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Concert: Black History Month: The Catalyst Quartet

Bryan Hernandez-Luch

Kayla Donehew Perez

Christopher Jenkins

Karlos Rodriguez

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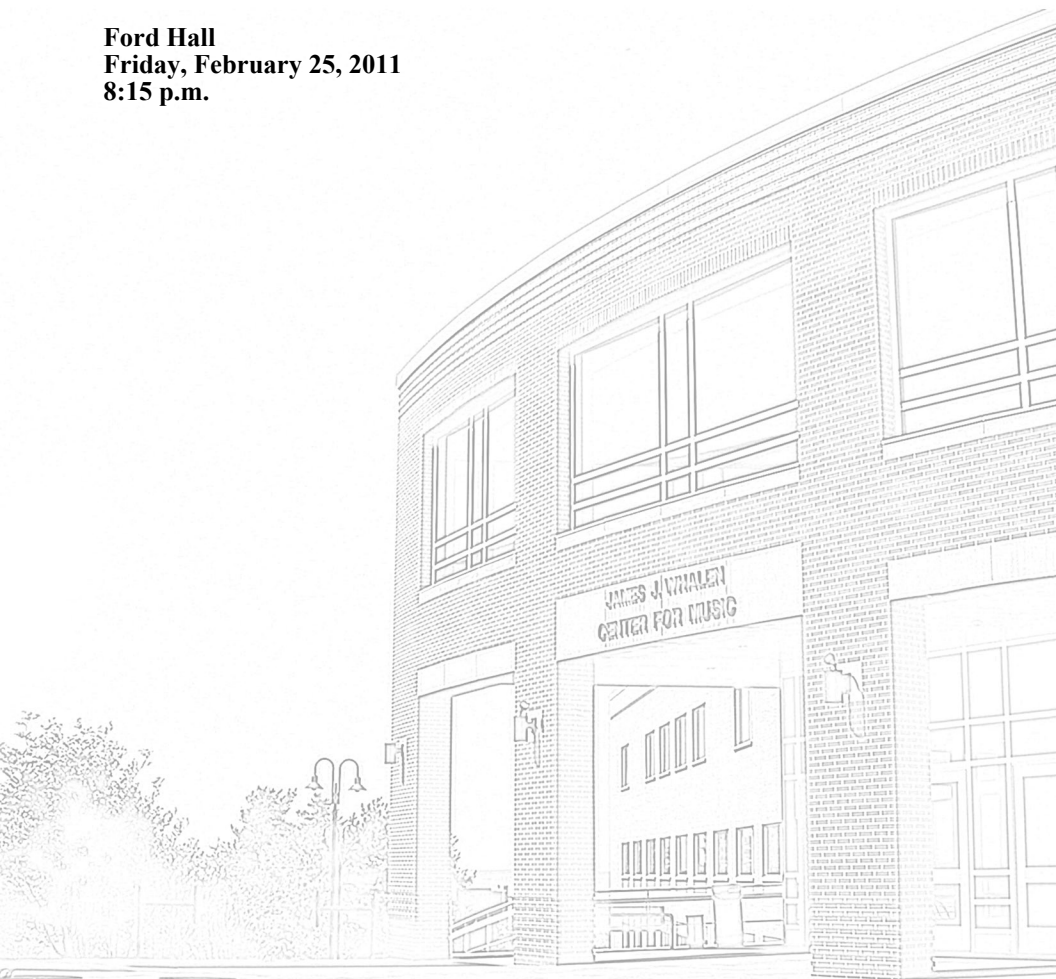
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Black History Month Concert: The Catalyst Quartet

Bryan Hernandez-Luch, violin
Karla Donehew Perez, violin
Christopher Jenkins, viola
Karlos Rodriguez, violoncello

Ford Hall
Friday, February 25, 2011
8:15 p.m.



