

National Gallery of Art



81st Season of
Concerts

January 21 & 28, 2024

Mark Rothko: Paintings on Paper

**Exhibition on view
through March 31, 2024
East Building, Mezzanine and Upper Level**

Joy, despair, ecstasy, tragedy: these are some of the themes that Mark Rothko sought to express in his art. Renowned for his towering abstract paintings on canvas, Rothko also created nearly 1,000 paintings on paper over the course of his career. He viewed many of these works as finished paintings in their own right.

More than a hundred of Rothko's most compelling paintings on paper are now on view, many for the first time. They range from early figurative subjects and surrealist works to the soft-edged rectangular fields, often realized at monumental scale, for which Rothko is best known. Together, these paintings transform our understanding of one of the preeminent artists of the 20th century.

For more information, visit [nga.gov/exhibitions](https://www.nga.gov/exhibitions).

Cover: Mark Rothko, *Untitled*, 1969, acrylic and ink on wove paper, National Gallery of Art, Gift of The Mark Rothko Foundation, Inc., 1986.43.275. Copyright © 2023 Kate Rothko Prizel and Christopher Rothko

A Note on Mozart and Mark

Mark Rothko's often repeated statement "I became a painter because I wanted to raise painting to the level of poignancy of music and poetry" communicates his approach and the depth of feeling he intended with his art. In *Mark Rothko: From the Inside Out*, Christopher Rothko details his father's obsessive admiration for the music of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 – 1791).

The Austrian-born composer was Rothko's "alpha and omega." He was moved by the stylistic and formal principles of Mozart's compositions, the pinnacle of the concept of "the simple expression of the complex thought." Mozart elevated the formal structures of the Classical era, rendering the mathematical formulas of sonata and rondo into distilled expressions of the human condition. Through simple forms both artists evoke an emotional response, uncluttered and rendered in bright, immediate strokes.

Rothko is said to have described Mozart as "smiling through tears." Conductor and Mozart scholar Jane Glover equated Mozart's life and work to a search for balance between "profundity and buffoonery." Mozart's ability to tease out the dichotomies of the human experience parallels Rothko's search for the simple expression of complex thought. The selections in these concerts offer a glimpse of Mozart's genius and Rothko's listening habits. We hope they add to your appreciation of the painter's work.

Danielle DeSwert Hahn and Corinne Hayes

Program

January 21, 1:00 & 3:00 p.m.

West Building, West Garden Court

Vega Quartet with William Ransom, piano

Emily Daggett Smith, violin

Jessica Shuang Wu, violin

Joseph Skerik, viola

Guang Wang, cello

William Ransom, piano and artistic director

Music of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

String Quartet in B flat major, K. 458, “The Hunt” (1784)

Allegro vivace assai

Menuetto: Moderato-Trio

Adagio

Allegro assai

Piano Quartet in G minor, K. 478 (1785)

Allegro

Andante

Rondo: Allegro

Musicians

Vega String Quartet

The Vega String Quartet, the quartet-in-residence at Emory University, cultivates a new generation of chamber music lovers through dynamic performances and innovative community engagement. They have performed around the world, most recently in Berlin and San Miguel, Mexico, and at Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, Vienna's Musikverein, and New York's Bargemusic. At Emory they have presented the complete cycle of Beethoven quartets and have paired Bach's complete works for solo violin, viola, and cello with Bartók's six quartets. They have also developed a series of "Jazz Meets Classics" and "Beethoven and Bluegrass" programs and have brought performance into the classroom by collaborating with academic professors to create interdisciplinary parallels and conversations. In addition to performing with acclaimed musicians, including Yo-Yo Ma, Eliot Fisk, William Preucil, and Richard Stoltzman, the Vega String Quartet commissions, premieres, and records works by leading composers.

William Ransom

Pianist, artistic director, master teacher, editor, and judge for international competitions, William Ransom appears around the world as orchestral soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician. He regularly collaborates with members of the Emerson, Tokyo, Cleveland, Juilliard, American, St. Petersburg, Borromeo, Parker, Ariel, Lark, and Dover string quartets. The Mary Emerson Professor of Music at Emory University, Ransom is the founder and artistic director of the Emory Chamber Music Society of Atlanta. He serves as artistic director of the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival, and for a decade he was an artist-faculty member at the Kamisaibara Pianists Camp in Japan. In 2016 he was named artistic director of the Juneau Jazz and Classics Festival and also one of Musical America Worldwide's "30 Musical Innovators." Ransom was recently appointed artistic director of the Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival.

