

MSM ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE
AMERICAN STRING QUARTET

Peter Winograd and **Laurie Carney**, violin
Daniel Avshalomov, viola
Wolfram Koessel, cello

PROGRAM

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| FRANZ SCHUBERT
(1797–1828) | <i>Quartettsatz</i> , D. 703 |
| NILES LUTHER (BM '19)
(b. 1996) | A String Quartet (World premiere) |
| JOHANNES BRAHMS
(1833–1897) | String Quartet in A Minor, Op. 51, no. 2
<i>Allegro non troppo</i>
<i>Andante moderato</i>
<i>Quasi Minuetto, moderato</i>
<i>Finale. Allegro non assai</i> |

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Niles Luther, Composer

Niles Luther is a New York based cellist and composer who endeavors to bridge the gap between art forms by borrowing from the classical tradition and lending its sustained excellence to the artistic and musical idioms of the contemporary era. Known for his instinctive musicality, artistic flexibility, and charismatic performance style, Luther means to synthesize his experience within the institution of classical music and his reality as a young Ugandan-American man in an effort to diversify the sonic and artistic landscapes of the 21st century.

As a classically trained instrumentalist, Luther has studied the violoncello with professors Ole Akahoshi at the Yale School of Music and Wolfram Koessel, cellist of the American String Quartet, at Manhattan School of Music. Because of his dedication to chamber music, Luther was awarded the cello he currently plays in a long-term loan from violinist Laurie Carney of the American String Quartet. He won prizes in both the Lillian Fuchs Chamber Music Competition and the Ruth Widder String Quartet Competition at Manhattan School of Music in 2016, 2017, and 2018. Luther was one of three American cellists selected to participate in an international cello festival hosted by the Shanghai Conservatory of Music in celebration of their 90th anniversary. The festival consisted of solo performances, master classes, and cello ensemble work led by renowned cellist Jian Wang in November 2017. Luther has served artist residencies at the Greenfield Hill Congregational Church in Fairfield, Connecticut and Christ Church in Summit, New Jersey, where he regularly performed classical solo and chamber works. The latter residency was offered by church composer Mark A. Miller for the 2016–2018 seasons. Luther collaborated weekly with Miller, performing his latest compositions for cello and helping to contract small chamber orchestras for Miller’s larger commissions.

In addition to his classically oriented performance work, as the principal cellist for the Rootstock Republic contracting agency from 2016 to 2017, Luther appeared with OneRepublic on *Good Morning America*; performed on *Late Night with Seth Meyers* and *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*; and worked with artists such as Solange Knowles, Bastille, Common, De La Soul, Estelle, BJ the Chicago Kid, Seal, The Roots, Mac Miller, and Bilal. Most of these performances were on the subjects of racial equality and social justice.

Luther was the principal cellist on the score for the Oscar-nominated movie *Mudbound*, directed by Dee Rees with music by Tamar-kali, as well as cellist for the limited-run Broadway show *Rocktopia* in the spring of 2018. He also served as on-site contractor in the summer of 2019 for the recording session of Alexandre Desplat’s film score for *Little Women*, directed by Greta Gerwig.

Upon his graduation with a Bachelor’s degree in classical cello performance from Manhattan School of Music in May 2019, after the successful completion of his first composition—a commissioned score for Kehinde Wiley’s art film *Tabiti*, which debuted at Galerie Templon in Paris—Luther was offered the position of Musical Director for the Kehinde Wiley Studio, where he now serves as resident cellist, composer, contractor, and producer. In addition to numerous performances on behalf of the studio, Luther has collaborated with Wiley on the production and site-specific installation of several art films, each in representation of Wiley’s latest body of work at galleries in New York, London, and Paris. The most recent film, *The Yellow Wallpaper*, debuted in London at the William Morris Gallery with additional support from the Stephen Friedman Gallery in February of 2020. The film’s original score was composed, recorded, and produced by Luther.

Luther was most recently seen in February of 2020 when the Brooklyn Museum asked him to curate, produce, and perform in a concert to kick off Black History Month and the museum’s First Saturdays event series, as well as to represent the Kehinde Wiley Studio in the opening of the new exhibition “Jacques Louis David Meets Kehinde Wiley.” The concert program included baroque and classical French works as well as the U.S. debut of Luther’s original score for Wiley’s film *Tabiti*, Nocturne No. 1 in C Minor *Chant d’espoir*.

