

78TH SEASON OF

MUSIC AT THE GALLERY

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART | JANUARY – MAY 2020



MUSIC WITHOUT BORDERS

In 2019, we acknowledged the 30th anniversary of the fall of one of the world's most emblematic walls, the Berlin Wall. The subject of borders and boundaries, whether actual walls or imagined limits, is very much on the collective mind as we enter a new decade. This winter and spring our concerts touch on this subject in readily accessible and subtle ways. A classically trained violinist who also improvises (Eunice Kim with Xavier Foley on January 5) has broken a genre boundary. A collaboration between two iconic chamber ensembles (Imani Winds and Catalyst Quartet on January 12) addresses the topic of immigration head-on in a program presenting personal stories of the Great Migration. We continue to encourage our Gallery visitors to think outside the box with performances connected to the collection in both our Fourth Friday Sound Sketches and our Sunday concerts that highlight special exhibitions, such as Nordic Voices on February 9, for *Alonso Berruguete: First Sculptor of Renaissance Spain*; Agora Dance and Sound Impact on March 15, for *Degas at the Opéra*; and yMusic on April 19, for *True to Nature: Open-Air Painting in Europe, 1770–1870*. You'll hear ancient music performed by modern musicians, contemporary ensembles playing brand new works, like Philip Glass's first-ever composition for a percussion ensemble (Third Coast Percussion, February 23), and cross-cultural experiences, such as Native American musician Robert Mirabal collaborating with PUBLIQuartet (April 26) and the Brasil Guitar Duo with Korean breakout guitarist Jiji (May 3). We invite you to step inside our walls and let these musical experiences bring you into a new frontier, without boundaries.

*Danielle DeSwert Hahn, Head of Music Programs,
National Gallery of Art*

JANUARY



Eunice Kim, violin

Xavier Foley, bass

5 | Sunday | 3:30

West Building, West Garden Court

Inventive and engaging, award-winning performers Eunice Kim and Xavier Foley perform a sparkling mix of violin and bass solos and duos, exploring many facets of these two stringed instruments. The program includes baroque, Irish, Latin, and contemporary music, with works by Bach, O'Carolan, Piazzolla, and Foley himself.

This concert is part of a series of performances by female violinists, showcasing the brilliance and stylistic versatility of the instrument, from jazz, bluegrass, and baroque, to contemporary classical programs.

**Imani Winds
Catalyst Quartet**

(im)migration

12 | Sunday | 3:30

West Building, West Garden Court

Imani Winds and Catalyst Quartet offer a unique program highlighting *(im)migration* experiences and featuring a new work by Jessie Montgomery, commissioned by Music Accord and the Sphinx Organization. Montgomery's piece was inspired by the Great Migration of African Americans, as captured through the camera lens of her great-grandfather. The concert brings together spirituals and work songs that reflect his travels through Mississippi, the West, the North, and Georgia. Through the special timbral effects of winds and strings, the stories are told through music, and the music continues the storytelling tradition passed through Montgomery's mother—playwright, actor, and teacher, Robbie McCauley.

left Eunice Kim, photo by Ryan Brandenberg. top right Imani Winds, photo by Pierre Lidar. bottom right Catalyst Quartet, photo by Scott Jackson



Concerto Italiano

Venezia Roma Napoli

19 | Sunday | 3:30

West Building, West Garden Court

Founded in 1984, by conductor Rinaldo Alessandrini, Concerto Italiano is internationally known for its historically informed recordings of early music. In this concert, the ensemble takes the audience on a Grand Tour of Italy, from Venice to Rome to Naples, with works by Corelli, Vivaldi, Handel, Scarlatti, and others who were composing throughout baroque Italy.

Sound Sketch

Singers from Washington

National Opera's Domingo-Cafritz

Young Artist Program

A Sense of Place: Art and Music Inspired by Landscape

24 | Friday | 12:10

The location will be posted

the day of the concert.

Singers perform opera arias and songs inspired by landscapes their composers loved. Robert Ainsley, program director, plays piano and discusses the many landscape paintings in the Gallery's collection.

Minguet Quartett

With Andreas Klein, pianist

Bach, Beethoven, and Beyond

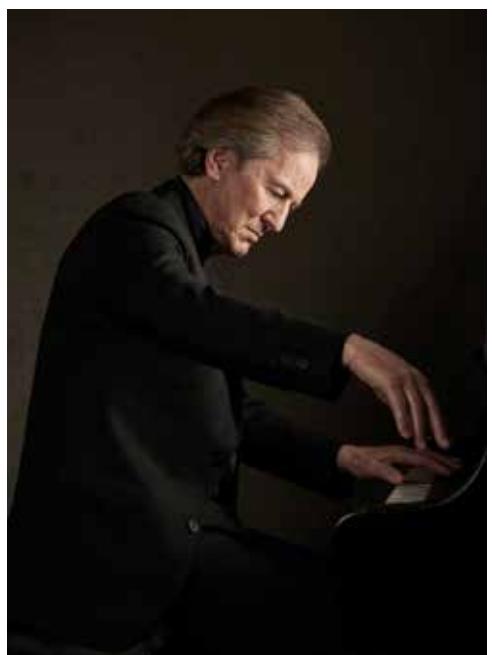
26 | Sunday | 3:30

West Building, West Garden Court

The award-winning Minguet Quartett and the highly sought-after pianist Andreas Klein perform works by J.S. Bach, Beethoven, Prokofiev, and Israeli composer Avner Dorman.

