitute with the both Los Angeles Philharmonic and Los Angeles Opera from 2010-2016.

A dedicated teacher, Rebecca served as the Chair of the String Department at the Pasadena Conservatory where she was a member of the cello and chamber music faculties. Her students have gained recognition in numerous competitions and festivals including the Piatigorsky International Festival.