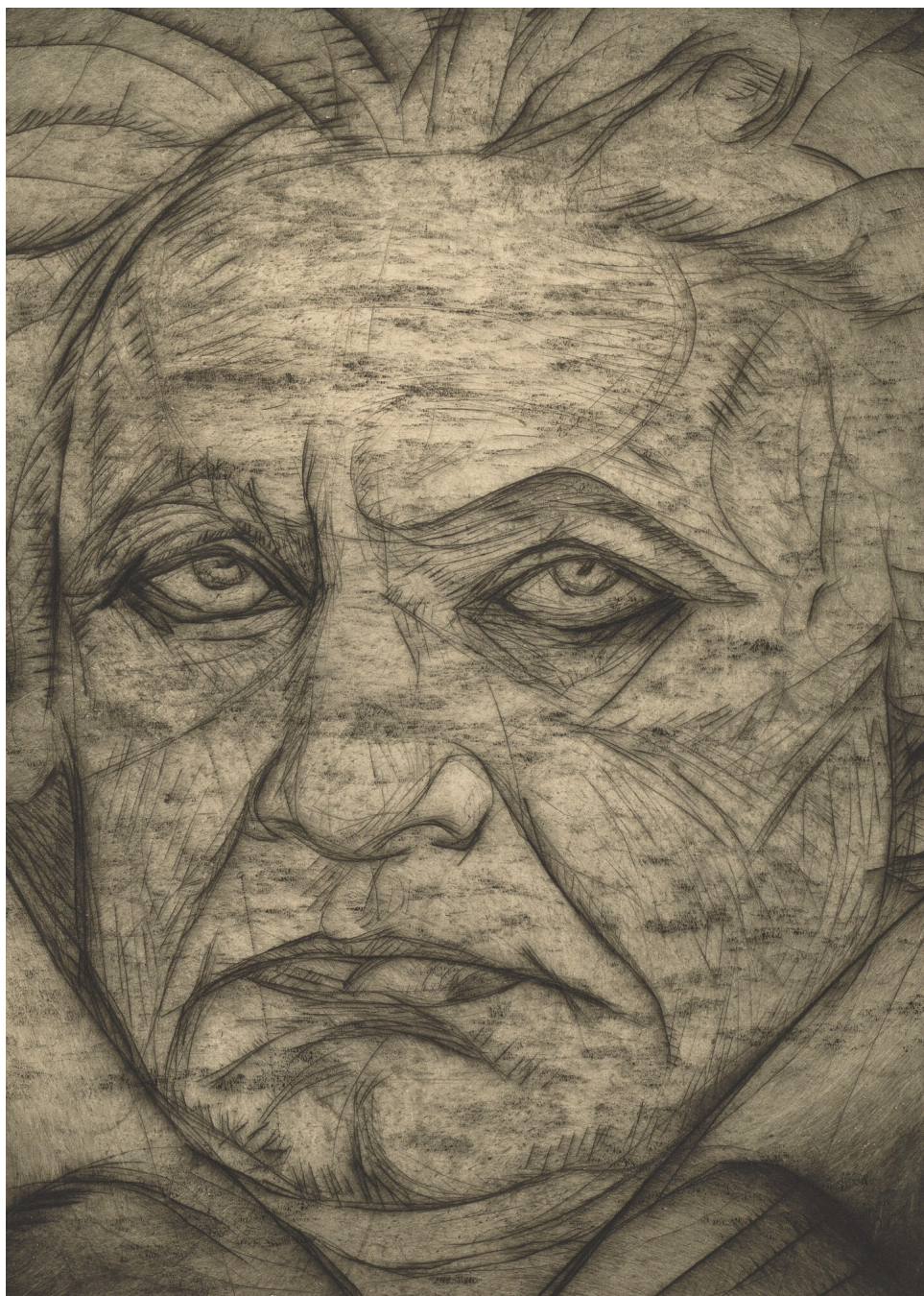


NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

CONCERT

SEPTEMBER 10, 2020 | A VIRTUAL CONCERT EXPERIENCE



PROGRAM

Ariel Quartet

Gershon Gerchikov, violin

Alexandra Kazovsky, violin

Jan Grüning, viola

Amit Even-Tov, cello

September 10, 2020 | 5:00 p.m.

