

# MSM CAMERATA NOVA

**George Manahan** (BM '73, MM '76), Conductor  
**Sophia Santiago**, soprano

## **PROGRAM**

JAMES LEE, III

*"Iron teeth, pompous words!"* from *Night Visions of Kippur*

MAURICE RAVEL  
(1875–1937)

*Trois poèmes de Stéphane Mallarmé*

*Soupir*

*Placet futile*

*Surgi de la croupe et du bond*

**Sophia Santiago**, soprano

CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS  
(1835–1921)

*Le carnaval des animaux (Carnival of the Animals)*

*Introduction et marche royale du lion* (Introduction and Royal March of the Lion)

*Poules et coqs* (Hens and Roosters)

*Hémiones, animaux véloces* (Wild Donkeys, Swift Animals)

*Tortues* (Tortoises)

*L'éléphant* (The Elephant)

*Kangourous* (Kangaroos)

*Aquarium* (Aquarium)

*Personnages à longues oreilles* (People with Long Ears)

*Le coucou au fond des bois* (The Cuckoo in the Depths of the Woods)

*Volière* (Aviary)

*Pianistes* (Pianists)

*Fossiles* (Fossils)

*Le cygne* (The Swan)

*Final* (Finale)

PIERRE BOULEZ  
(1925–2016)

*Improvisation sur Mallarmé I: Le vierge, le vivace et le bel aujourd'hui*

**Sophia Santiago**, soprano

# CAMERATA NOVA

## VIOLIN 1

**Carlos Martinez**  
*Córdoba, Spain*

## CELLO

**Haena Lee**  
*Cochrane, Alberta, Canada*

## CLARINET

**Meng Zhang**  
*Beijing China*

**William Chinn**  
*Irvine, California*

**Mitchell Vogel**  
*Oviedo, Florida*

## PIANO

**Seth Schultheis**  
*Baltimore, Maryland*

**Dmitry Yudin**  
*Moscow, Russia*

## VIOLIN 2

**Christine Wu**  
*Plano, Texas*

## DOUBLE BASS

**Dante Ascarrunz**  
*Lafayette, Colorado*

**Cosmos Fristachi**  
*Virginia Beach, Virginia*

**Christian Santos**

**William Richards**  
*Wheaton, Illinois*

## VIOLA

**Kunbo Xu**  
*Changsha, China*

## FLUTE

**Lindsay Wong**  
*Cincinnati, Ohio*

## PERCUSSION

**Will Hopkins**  
(principal)  
*Dallas, Texas*

## HARP

**Abigail Bachelor**  
*Hilliard, Ohio*

**Matthias Ziolkowski**

**Bethany Mclean**  
*Ontario, New York*

Students in this performance are supported by the *Robert Mann Endowed Scholarship for Violin and Chamber Studies*, the *Avedis Zildjian Percussion Scholarship*, the *International Advisory Board Scholarship*, and the *Sabian/Robert Zildjian Memorial 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@msmny.edu.

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

### 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*.

## Sophia Santiago, soprano

Lyric coloratura Sophia Santiago, described as a singing actress, has performed leading roles in venues across the New York metropolitan area. After beginning her vocal studies in late high school with voice teacher Cecile Audette, she studied with Faith Esham at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey, where she performed roles in two Mozart operas: Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte* and Susanna in *Le nozze di Figaro*. During her time in Princeton, Sophia became a member of the Westminster Choir, touring with them in Charleston, South Carolina; Beijing; and across the Midwest. She performed with the Choir and a chamber orchestra at the 2018 Spoleto Festival USA, singing *Cujus animam gementem* from G. B. Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*. Other solo performances include the Tuba mirum quartet from the Mozart Requiem with Schola Cantorum in 2016, *Miserere mei, Deus* by Gregorio Allegri with Kantorei in 2019, and *Nunc dimittis* by Arvo Pärt with the Westminster Choir in 2019. After receiving her Bachelor's degree in voice performance, Sophia began her candidacy for a Master's degree at Manhattan School of Music with voice teacher Shirley Close. In her first year she performed the role of Violetta in Verdi's *La Traviata* under Music Director Tom Muraco. This April she will be performing the role of Dede at Manhattan School of Music in scenes from *A Quiet Place*.