top Minguet Quartett, photo image © Frank Rossbach.

bottom left Andreas Klein, photo by Gemmy Woud-Binnendijk. bottom right Concerto Italiano, photo by Javier Sierra





FEBRUARY



Diane Monroe, violin

With PUBLIQuartet

Violin Woman, African Dreams

2 | Sunday | 3:30

West Building, West Garden Court

Diane Monroe's *Violin Woman, African Dreams* is inspired by the environment and by objects in The Colored Girls Museum (TCGM), a unique house museum located in a Germantown neighborhood of Philadelphia. The work is a musical narrative reflecting on Monroe's journey as a professional violinist, a black woman, a classical-jazz-blues woman, and a Philadelphian. The performance features the New York-based PUBLIQuartet, Yacouba Sissoko on West-African kora, and percussion.

This concert is part of a series of performances by female violinists, showcasing the brilliance and stylistic versatility of the instrument from jazz, bluegrass, and baroque, to contemporary classical programs.

top left Nordic Voices, photo by Fredrik Arff; bottom left Diane Monroe, photo by Peter Checcia. top right PUBLIQuartet, photo by Lelaine Foster



Nordic Voices

Music from the Time of Charles V

9 | Sunday | 3:30

West Building, West Garden Court

“I speak Spanish to God, Italian to women, French to men, and German to my horse,” is a quote from Charles V, who ruled the Spanish Empire (1516–1556), the Holy Roman Empire (1519–1558), and the Habsburg Netherlands (1506–1556). He was undoubtedly the most powerful man in 16th-century Europe, from his teens until his death in 1558.

The music Nordic Voices has chosen for this program comes from Charles’s era, with the exception of the first piece in each set, which is a Norwegian Gregorian chant from the *Olavsmusikken* (ca. 1100).

Celebrating *Alonso Berruguete: First Sculptor of Renaissance Spain*, on view through February 17, 2020.





Eighth Blackbird

Ice ‘n’ SPICE

16 | Sunday | 3:30

West Building, West Garden Court

Over the course of more than two decades, Eighth Blackbird has continued to push at the edges of what it means to be a contemporary chamber ensemble, presenting distinct programs in Chicago and throughout the world, reaching audiences in the tens of thousands. *The Chicago Tribune* has hailed the group as “one of the smartest, most dynamic contemporary classical ensembles on the planet.” This program features works by Nina Shekhar, composer of *Ice ‘n’ SPICE*, Fjola Evans, Andy Akiho, Holly Harrison, Jessie Marino, Viet Cuong, Bailey Holland, and Julius Eastman.

Third Coast Percussion

23 | Sunday | 3:30

West Building, West Garden Court

Third Coast Percussion (TCP) brings an immersive concert experience of exciting new works for percussion to the National Gallery of Art’s West Garden Court. Although Devonté Hynes (aka Blood Orange) is best known as a performer and producer in the R&B and pop-music spheres, he also composed *Perfectly Voiceless*, as well as two other classical and minimalist-inspired compositions for the ensemble, which are featured on TCP’s latest album, *Fields*. Indie-pop star Ryan Lott (aka Son Lux) composed *Quarters* for TCP, calling on the performers to surround the audience and constantly stretch and bend the perception of time. Finally, the ensemble performs the Washington, DC, premiere of a new work composed for them by legendary composer Philip Glass—his first-ever work for percussion ensemble.

Sound Sketch

Suspicious Cheeselords

From the Heavens

28 | Friday | 12:10

West Building Rotunda

Singing unseen from above the Gallery’s central Rotunda, the Suspicious Cheeselords perform music illuminating the Gallery’s holdings of images of heavenly beings.

top Eighth Blackbird, photo by Saverio Truglia.

bottom Third Coast Percussion, photo by Saverio Truglia

MARCH



McGill-McHale Trio

1 | Sunday | 3:30

West Building, West Garden Court

The McGill-McHale Trio includes leading classical musicians of our day, and the orchestration of clarinet, flute, and piano affords them the opportunity to play rarely heard music. Anthony McGill is the principal clarinetist of the New York Philharmonic, the first African American to hold that position. Demarre McGill—Anthony's brother—is the principal flutist of the Seattle Symphony, and Michael McHale, from Ireland, is one of Europe's finest pianists. The three musicians perform works by Saint-Saëns, Rachmaninov, and a new work by the masterful composer Tyshawn Sorey.



