

GRIFFIN CONCERT HALL / UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR THE ARTS

►►► CO-PRESENTED BY THE LINCOLN CENTER AND COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY ◀◀◀

C L A S S I C A L
CONVERGENCE

MAY 5, 7:30 P.M.

BORRROMEO
String Quartet



the **LINCOLN** center

Colorado State University
SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE AND DANCE

TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

NICHOLAS KITCHEN, violin

KRISTOPHER TONG, violin

MAI MOTOBUCHI, viola

YEESUN KIM, cello

J.S. BACH (1685-1750)

The "Goldberg" Variations BWV 998 arranged for String Quartet by Nicholas Kitchen

Aria

Variations 1, 2, 3 (Canon at the Unison),

Variations 4, 5, 6 (Canon at the Second),

Variations 7, 8, 9 (Canon at the Third),

Variations 10, 11, 12 (Canon at the Fourth),

Variations 13, 14, 15 (Canon at the Fifth),

Variations 16 (Overture), 17, 18 (Canon at the Sixth),

Variations 19, 20, 21 (Canon at the Seventh),

Variations 22, 23, 24 (Canon at the Octave),

Variations 25 (Adagio), 26, 27 (Canon at the Ninth),

Variations 28, 29, 30 (Quodlibet)

Aria

INTERMISSION

FELIX MENDELSSOHN BARTHOLDY (1809-1847)

Octet in E-flat major op. 20 in the original 1825 version arranged by Nickolas Kitchen

Allegro moderato ma con fuoco

Andante

Scherzo: Allegro leggierissimo

Presto

The CSU string faculty is joining the Borromeo Quartet for this performance:

RON FRANCOIS, violin

LESLIE STEWART, violin

MARGARET MILLER, viola

BARBARA THIEM, cello

Each visionary performance of the award-winning **Borromeo String Quartet** strengthens and deepens its reputation as one of the most important ensembles of our time. Admired and sought after for both its fresh interpretations of the classical music canon and its championing of works by 20th and 21st century composers, the ensemble has been hailed for its “edge-of-the-seat performances,” by the *Boston Globe*, which called it “simply the best there is.”

Now celebrating its 27th anniversary, the Borromeo continues to be a pioneer in its use of technology, and has the trailblazing distinction of being the first string quartet to utilize laptop computers on the concert stage. Reading music this way helps push artistic boundaries, allowing the artists to perform solely from 4-part scores and composers’ manuscripts, a revealing and metamorphic experience which these dedicated musicians now teach to students around the world. As the *New York Times* noted, “The digital tide washing over society is lapping at the shores of classical music. The Borromeo players have embraced it in their daily musical lives like no other major chamber music group.” Moreover, the Quartet often leads discussions enhanced by projections of handwritten manuscripts, investigating with the audience the creative process of the composer. And in 2003 the Borromeo became the first classical ensemble to make its own live concert recordings and videos, distributing them for many years to audiences through its *Living Archive*.

Passionate educators, the Borromeos encourage audiences of all ages to explore and listen to both traditional and contemporary repertoire in new ways. The ensemble uses multi-media tools such as video projection to share the often surprising creative process behind some works, or to show graphically the elaborate architecture behind others. This produces delightfully refreshing viewpoints and has been a springboard for its acclaimed young people’s programs. One such program is *Mathemusica* which delves into the numerical relationships that under-pin the sounds of music and show how musical syntax mirrors natural forms. *Classic Video* uses one movement of a quartet as the platform from which to teach computer drawing, video editing, animation, musical form and production processes to create a meaningful joining of music and visual art.

The quartet has been ensemble-in-residence at the New England Conservatory and the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum for twenty-three years; and has worked extensively as performers and educators with the Library of Congress (highlighting both its manuscripts and instrument collections); the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and the Taos School of Music. The ensemble joined the Emerson Quartet as the 2014-15 Hittman Ensembles in Residence at the Peabody Institute in Baltimore, and has held substantial residencies at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Kansas University in Lawrence, and the San Francisco Conservatory.

The ensemble has been acclaimed for its presentation of the cycle of Bartok String Quartets as well as its lecture “Bartok: Paths Not Taken,” both of which give audiences a once-in-a-lifetime

chance to hear a set of rediscovered alternate movements Béla Bartók drafted for his six quartets. Describing a Bartók concert at the Curtis Institute, the *Philadelphia Inquirer* wrote that the quartet “performed at a high standard that brought you so deeply into the music’s inner workings that you wondered if your brain could take it all in... The music’s mystery, violence, and sorrow become absolutely inescapable.”

Also noteworthy in the BSQ repertory are its dramatic discoveries within the manuscripts of the Beethoven Quartets, and its performances of the *Complete Cycle*; *The Beethoven Decathlon* (four concerts of Beethoven’s last ten quartets, all with pre-concert lectures exploring his manuscripts); and single Beethoven Tryptich concerts (one concert including three quartets). Its expansive repertoire also includes the Shostakovich Cycle and those of Mendelssohn, Dvorak, Brahms, Schumann, Schoenberg, Janacek, Lera Auerbach, Tchaikovsky, and Gunther Schuller.

The Quartet has collaborated with some of this generation’s most important composers, including Gunther Schuller, John Cage, Gyorgy Ligeti, Steve Reich, Osvaldo Golijov, Jennifer Higdon, Steve Mackey, John Harbison, and Leon Kirchner, among many others; and has performed on major concert stages across the globe, including appearances at Carnegie Hall, the Berlin Philharmonie, Wigmore Hall, Suntory Hall, the Concertgebouw, Seoul Arts Center, Shanghai Oriental Arts Center, the Incontri in Terra di Siena Chamber Music Festival in Tuscany, the Prague Spring Festival and the Haydn Festival in Eisenstadt.

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