## James Lee III, Composer

James Lee III, since receiving his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Michigan in 2005, has had orchestral works commissioned and premiered by the National Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, New World Symphony Orchestra, and the orchestras of Philadelphia, Indianapolis, Omaha, Pasadena, Memphis, Grand Rapids, Cincinnati, Atlanta, Akron, conducted by such artists as Leonard Slatkin, Marin Alsop, Michael Tilson Thomas, Juanjo Mena, David Lockington, Thomas Wilkins, and others.

In 2006 the National Symphony gave the world premiere of his orchestral work *Beyond Rivers of Vision* at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., conducted by music director Leonard Slatkin. In 2008, as music director of the Detroit Symphony, Slatkin conducted the world premiere of Lee's symphonic work *A Different Soldier's Tale*. In 2011, *Chupshab! Harriet's Drive to Canaan*—a Baltimore Symphony-commission based on American heroine Harriet Tubman—was premiered by Marin Alsop, and the first performance of *Sukkot Through Orion's Nebula*—a Sphinx Organization co-commission—was given by Michael Tilson Thomas and the New World Symphony, with subsequent performances by Sphinx orchestral-partners the Cincinnati and Grand Rapids Symphonies.

Chamber organizations such as the Montrose Trio, Ritz Chamber Players, and the Harlem Chamber Players have performed and premiered music by James Lee III. Pianist Dr. Rochelle Sennet recorded his piano music on the Albany Label in 2014. Dr. Sennet and her husband Igor Kalnin premiered his second violin sonata on March 16, 2019 at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. Dr. Lee's works have been premiered and performed internationally in Brazil, Argentina, Russia, and Cuba. Soprano Alison Buchanan also premiered a new song cycle composed especially for her in Jacksonville, Florida and London, England in January and February 2019. In May 2019, his *Sinfonia de Esperanza* was premiered in Lima, Peru as part of the University of the Peruvian Adventist Union's centennial celebrations. During the 2019–20 season the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, and Chicago Symphony Orchestra performed Dr. Lee's *Sukkot Through Orion's Nebula* in September, October, and November.

Other highlights include the world premiere of *Thurgood's Rhapsody* commissioned by the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra for their centennial season celebration; the premiere performances of Piano Trio No. 2, *Temple Visions*, by the Montrose Trio; and the premiere by mezzo soprano Denyce Graves and the Sphinx Virtuosi of his arrangement of "Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit."

During the 2021–22 or 2022–23 season, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra will premiere his newly commissioned work *American* (its April 2020 premiere having been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic). As concerts are able to resume, other upcoming premieres of Dr. Lee's work include his Violin Concerto No. 2, *Teshuab*, to be premiered by violinist Carla Trynchuk and the Andrews University Symphony Orchestra; Concerto for Piano and Orchestra to be premiered by Daniel Lau and the New England Youth Ensemble; and *Wakayoba* Concerto for Bayan, Percussion, and Strings to be premiered by Franko Bozac and the Oregon Music Festival Orchestra. Many other works for orchestra, narrator and orchestra, symphonic band, and chamber music will also be premiered during the upcoming seasons.

James Lee III cites as his major composition teachers Michael Daugherty, William Bolcom, Bright Sheng, Betsy Jolas, Susan Botti, Erik Santos and James Aikman. As a composition fellow at the Tanglewood Music Center in the summer of 2002, he added Osvaldo Golijov, Michael Gandolfi, Steven Mackey, and Kaija Saariaho to his roster of teachers, and studied conducting with Stefan Asbury.

The recipient of a Charles Ives Scholarship and the Wladimir Lakond Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, in 2014 James Lee III was a Fulbright Scholar and Visiting Professor to the State University of Campinas in Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil, where he taught composition, composed, and researched the music of 20th and 21st century Brazilian composers.

He is Professor of Music at Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland.

# 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.

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