

Saturday, February 20, 2021 | 12:15 PM
Livestreamed from Neidorff-Karpati Hall

MSM STRING CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

George Manahan (BM '73, MM '76), Conductor

PROGRAM

J. S. BACH
(1685–1750)

Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 in G Major, BWV 1048

Allegro

Adagio

Allegro

CARLOS SIMON
(b. 1986)

Elegy

Dedicated to Trayvon Martin, Eric Garner, and Michael Brown

OTTORINO RESPIGHI
(1879–1936)

Ancient Airs and Dances, Suite No. 3

MSM STRING CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

VIOLIN 1

**Carlos Martinez
Arroyo**

Cabra, Córdoba, Spain

Shiqi Luo

Shanghai, China

Messiah Ahmed

Dallas, Texas

VIOLIN 2

Basil Alter

Clinton, South Carolina

Francesca Abusamra

Rochester Hills, Michigan

VIOLA

Kunbo Xu

Changsha, Hunan, China

Jack Rittendale

St. Louis, Missouri

Maria Paporoni

Caracas, Venezuela

CELLO

Noah Koh

Bayside, New York

Eliza Fath

Fairfield, Connecticut

Zoe Daphnee

Lavoie-Gagne

San Diego, California

DOUBLE BASS

Dante Ascarrunz

Lafayette, Colorado

Jakob Messinetti

Lawrence, New York

Students in this performance are supported by the *Joseph F. McCrindle Scholarship* and the *Hans & Klara Bauer Scholarship*.

We are grateful to the generous donors who made these scholarships possible. For information on establishing a named scholarship at Manhattan School of Music, please contact Susan Madden, Vice President for Advancement, at 917-493-4115 or smadden@msmnyc.edu.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

George Manahan, Conductor

George Manahan is in his 11th season as Director of Orchestral Activities at Manhattan School of Music, as well as Music Director of the American Composers Orchestra and the Portland Opera. He served as Music Director of the New York City Opera for 14 seasons and was hailed for his leadership of the orchestra. He was also Music Director of the Richmond Symphony (VA) for 12 seasons. Recipient of Columbia University's Ditson Conductor's Award, Mr. Manahan was also honored by the American Society of Composers and Publishers (ASCAP) for his "career-long advocacy for American composers and the music of our time." His Carnegie Hall performance of Samuel Barber's *Antony and Cleopatra* was hailed by audiences and critics alike. "The fervent and sensitive performance that Mr. Manahan presided over made the best case for this opera that I have ever encountered," said the *New York Times*.

Mr. Manahan's guest appearances include the Orchestra of St. Luke's, Atlanta, San Francisco, Hollywood Bowl, and New Jersey, where he served as acting Music Director for four seasons. He has been a regular guest with the Curtis Institute and the Aspen Music Festival and has appeared with the opera companies of Seattle, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Chicago, Santa Fe, Paris, Sydney, Bologna, St. Louis, the Bergen Festival (Norway), and the Casals Festival (Puerto Rico). His many appearances on television include productions of *La bohème*, *Lizzie Borden*, and *Tosca* on PBS. The Live from Lincoln Center telecast of New York City Opera's production of *Madama Butterfly*, under his direction, won a 2007 Emmy Award.

George Manahan's wide-ranging recording activities include the premiere recording of Steve Reich's *Tebillim* for ECM; recordings of Edward Thomas's *Desire Under the Elms*, which was nominated for a Grammy; Joe Jackson's *Will Power*; and Tobias Picker's *Emmeline*. He has conducted numerous world premieres, including Charles Wuorinen's *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*, David Lang's *Modern Painters*, Hans Werner Henze's *The English Cat*, Tobias Picker's *Dolores Claiborne*, and Terence Blanchard's *Champion*.