A Virtual Concert Experience

Standing on the Shoulders of Giants

Franz Joseph Haydn (1732–1809)

String Quartet in B-flat major, op. 76, no. 4, Sunrise (1797)

Allegro con spirito

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791)

String Quartet in G major, K. 387 (1782)

Andante cantabile

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827)

String Quartet in C major, op. 59, no. 3, Razumovsky (1808)

Menuetto

Allegro molto

This concert is generously supported by The Gottesman Fund in memory of Milton M. Gottesman.

This performance was recorded at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music for the National Gallery of Art in August 2020.

THE MUSICIANS

Ariel Quartet

Distinguished by its virtuosity, probing musical insight, and impassioned, fiery performances, the Ariel Quartet has garnered critical praise worldwide. *The Washington Post* added to this acclaim by noting the Quartet's "blazing, larger-than-life performance." Formed when the members were just teenagers studying at the Jerusalem Academy Middle School of Music and Dance in Israel, the Ariel is celebrating its twentieth anniversary season in 2020–2021. The ensemble was named a recipient of the prestigious Cleveland Quartet Award, granted by Chamber Music America in recognition of artistic achievement and career support. The musicians also serve as the Faculty Quartet-in-Residence at the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music, where they direct the chamber-music program and present a concert series in addition to maintaining a busy touring schedule in the United States and abroad.

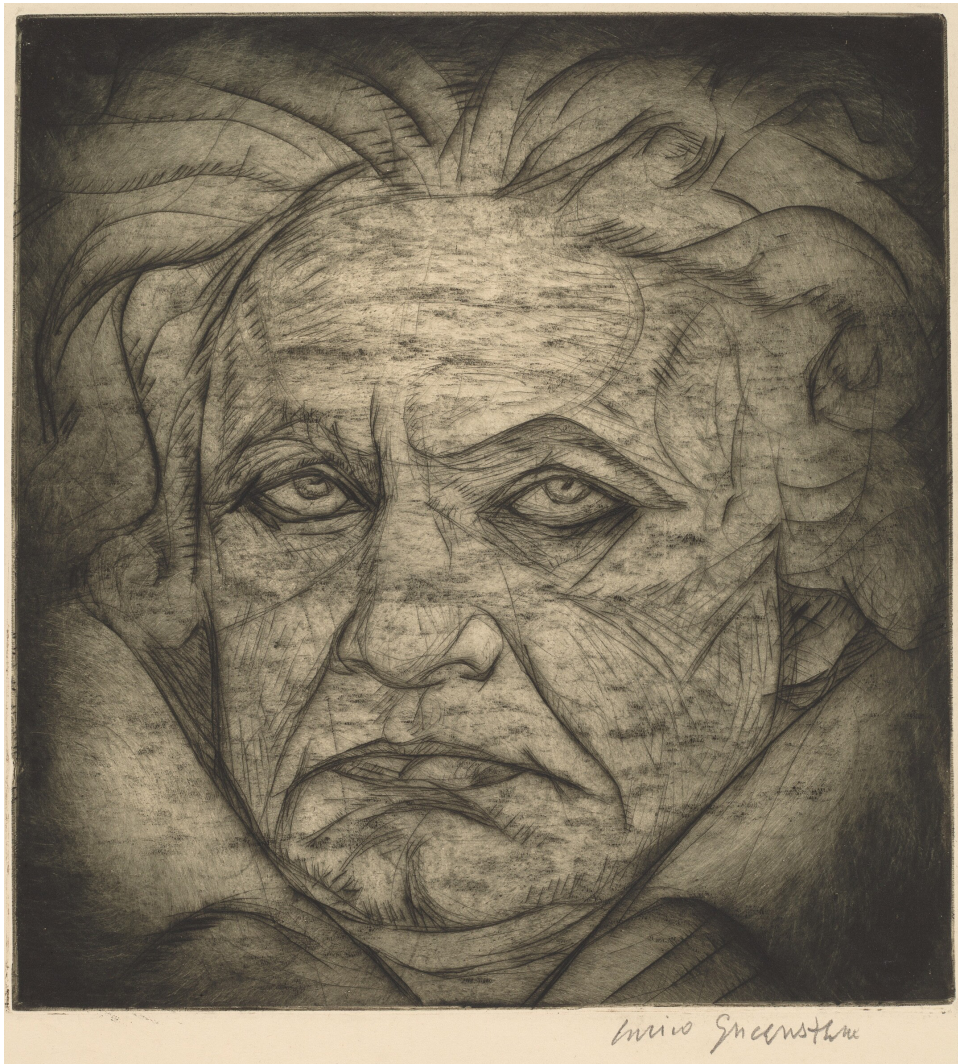
During the 2019–2020 season, the Ariel Quartet performed in New York, San Antonio, and La Jolla, where they continued their multi-season Beethoven cycle. The Quartet spent a week each at the Northwest Bach Festival in Spokane and at the Sitka Music Festival in Alaska. Other recent engagements include concerts for Calgary Pro Musica, at the Mannes School of Music in New York, for Music Toronto, and at the Shriver Hall Concert Series at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. At the Linton Chamber Music Series in Cincinnati the Ariel gave the US premiere of the *Quintet for Piano and Strings* by Daniil Trifonov, with the composer as pianist.