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Program

Sunrise of the Planetary Dream Collector

Terry Riley
(b. 1935)

Quartet no. 3 "Mishima"

- I. 1957- Award Montage*
- II. November 25th - Ichigaya*
- III. 1934 - Grandmother & Kimitake*
- IV. 1962 - Bodybuilding*
- V. Blood Oath*
- VI. Mishima/Closing*

Phillip Glass
(b. 1937)

Langsamer Satz

Anton Webern
(1883-1945)

Quartet No. 2

- I. Allegro rustico*

Alberto Ginastera
(1916-1983)

String Quartet no. 1, "Mu Kkubo Ery'
Omusalaaba"

- I. Ekitundu Ekisooka*

Justinian Tamasuza
(b. 1951)

Biographies

The Catalyst Quartet

Hailed by the New York Times at their Carnegie Hall debut as “invariably energetic and finely burnished...playing with earthy vigor,” the Catalyst Quartet is comprised of top Laureates and alumni of the internationally acclaimed Sphinx Competition for young Black and Latino string players. The mission of the ensemble is to advance diversity in classical music and inspire new and young audiences with dynamic performances of cutting-edge repertoire by a wide range of composers. Founded by the Sphinx Organization, the Catalyst Quartet combines a serious commitment to diversity and education with a passion for accessible contemporary works.

The quartet has held residencies both domestically and abroad, and serves as principal faculty at the Sphinx Performance Academy at Oberlin College and Roosevelt University in Chicago. The Catalyst Quartet members are also visiting teaching artists at the Sphinx Preparatory Music Institute, hosted by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

Having been featured in The Strad and Strings magazines, as well as on Detroit Public Radio, with recordings to be released later this year on the White Pine label, The Catalyst Quartet maintains an active performing schedule and will be leading the Sphinx Virtuosi on their national tour in the fall of 2011, which includes a return to Carnegie Hall on October 12.

Inspired by music’s ability to transform, the Catalyst Quartet seeks to change the way that classical music is perceived through diverse programming for a wide range of audiences.

Bryan Hernandez-Luch

As a native of Utah, and of Peruvian descent, Bryan Hernandez-Luch began his violin studies at the age of six. At the age of fifteen he made his solo debut with the Utah Symphony Orchestra. Hailed by the press for his compelling performance at the 2003 Sphinx Competition, Bryan Hernandez-Luch won first place in the senior division while performing with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. As a Sphinx Laureate, Bryan has appeared with the Cleveland, Atlanta, New Jersey, Utah, Chautauqua, New World, Colorado, Nashville, Grand Rapids, Prince George Philharmonic and Battle Creek symphony orchestras as well as Canada's National Arts Center Orchestra. As a soloist he has worked with such conductors as Franz Welser-Möst, Robert Spano, Keith Lockhart, David Cho, Arthur Fagan and Thomas Wilkins. Also an avid chamber musician, Bryan was the first violinist and founding member of the Sphinx Quartet. The quartet held residence at the inaugural Sphinx Performance Academy at the Walnut Hill School. Their performances have been featured in New York City’s Carnegie Hall, Chicago, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Detroit and Bermuda. In 2005, the Sphinx Quartet performed with the legendary Guarneri String Quartet in a concert honoring their lifetime achievements. Bryan has studied at the Manhattan School of Music, University of Utah and Brigham Young University. Bryan's principal teachers include Igor Gruppman, Hasse Borup, Isaac Malkin and Nell Gotkovsky. He has worked with Itzhak Perlman, Joseph Silverstein and William Preucil.

Karla Donehew Perez

Karla Donehew Perez, a native of San Juan, Puerto Rico, began playing the violin at age three. She entered the children’s string program at the Conservatory of Puerto Rico at age seven. There she studied with Henry Hutchinson, concertmaster of the Puerto Rico Symphony Orchestra. At age nine she won the Young Artist Competition of the Puerto Rico Symphony, with whom she performed as a soloist. She continued her studies with Zaven Melikian, former concertmaster of the San Francisco Opera Orchestra. From 1997-2002 Karla studied with Anne Crowden, Director and founder of The Crowden School.

Karla completed her Bachelors and Masters degree at the Cleveland Institute of Music, studying performance with the heralded violin teacher Paul Kantor, David Cerone and William Preucil. As a student at CIM, Karla has participated in numerous Master Classes with distinguished artists, and served as the CIM Orchestra’s concertmaster. As a member of the WO-MEN String Quartet, she was awarded 1st place in the senior division of the Ohio String Teachers Association Competition, and Honorable Mention in the Plowman Chamber Music Competition. The quartet was also chosen to represent CIM for the Conservatory Project at the Kennedy Center for the Arts, and was selected

to play a recital for the Cleveland Chamber Music Society. In her junior year, Karla was a recipient of the prestigious Dr. Jerome Gross Award in violin. Karla was also awarded second place in the Sphinx Competition. Recently, Karla was featured on the Young Artist Series for the Festival del Sole, in Napa Valley, California and was guest concertmaster of the Tucson Symphony Orchestra. Currently, she is entering her second year as a fellow of the New World Symphony. Karla Donehew Perez performs on a fine violin by Charles and Samuel Thompson, London 1774, on generous loan from Patricia Press Nissen in memory of Alvera and Dudley Warner-Press, and a fine violin bow by Victor Fétique on generous loan, through the Rachel Elizabeth Barton Foundation.