Luther believes that ultimate purpose and meaning lie within the divining of truth. For him, it is through the vehicle of art, through the vessel of music, through the violoncello. However, he still finds time to pursue his many and varied interests, which include fashion, design, psychology, philosophy, space travel, renewable energy, bushcraft, and high-altitude winter mountaineering.

American String Quartet

Internationally recognized as one of the world's foremost quartets, the American String Quartet marks its 46th season in 2020–21. Critics and colleagues hold the Quartet in high esteem and many of today's leading artists and composers seek out the Quartet for collaborations. The Quartet is also known for its performances of the complete quartets of Beethoven, Schubert, Schoenberg, Bartók, and Mozart. The Quartet's recordings of the complete Mozart string quartets on a matched set of Stradivarius instruments are widely held to set the standard for this repertoire. To celebrate its 35th anniversary, the Quartet recorded an ambitious CD, *Schubert's Echo*, released by NSS Music. The program invites the listener to appreciate the influence of Schubert on two masterworks of early 20th-century Vienna. In addition to quartets by European masters, the American naturally performs quartets by American composers. Their newest release, *American Romantics* (Apple Music, 2018), is a recording of Robert Sirota's *American Pilgrimage*, Dvořák's "American" quartet, and Barber's *Adagio for Strings*. The American also champions contemporary music. The Quartet has commissioned and premiered works by distinguished American composers Claus Adam, Richard Danielpour, Kenneth Fuchs, Tobias Picker, Robert Sirota, and George Tsontakis. The Quartet has recorded on the Albany, CRI, MusicMasters, Musical Heritage Society, Nonesuch, RCA, and Apple Music labels. The Quartet's discography includes works by Adam, Corigliano, Danielpour, Dvořák, Fuchs, Prokofiev, Schoenberg, Sirota, and Tsontakis. The Quartet's innovative programming and creative approach to education has resulted in notable residencies throughout the country. The Quartet continues as artists in residence at Manhattan School of Music (1984–present) and the Aspen Music Festival (1974–present). The ASQ also teaches in Beijing, China, and travels widely abroad. Formed in 1974 when its original members were students at the Juilliard School, the American String Quartet was launched by winning both the Coleman Competition and the Naumburg Chamber Music Award in the same year.

Peter Winograd, violin

Peter Winograd joined the American String Quartet, Artists in Residence at Manhattan School of Music, in 1990. He gave his first solo public performance at the age of 11, and at age 17 he was accepted as a scholarship student of Dorothy DeLay at the Juilliard School. Recognized early as an exceptionally promising young artist, Winograd was a top prizewinner in the 1988 Naumburg International Violin Competition. He then made his New York debut to critical acclaim and has since appeared as a guest soloist with numerous orchestras and in recital across the country and abroad, including annual collaborative performances with cellist Andrés Díaz at the Florida Arts Chamber Music Festival. In 2002 Winograd performed the Sibelius Violin Concerto with the Hartford Symphony; his father, Arthur Winograd, was the featured guest conductor. Peter Winograd has been a member of the violin and chamber music faculties of the Manhattan School of Music and the Aspen Music School (where the American is Quartet in Residence) since 1990. Born into a gifted musical family, Winograd began his studies with his parents. His mother was a professional pianist, and his father was the founding cellist of the Juilliard Quartet and a conductor of the Hartford Symphony in Hartford, Connecticut, where Winograd grew up. He holds Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees from Juilliard. His wife, violinist Caterina Szepes, is a regular participant in the Marlboro Festival and a member of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. His violin is by Giovanni Maria del Bussetto (Cremona, 1675).

Laurie Carney, violin

A founding member of the American String Quartet, Laurie Carney comes from a prodigious musical family. Her father was a trumpeter and educator, her mother a pianist, and her siblings all violinists. She began her studies at home and at the age of 8 became the youngest violinist to be admitted to the Preparatory Division of the Juilliard School. At 15 she was the youngest to be accepted into Juilliard's College Division. Ms. Carney studied with Dorothy DeLay and received both Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees from Juilliard. She has shared the stage with many of the world's leading artists, including Isaac Stern, Yefim Bronfman, Pinchas Zukerman, and Frederica von Stade, and been featured in Mozart's *Sinfonia Concertante* with the Bournemouth Symphony and the Basque (Spain) Symphony Orchestra. Ms. Carney frequently performed duo recitals with Guarneri Quartet violist Michael Tree. She was featured in the New York premiere of Giampaolo Bracali's *Fantasia*. Robert Sirota wrote his Sonata No. 2, *Farewell*, for Ms. Carney in 2013. She recorded it in 2014 along with an earlier work, *Summertime*, with pianist David Friend on a CD of Sirota's music entitled *Parting the Veil: Works for Violin and Piano* (Albany Records).