top left McGill-McHale Trio, photo by Matthew Septimus.

bottom left Jennifer Johnson Cano, photo by Fay Fox Green. top right Agora Dance, photo by Sasha Fornari



Jennifer Johnson Cano, mezzo-soprano

A New Country

8 | Sunday | 3:30

West Building, West Garden Court

A naturally gifted singer noted for her commanding stage presence and profound artistry, Jennifer Johnson Cano has garnered critical acclaim for her performances of both new and traditional repertoire. Together with a chamber ensemble consisting of piano, strings, and flute, she performs a program featuring American works, including Paul Moravec's new vocal chamber piece, *A New Country*, commissioned by the Bridgehampton Chamber Music Festival to celebrate its 35th anniversary theme, "Destination America." This five-movement piece showcases texts by Emma Lazarus, Walt Whitman, and Anna Vacek.

Agora Dance

With Sound Impact

Backstage at the Opera

15 | Sunday | 3:30

West Building, West Garden Court

Degas spent his life immersed in music, but always as an onlooker. His relationship to the opera, including the dancers, the orchestra, the patrons, and even the actual spaces—stage, backstage, orchestra pit, and boxes—greatly influenced him as an artist. This production uses a contemporary approach to tell the story of those evenings when Degas attended the opera, and how they impacted the artist and the Parisian community in the 1870s and 1880s.

Celebrating *Degas at the Opéra*, on view March 1 through July 5, 2020.

Curtis on Tour

22 | Sunday | 3:30

West Building, West Garden Court

The Curtis Institute of Music, “one of the world’s finest music academies” (BBC), produces top prizewinners of international competitions, soloists with major ensembles, and today’s most promising artists. Hear the future stars of classical music in this inspiring and diverse program of chamber music, including Beethoven’s Quartet no. 4 in C Minor, op. 18, César Franck’s Quintet in F Minor, and a new string quartet by David Hertzberg. Curtis on Tour is The Nina von Maltzahn Global Touring Initiative of the Curtis Institute of Music.

Sound Sketch

Elliot Wuu

Travel Log: Visual and Aural Imaginings of Distant Places

27 | Friday | 12:10

The location will be posted the day of the concert.

Award-winning young pianist Elliot Wuu performs a program of Bach, Beethoven, and Schubert. The selections reflect musings of life abroad, while also relating to travel works in the Gallery’s collection.

Miyabi Koto Shamisen Ensemble

29 | Sunday | 3:30

West Building, West Garden Court

Miyabi Koto Shamisen Ensemble is a New York-based group founded and headed by Masayo Ishigure. The musicians come from the Sawai Koto Academy, one of the most prominent schools for contemporary koto and shamisen music. The academy aims to incorporate many musical influences, from classical to jazz, and in so doing,



broaden the perception of the koto as an instrument with universal expressiveness. Since its founding in 1996, Miyabi’s repertoire has ranged from classical to contemporary koto and shamisen music, and the ensemble especially dedicates itself to playing Tadao Sawai’s compositions. Miyabi has performed in the New York metropolitan area, the Eastern United States, Hawaii, and South America. In addition, the group has been introducing Japanese culture through workshops and school performances.

top Sound Impact, photo by Elman Studio. bottom Vera Quartet and Meng-Chieh Li, photo by Charles Grove





APRIL



Bomsori Kim, violin

Amy Yang, piano

5 | Sunday | 3:30

West Building, West Garden Court

Bomsori Kim is regarded as one of today's most vibrant and exciting instrumentalists. Winner of the 62nd ARD International Music Competition, Kim's exceptional talent and her poised musicianship have been recognized by many of the world's finest orchestras and conductors. A rising star on the international concert stage, Kim is committed to sharing passionate, personal, and refreshing performances of classical violin repertoire with a global audience.

This concert is part of a series of performances by female violinists, showcasing the brilliance and stylistic versatility of the instrument from jazz, bluegrass, and baroque to contemporary classical programs.