He received his formal musical training at Manhattan School of Music, studying conducting with Anton Coppola and George Schick, and was appointed to the faculty of the school upon his graduation, at which time the Juilliard School awarded him a fellowship as Assistant Conductor with the American Opera Center. Mr. Manahan was chosen as the Exxon Arts Endowment Conductor of the New Jersey Symphony the same year he made his opera debut with the Santa Fe Opera, conducting the American premiere of Arnold Schoenberg's *Von Heute auf Morgen*.

Carlos Simon, Composer

Carlos Simon was recently named a recipient of the 2021 Sphinx Medal of Excellence. It is the highest honor bestowed by the Sphinx Organization, recognizing extraordinary classical Black and Latinx musicians. Along with a \$50,000 career grant, the Medal of Excellence is awarded annually to three artists who, early in their career, demonstrate artistic excellence, outstanding work ethic, a spirit of determination, and an ongoing commitment to leadership and their communities.

Carlos Simon's music ranges from concert music for large and small ensembles to film scores with influences of jazz, gospel, and neo-romanticism. His string quartet *Elegy*, honoring the lives of Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, and Eric Garner, was recently performed at the Kennedy Center for the Mason Bates JFK Jukebox Series. His latest album, *My Ancestor's Gift*, released on the Navona Records label in 2018, was featured on Apple Music's "Albums to Watch." Described as an "overall driving force" (*Review Graveyard*), the album incorporates spoken word and historic recordings to craft a multifaceted program of musical works that are inspired as much by the past as they are by the present.

Simon was named a Sundance/Time Warner Composer Fellow for the 2018 Sundance Institute, held at the historic Skywalker Ranch. With support from the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo and U.S./Japan Foundation, Simon traveled with the Asia/America New Music Institute (AANMI) on a two-week tour of Japan in 2018 performing concerts in some of the most sacred temples and concert spaces in Japan, including Suntory Hall in Tokyo, Japan.

Other recent accolades include being named a Composer Fellow at the Cabrillo Festival for Contemporary Music; receiving the Underwood Emerging Composer Commission from the American Composers Orchestra in 2016; and winning the prestigious Marvin Hamlisch Film Scoring Award and the Theodore Presser Foundation's Presser Award in 2015. Acting as music director and keyboardist for Grammy Award winner Jennifer Holliday, Simon has performed with the Boston Pops Symphony, Jackson Symphony, and St. Louis Symphony. He has toured internationally with Grammy-nominated soul artist Angie Stone and performed throughout Europe, Africa, and Asia.

A native of Atlanta, Georgia, Carlos Simon earned his doctorate at the University of Michigan, where he studied with Michael Daugherty and Evan Chambers. He has also received degrees from Georgia State University and Morehouse College. Additionally, he studied in Baden, Austria at the Hollywood Music Workshop with Conrad Pope, and at New York University's Film Scoring Summer Workshop.

ABOUT MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Founded as a community music school by Janet Daniels Schenck in 1918, today MSM is recognized for its more than 960 superbly talented undergraduate and graduate students who come from more than 50 countries and nearly all 50 states; its innovative curricula and world-renowned artist-teacher faculty that includes musicians from the New York Philharmonic, the Met Orchestra, and the top ranks of the jazz and Broadway communities; and a distinguished community of accomplished, award-winning alumni working at the highest levels of the musical, educational, cultural, and professional worlds.

The School is dedicated to the personal, artistic, and intellectual development of aspiring musicians, from its Precollege students through those pursuing doctoral studies. Offering classical, jazz, and musical theatre training, MSM grants a range of undergraduate and graduate degrees. True to MSM's origins as a music school for children, the Precollege program continues to offer superior music instruction to 475 young musicians between the ages of 5 and 18. The School also serves some 2,000 New York City schoolchildren through its Arts-in-Education Program, and another 2,000 students through its critically acclaimed Distance Learning Program.

Your gift helps a young artist reach for the stars!

To enable Manhattan School of Music to continue educating and inspiring generations of talented students and audiences alike, please consider making a charitable contribution today.

Contact the Advancement Office at 917-493-4434 or visit msmnyc.edu/support