The ensemble has dedicated much of its artistic energy and musical prowess to the groundbreaking Beethoven quartets, and it has performed the complete Beethoven cycle on five occasions in the United States and Europe. The Quartet has written a powerful and comprehensive series of program notes on the sixteen quartets. The Ariel Quartet regularly collaborates with today's eminent and rising young musicians and ensembles, including pianist Orion Weiss, violist Roger Tapping, cellist Paul Katz, and the American, Pacifica, and Jerusalem string quartets. The Quartet has toured with cellist Alisa Weilerstein and has performed frequently with pianists Jeremy Denk and Menahem Pressler. In addition, the Ariel served as Quartet-in-Residence for the Steans Music Institute at the Ravinia Festival, the Yellow Barn Music Festival, and the Perlman Music Program, and it served as the Ernst Stiefel String Quartet-in-Residence at the Caramoor Festival.

PROGRAM NOTE

Standing on the Shoulders of Giants explores the musical lineage of the three classical masters Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven through the lens of the string quartet genre. In dedicating ourselves to this music we feel humbled to be standing on their shoulders while helping to carry their enormous legacy into tomorrow's world. *String Quartet in B-flat major, op. 76, no. 4, Sunrise*, by Franz Joseph Haydn is one of the warmest and all-around positive works written for the genre. It displays plenty of the surprising and humorist qualities we have come to identify with Haydn. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *String Quartet in G major, K. 387*, is the first of his famous set that was dedicated to his dear mentor Papa Haydn, and its slow movement functions as the emotional heart of the piece. To round things off, and in an effort to highlight the positive aspects that the year 2020 still has in store for us, we chose to strike a joyous note worthy of Ludwig van Beethoven's 250th birthday celebrations by presenting the Menuetto and Finale of his *String Quartet in C major, op. 59, no. 3, Razumovsky*. It is perhaps the most exuberant and exciting example of life-affirming music ever composed.

Program note by the Ariel Quartet



Concerts are made possible in part through the generosity of donors to the National Gallery of Art through The Circle.

The department of music produced these program notes. Copyright © 2020 Board of Trustees, National Gallery of Art, Washington

Cover detail and above Henryk Glicenstein, *Beethoven*, drypoint, National Gallery of Art, Washington, Rosenwald Collection, 1951.16.44

[NGA.GOV/MUSIC](https://www.nga.gov/music)