Program

January 28, 1:00 & 3:00 p.m.

West Building, West Garden Court

Members of the Maryland Opera Studio

Corinne Hayes, interim director of opera

Steven Bailey, principal coach

Guzal Isametdinova and Rhys Burgess, pianists

Music of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Selections from *Così fan tutte*, K. 588 (1790)

Lorenzo Da Ponte, librettist (1749 – 1838)

Opening Trio

Ferrando	Jonas Rimkunas
Guglielmo	Anthony Anderson
Don Alfonso	Louis Cleare
Pianist	Rhys Burgess

“Soave sia il vento”

Fiordiligi	Nuria Shin
Dorabella	Olivia O’Brien
Don Alfonso	Noah Mond
Pianist	Guzal Isametdinova

“Alla bella Despinetta vi present, amici miei”

Fiordiligi	Claire Iverson
Dorabella	Nicole Plummer
Despina	Valérie Filloux
Ferrando	Chris Alfonso
Guglielmo	Anthony Anderson
Don Alfonso	Noah Mond
Pianist	Rhys Burgess

Selections from *Die Zauberflöte*, K. 620 (1791)

Emanuel Schikaneder, librettist (1751 – 1812)

“Der Hölle Rache”

Queen of the Night

Catherine Moss

Pianist

Guzal Isametdinova

“O Isis und Osiris”

Sarastro

Louis Cleare

Pianist

Guzal Isametdinova

“Hm! hm! hm!”

1st Lady

Lourdes Rodriguez

2nd Lady

Nuria Shin

3rd Lady

Nicole Plummer

Tamino

Kevin Webb

Papageno

Wallace Brown

Pianist

Guzal Isametdinova

“Pa-pa-pa! Pa-pa-pa!”

Papagena

Catherine Moss

Papageno

Wallace Brown

Pianist

Rhys Burgess

Selections from *Le nozze di Figaro*, K. 492 (1786)

Lorenzo Da Ponte, librettist

“Non so piu cosa son, cosa faccio”

Cherubino Olivia O’Brien

Pianist Rhys Burgess

“Sull’aria... che soave zeffiretto”

Countess Claire Iverson

Susanna Kat Norman

Pianist Guzal Isametdinova

“Deh vieni non tardar”

Susanna Kat Norman

Pianist Rhys Burgess

Le nozze di Figaro finale

Count Anthony Anderson

Countess Claire Iverson

Ensemble Chris Alfonso, Wallace Brown,
Louis Cleare, Valérie Filloux,
Noah Mond, Catherine Moss,
Kat Norman, Olivia O’Brien,
Nicole Plummer, Jonas Rimkunas,
Lourdes Rodriguez, Nuria Shin,
Kevin Webb

Pianist Guzal Isametdinova

The Studio

The acclaimed Maryland Opera Studio is both a degree program and a performance ensemble within the University of Maryland School of Music. A two-year program awarding the master of music in opera performance degree, the Studio provides complete education and training of the opera singer in preparation for a professional operatic career. The program includes work in all areas of vocal and theatrical training, language study, and performance experience. Scene study, voice lessons, and coaching accompany a comprehensive study of movement, dance, stage combat, acting, improvisation, mask, mime, and diction.

Upcoming Concerts

Interested in future music performances at the National Gallery of Art? Visit our calendar page at nga.gov or scan the QR code below to learn more about future concerts, as well as our permanent collection, current exhibitions, and many public programs.



General Information

Admission to the National Gallery of Art and all of its programs is free of charge, except as noted.

The use of cameras or recording equipment during the performance is not allowed. Please be sure that all portable electronic devices are turned off.

Concerts are made possible in part through the generosity of donors to the National Gallery of Art through the Circle. Reserved seating is available in recognition of their support. Please contact the development office at 202.842.6450 or circle@nga.gov for more information.

National Gallery of Art Podcast: Sound Thoughts on Art

Sound Thoughts on Art, a podcast from the National Gallery of Art, explores the intersection of sight and sound. Hosted by musician and journalist Celeste Headlee, each episode focuses on a work of art in the National Gallery's collection and now features performers Jenny Scheinman, Dom Flemons, Sa-Roc, Delfeayo Marsalis, Daniel Ho, Maria Schneider, Peter Sheppard Skaerved, and others. Listen and dig deeper at nga.gov/music-programs/podcasts.