Christopher Jenkins

Christopher Jenkins, violist, is a sought-after performer in the classical and rock worlds in New York City. Having performed in the viola sections of the New York Philharmonic, the St. Louis Symphony, the Virginia Symphony, and American Ballet Theatre, he has soloed in London and Manchester with jazz great George Russell's Living Time Orchestra, and was the violist of Invert, an alternative-rock string quartet, and the Haven String Quartet. Other artists with whom Chris has performed and recorded include Diana Ross, singer/songwriter Sufjan Stevens, and Robert Pollard of Guided by Voices. He has performed abroad extensively, including a tour of Pakistan with Cultures in Harmony and work in China as a chamber music coach and fellow of the Perlman Music Program. Semifinalist in the 2003 and 2004 Sphinx Competitions and Third-Place Laureate of the 2005 Competition, Chris has served as violist for the Sphinx Quartet, and performed at the Quartet's Carnegie debuts in both Stern and Weill halls in 2005. He has also played on Broadway in *Les Misérables*, *Spamalot*, *Phantom of the Opera*, and the Radio City Music Hall Christmas Show. He is currently associate principal viola of the Miami Symphony and assistant principal viola of the Reading Symphony. Classical performers with whom Mr. Jenkins has collaborated include Itzhak Perlman, the Guarneri Quartet, Ron Leonard, Mikhail Kopelman of the Borodin Quartet, Sanford Allen, Jesse Levine, and David Geber of the American String Quartet. In the spring of 2004, Mr. Jenkins graduated from the Manhattan School of Music, where he earned a Professional Certificate studying with Michael Tree and Karen Dreyfus. He earned his M.M. at New England Conservatory, where he studied with Martha Katz, and his B.A. at Harvard University, where he concentrated in music and psychology and studied with Michelle LaCourse of Boston University. He has served as Dean of the Sphinx Performance Academy since 2007, and was awarded the Sanford Allen Award in 2010 by the Sphinx Organization in recognition of his professional achievements as Dean. In the spring of 2011 Mr. Jenkins will graduate with a master's degree in international relations from Columbia University.

Karlos Rodriguez

Cellist Karlos Rodriguez made his orchestral debut at the age of thirteen to great audience and critical acclaim. Karlos has since been an avid recitalist and chamber musician appearing at many of our important musical venues including Carnegie Hall (Isaac Stern Auditorium), Merkin concert hall, Avery Fisher Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Philadelphia's Kimmel center, and Radio City Music Hall. Mr. Rodriguez has also had the honor of working with distinguished artists such as the Beaux Arts Trio, American, Cavani, Cleveland, Emerson, Guarneri, Juilliard, Miami, Orion, Tokyo, and Vermeer String Quartets; Janos Starker, Lynn Harrell, and Steven Isserlis. His teachers have included Richard Aaron, Peter Wiley, and David Soyfer. A love of modern dance paired with live music has led to his collaboration with the Thomas/Ortiz Dance Company, Freefall, Mark Morris Dance Group, and Chita Rivera. Karlos has attended and been a guest artist at the ENCORE School for Strings, Sarasota, Aspen, and Kneisel Hall chamber music festivals, Cleveland Chamber Music Society, and the Philadelphia Orchestra Chamber Music Society. As a teacher he is on the faculty at Summer Trios, the Sphinx Performance Academy, and coaches chamber music at the Schneider Series-New York String Seminar. He is also the co-founder and music director of the Amagansett Chamber Music Festival. Mr. Rodriguez has worked on various Broadway musicals and Pop albums, most recently with Shakira and Marc Anthony. In addition to his other musical activities he is also the Principal Cellist of the Florida Grand Opera Orchestra in Miami.