Junction Trio

12 | Sunday | 3:30

West Building, West Garden Court

These renowned visionary artists combine talents in this new and eclectic piano trio. Violinist Stefan Jackiw, recognized for musicianship that combines poetry and purity with an impeccable technique, performs with pianist Conrad Tao and cellist Jay Campbell. Tao, who appears worldwide as a pianist and composer, has been dubbed a musician of "probing intellect and open-hearted vision" (*New York Times*). Approaching both old and new works with the same curiosity and emotional commitment, Campbell has also been commended by the *New York Times* as "electrifying."

left: Bomsori Kim, photo by Harold Hoffmann.
top: Junction Trio, photo by Shervin Lainez

yMusic

Liquid Music @NGA

19 | Sunday | 3:30

West Building, West Garden Court

yMusic, composed of “six contemporary classical polymaths who playfully overstep the boundaries of musical genres” (*New Yorker*), performs in concert halls, arenas, and clubs around the world. Founded in New York City in 2008, yMusic believes in presenting excellent, emotionally communicative music, regardless of style or idiom. Liquid Music, led by its founder and curator-producer Kate Nordstrum, develops innovative new projects with iconoclastic artists in unique presentation formats. Collaborations are a central focus of the series, along with risk-taking. This concert features a playlist of works by contemporary composers inspired by nature, and the music enhances the 19th-century *plein air* art works on view in the Gallery’s exhibition *True to Nature: Open-Air Painting in Europe, 1770–1870*, on view February 2 through May 3, 2020.



Robert Mirabal

ETHEL

26 | Sunday | 3:30

West Building, West Garden Court

The Gallery celebrates the 50th anniversary of Earth Day with the latest from Robert Mirabal (a Pueblo musician, instrument builder, and three-time Grammy winner) and ETHEL, one of America’s most adventurous string quartets. Continuing a deeply successful six-year collaboration inspired by ceremonies dedicated to the sun, Mirabal and ETHEL present their next evolution of the cross-cultural concert experience. The inspiration this time is water as the embodiment of spirit, and water’s essential role in life on Earth.

The audience is immersed in a flow of music, narrative, and ritual that evokes timeless Native American traditions through contemporary musical artistry. As delivered by these master performers, the effect is breathtaking, even ecstatic.

Sound Sketch

Aspen String Trio

Remembered Voices: Recovering “Degenerate” Music

24 | Friday | 12:10

The location will be posted the day of the concert.

The recent gift of the Arnold and Joan Saltzman collection of German expressionist art to the National Gallery inspires this program of composers whose music was suppressed by the Third Reich.

top yMusic, photo by Allen Amato. bottom ETHEL and Robert Mirabel, photo by Tim Black





Brasil Guitar Duo

With Jiji

Brazil to K-Pop

3 | Sunday | 3:30

West Building, West Garden Court

The Latin Grammy-nominee Brasil Guitar Duo and breakout guitarist Jiji present a program featuring the music of the Americas matched with new arrangements of K-Pop and Korean folk songs. This curious pairing takes the listener on a musical journey in a show of solo, duo, and trio works by three of today's most dynamic guitarists.

Inna Faliks, piano

10 | Sunday | 3:30

West Building, West Garden Court

Hailed by the *New Yorker* as “adventurous and passionate,” Ukrainian-born, American pianist Inna Faliks has established herself as one of the most exciting, committed, and poetic artists of her generation. Faliks has made a name for herself through her commanding performances of standard piano repertoire, as well as genre-bending interdisciplinary projects and inquisitive work with contemporary composers. In this performance, Faliks plays Ravel’s *Gaspard de la nuit*, followed by contemporary response pieces by Paola Prestini, Timo Andres, and Billy Childs.

left Inna Faliks, photo by Lisa-Marie Mazzucco. right Brasil Guitar Duo, photo by Dario Acosta





**Ariel Quartet
With Alexander Fiterstein, clarinet**

**17 | Sunday | 3:30
West Building, West Garden Court**

The Ariel Quartet and Alexander Fiterstein offer Christopher Theofanidis's latest work for chamber ensemble, the Quintet for Clarinet and String Quartet. Formed in Israel, the Ariel Quartet has been playing together for almost twenty years and serves as the faculty quartet-in-residence at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. Considered one of the premier clarinetists performing today, Alexander Fiterstein is Chair of Winds at the Peabody Institute at Johns Hopkins University. Christopher Theofanidis's works are in demand and have been performed by preeminent ensembles, opera companies, and major orchestras. He is a professor at Yale University and composer-in-residence and co-director of the composition program at the Aspen Music Festival.

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

top Ariel Quartet, photo by Marco Borggreve. bottom Jiji,
photo by Lauren Chun

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The seventy-eighth season of The William Nelson Cromwell and F. Lammot Belin Concerts at the National Gallery of Art is open to the public, free of charge. Admittance is on a first-come basis thirty minutes before the concert begins. For further information, call (202) 842-6941 or visit nga.gov/music.

Concerts resume in September 2020.

cover Pablo Picasso, *Harlequin Musician* (detail), 1924, National Gallery of Art, Washington, given in loving memory of her husband, Taft Schreiber, by Rita Schreiber © 2012 Estate of Pablo Picasso/Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York, 1989.31.2. **back cover** Pierre Legros I, *Cherubs Playing with a Lyre*, 1672–1673, National Gallery of Art, Washington, Andrew W. Mellon Collection, 1940.1.16

