



The Chamber Music Society of Fort Worth

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Chamber Music Society of Fort Worth New Artistic Director, New Direction, New Season

This fall the Chamber Music Society of Fort Worth begins its 26th year of providing outstanding music to North Texas chamber music devotees. The year begins with a new artistic director, an updated repertoire and fresh programming.

Gary Levinson, the senior principal associate concertmaster with the Dallas Symphony and a well-known world-class talent, was selected by the Society's board of directors as the second artistic director in the 25-year history of the organization.

Levinson has created a series of seven programs that give a unique, new approach to Fort Worth chamber music. Instead of focusing on solo artists, the series will feature established American and European ensembles that have performed before some of the most sophisticated audiences in the world. Levinson has also assembled exceptional musicians from North Texas, New York and the nation to bring fresh, exciting and original programming to the Society's season.

The 2013-2014 season is aptly titled "A Season of Reflection," a theme that connects the music in a timeline of the past, the present and the future.

Highlights of the season include a return of the famed Miró Quartet and the Fort Worth debut of the Diaz String Trio. A major coup is a revival appearance of the Vermeer String Quartet, an internationally-known ensemble that discontinued regular concerts in 2008, but has been reunited at the request of Levinson for a special concert at a brand new Fort Worth venue.

The Miró Quartet, described by the New York Times as possessing "explosive vigor and technical finesse," opens the Society's season on Oct. 19, at 2 p.m., in the auditorium of the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth. The Austin-based quartet performed to rave reviews by music critics and the audience. The Miró was founded in 1995 at the Oberlin Conservatory and has regularly performed at internationally-celebrated concert halls – including Carnegie Hall, the Berlin Philharmonic's Kammermusiksaal and the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam.

The second concert of the season introduces the Atrium Quartet to North Texas. The quartet, founded in 2000 in St. Petersburg, Russia and now based in Berlin, is currently involved in the world's first "SHOSTAKOVICH MARATHON" in 2013 - 2015. The cycle of all 15 quartets will be performed in one day in concert halls in Japan, USA, France, Germany, Netherlands, UK, Russia and other countries. They will be performing only one of the quartets, Shostakovich Quartet, No.3, for the CMSFW.

On Feb. 8, 2014, the Grammy Award-winning Díaz Trio will make its Fort Worth debut. This group, one of the few professional string trios in the world, performs internationally in recitals and festivals. The group includes Cuban-born violinist Andrés Cárdenes, violist Roberto Díaz, president and CEO of the Curtis Institute of Music, and his brother cellist Andrés Díaz, professor of cello at Southern Methodist University.

In a special Easter-season concert on April 19, 2014, the Vermeer String Quartet will perform their signature masterpiece: "The Seven Last Words of Christ" by Franz Joseph Hayden. The nine movements of the music will be interspersed with mediations given by local community leaders. The concert, organized at Gary Levinson's request, will be among the first performed in the new auditorium of the Kimbell Art Museum.

A particularly notable concert is set for Jan. 4, 2014. Called "Levinson and Friends," the concert will feature guest performers from North Texas and a special artist from New York – Gary Levinson's father, Eugene Levinson. The elder Levinson served for 25 years as the distinguished principal bassist of the New York Philharmonic and currently is in his 28th year on the faculty of the Julliard School of Music. Other artists performing with the Levinsons will be familiar to CMSFW audiences – Felix Olschofka, violinist from the University of North Texas, violinist Michael Klotz of the Amernet Quartet, and cellist Carter Enyeart, former co-artistic director of the Society.

The remaining concerts on November 16, 2013, March 29, 2014, and May 17, 2014, will feature not only artists who have performed frequently with the CMSFW but also artists with interesting connections to other groups and people. Richard Young, violist with the Vermeer Quartet and Brinton Smith, principal cellist for the Houston Symphony will be returning to perform on the March 29 concert along with clarinetist Julian Milkis who is the last surviving student of Benny Goodman. Appearing in the last concert of the season is Anthony Ross, principal cellist with the Minnesota Orchestra, and Russian-born pianist and composer Dina Ugorskaja.

All concerts are scheduled on Saturdays, and all but the Vermeer performance (which is in the Kimbell Art Museum) will be in the auditorium of the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth. The performances start at 2 p.m., but patrons will miss a treat if they don't come early. Starting at 1:30 p.m. before each concert, program annotator Laurie Shulman, joined on occasion by artistic director Gary Levinson or by musicians, will provide insights into the scheduled music and the musicians who will perform.

The formal mission of the Chamber Music Society of Fort Worth is "to promote and present to the Greater Fort Worth/Dallas community the highest quality of chamber music that reflects innovation, creativity in programming and artist selection." We feel that that mission is nobly advanced by the society's 2013-14 season.

Ticket Information: Season tickets prices are \$30 for students, \$168 for adults or \$150 for seniors. Single concert tickets are \$5 for students, \$28 for adults and \$25 for seniors. They may be purchased by phone at 817-877-3003, online at www.chambermusicfw.org, or at the door.

For more details on all the season's concerts and artists, please visit our website at www.chambermusicfw.org.