Since receiving the Walter W. Naumburg Award in 1974 with the American String Quartet, Ms. Carney has performed across North America, South America, Europe, Asia, and Israel, including special projects with the Philadelphia Orchestra, Montreal Symphony, New York City Ballet, and Mark Morris Dance Group. The quartet has an extensive discography, ranging from the complete Mozart quartets to the many contemporary works written for them.

A member of the faculty of Manhattan School of Music since 1984 and of Aspen Music Festival since 1974, she has held teaching positions at the Mannes College of Music, Peabody Conservatory, the University of Nebraska, and the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University. Her frequent master classes have taken her to California, Colorado, Indiana, Michigan, and New Mexico. Ms. Carney performs the duo repertory with her husband, cellist William Grubb. Her nonprofessional interests include animal rights and environmental concerns. Her violin is by Carlo Tononi (Venice, 1720).

Daniel Avshalomov, viola

Daniel Avshalomov is the violist of the American String Quartet, which enjoys its fourth decade of international acclaim. Recently hailed by *Strad* magazine as “one of the finest occupants of that chair, both instrumentally and musically, of any quartet now active,” Mr. Avshalomov finds time each season for concerto appearances, recitals, and collaborative concerts, and returns as a featured performer to festivals across the country.

Before joining the Quartet, Mr. Avshalomov served as principal violist for the Aspen, Tanglewood, and Spoleto festival orchestras, as well as for the Brooklyn Philharmonic, Opera Orchestra of New York, American Composers Orchestra, and as solo violist with the Bolshoi Ballet. He was a founding member of the Orpheus Chamber Ensemble.

His articles appear in *Notes* and *Strings*; he has edited several viola works for publication and contributed to the American String Teachers Association’s *Playing and Teaching the Viola: A Comprehensive Guide*. The subject of two articles in *Strad* and one in *Classical Pulse*, Mr. Avshalomov developed “Inside Passages,” a lecture-demonstration first presented to the New York Viola Society in 2000; gave the world premiere of Giampaolo Bracali’s *Concerto per Viola* and the American premiere of Alessandro Rolla’s *Esercizio 3*; and recorded the CD *Three Generations Avshalomov* with pianists Robert McDonald and Pamela Pyle, which was featured on NPR’s All Things Considered. He has been a member of the Manhattan School of Music faculty since 1984 and of the Aspen School faculty since 1976. His instrument is by Andrea Amati, from 1568.

Wolfram Koessel, cello

Since his Carnegie Hall debut in 1994, cellist Wolfram Koessel has performed as a chamber musician, recitalist, and soloist throughout the world. The *Strad* magazine praised his “exceptionally attractive cello playing.” As a soloist he has performed concertos throughout the United States as well as with Japan’s Osaka Symphony Orchestra and orchestras in Germany and South America. Cellist of the American String Quartet, Artists in Residence at Manhattan School of Music, he also has appeared often with the New York Metamorphoses Orchestra, which he cofounded in 1994. His collaborations include performances with the legendary tabla virtuoso Zakir Hussain, dancer Mikhail Baryshnikov, and cellist Yo Yo Ma, among many others. Koessel also appears with a wide range of ensembles, including the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and Trio+ (a group he formed with violinist Yosuke Kawasaki and pianist Vadim Serebryani), which performs creative and collaborative concerts throughout Japan, the United States, and Canada. Koessel served as music director of the Mark Morris Dance Group from 2004 to 2008 and has toured extensively with the company both nationally and internationally, performing in several performances. In 2018 he travelled with them to Israel performing Bach’s Third Cello Suite in several performances. He resides with his wife, pianist and writer J. Mae Barizo, and his daughter in Manhattan.

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

 MSM.NYC  MSMNYC  MSMNYC