

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GREEN MUSIC CENTER ANNOUNCES SPRING 2021 SEASON – THE GREEN ROOM

An online season of revealing conversations, personal connections, and compelling performances

(Sonoma County, CA) –The Green Music Center continues its series entitled The Green Room this month with a new season of online performances. Inspired by the tradition of theater green rooms, this unique series highlights the personal stories and favorite performances of some of today’s most compelling artists.

The season gets underway with **The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra Septet featuring Wynton Marsalis** when they present ***The Democracy! Suite***, a new Marsalis composition written during the ongoing COVID-19 crisis as a response to the political, social, and economic struggles facing our nation (Jan 30).

The Spring 2021 Season includes two new episodes of **Michael Mwenso’s *Black Music Series***, where acclaimed musician and cultural guide Michael Mwenso and special guests delve into a wide range of his own discoveries while shedding light on the Black experience through discussion, historical recordings, and performance. In ***Episode 4: Mwenso & The Shakes***, Michael shares own discoveries while shedding light on the Black experience through interludes of his original music (Feb 4). Then in ***Episode 5: Our Own Journeys***, Michael leads a roundtable discussion with prominent artists **Vuyo Sotashe** and **Jules Latimer**, to explore how Black artists have negotiated their LGBTQ+ identity within the confines of tradition and bring to the forefront how artists are reshaping the experience today (Apr 8).

This Season also includes two new offerings from **Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center *Front Row: National*** which are available for free to the general public. The first of these will feature the Avery Fisher Career Grant winners **The Calidore String Quartet** who the **New York Times** praised for its “deep reserves of virtuosity and irrepressible dramatic instinct” (Feb 6). The Second installment features musicians from the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center performing Bach’s iconic *Brandenburg Concertos* (Apr 3).

In February The Green Room includes performances by **Kronos Quartet** as they continue their revolutionary program *50 for the Future: The Kronos Learning Repertoire*, an education and legacy project that is commissioning 50 new works for string quartet composed by 25 women and 25 men (Feb 20). Later in the month **Alphabet Rockers** present music that makes change. Led by **Kaitlin McGaw** (she/her) and **Tommy Shepherd** (he/him), they will share their mission of creating brave spaces to shape a more equitable world through hip-hop in a show that is great for the whole family (Feb 27).

In addition to Alphabet Rockers, other artists new to The Green Room this season include the relentlessly innovative ensemble **Quetzal**, which channels the East L.A. musical landscape to narrate the social, cultural and

political stories of humanity (Mar 11); and **Clear Creek Creative** who will present an onlin discussion about their theatrical work *Ezell: Ballad of a Land Man*, an environmental, cultural and spiritual parable derived from living in the foothills of Appalachia and a man seeking to make sense of the time, place, and condition in which we live (Apr 1).

Finishing the Spring 2021 Season in May is the renowned **St. Lawrence String Quartet**, a group celebrated for the intensity of its performances, its breadth of repertoire, and its commitment to concert experiences that are at once intellectually exciting and emotionally alive (May 9).

Green Music Center donors and subscribers to the Spring 2021 Season will receive access to one additional performance from the **Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center *Front Row: National series***, entitled *Winds from Different Lands*, a program featuring selections from Mozart's *Don Giovanni* and more. (Mar 6).

Tickets on sale to the general public beginning Tuesday, January 19 at 10 A.M.

Buy tickets for \$10 (No need for multiple tickets for a household).

All shows last 60-75 minutes, Videos will be available to watch for 48 hours.

Visit gmc.sonoma.edu for tickets and more information.

TICKETS

Individual Show Tickets \$10*

Entire Series of 8 shows \$70

Sonoma State Students are free**SSUStudent

The 2 public Chamber Music Society Performances are a part of The Green Room but NOT included in subscriptions. They are ticketed but FREE.

Subscribers and Donors receive access to Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center performance on March 6 for free. Subscribe or donate today.

THE GREEN ROOM SPRING 2021 SEASON

Jazz at Lincoln Center Presents

The Democracy! Suite

Featuring the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra Septet with Wynton Marsalis

Sat, Jan 30 at 7 P.M.

Supported in part by Willow Creek Wealth Management and Oliver's Market

The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra Septet's performance of The Democracy! Suite aims to entertain, inspire, and uplift audiences with the full vigor, vision, and depth of America's music.

Led by trumpeter/composer Wynton Marsalis and featuring seven of jazz's finest soloists, the concert's unique repertoire celebrates jazz's embodiment of freedom and democracy.

The evening will feature the premiere of *The Democracy! Suite*, a new Marsalis composition written during the ongoing Covid-19 crisis as a response to the political, social, and economic struggles facing our nation. *The Democracy! Suite* is a swinging and stimulating instrumental rumination on the issues that have recently dominated our lives as well as the beauty that could emerge from a collective effort to create a better future.

Michael Mwenso's Black Music Series

Episode 4: Mwenso & the Shakes

Thu, Feb 4 at 7 P.M.

Supported in part by Cartograph Wines, Redwood Credit Union, and the National Endowment for the Arts

Musician, artist and social commentator Michael Mwenso offers his unique and ancestral perspective on Black music and its power to heal us.

Michael Mwenso and Executive Director of the Green Music Center, Jacob Yarrow dive into a wide range of Michael's own discoveries while shedding light on the Black experience through interludes of his original music. This live studio recording with **Mwenso and the Shakes** and commentary will take us on a ride through the continuum and power of Black roots music.

Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center (Not part of The Green Room Subscription - FREE)

Front Row: National

Artist Series: Calidore Quartet

Sat, Feb 6 at 3 P.M.

Supported in part by Sonoma-Cutrer Vineyards and Exchange Bank

The **Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center** (CMSLC) has been capturing performances in HD video and sound for many years. Because this material is of such high quality – both artistically and technically – it represents a unique collection for chamber music lovers. *CMS Front Row: National* is a series of programs, expertly curated by CMS co-Artistic Directors David Finckel and Wu Han, to celebrate chamber music at its finest.

The **Calidore String Quartet** has been praised by the *New York Times* for its “deep reserves of virtuosity and irrepressible dramatic instinct” and by the *Los Angeles Times* for its balance of “intellect and expression.” Recipient of a 2018 Avery Fisher Career Grant and the 2017 Lincoln Center Emerging Artist Award, the quartet first made international headlines as winner of the \$100,000 Grand-Prize of the 2016 M-Prize International Chamber Music Competition. The quartet was the first North American ensemble to win the Borletti-Buitoni Trust Fellowship, was a BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artist, and is an alum of CMS's Bowers Program.

CALIDORE STRING QUARTET

Jeffrey Myers, violin

Ryan Meehan, violin

Jeremy Berry, viola

Estelle Choi, cello

PROGRAM

MENDELSSOHN: Quartet for Strings in F minor, Op. 80

DVOŘÁK: Quintet in G major for Two Violins, Viola, Cello, and Bass, Op. 77

Calidore String Quartet with Xavier Foley, double bass

Kronos Quartet

Sat, Feb 20 at 7 P.M.

Supported in part by: Cartograph Wines and The Press Democrat

For over 45 years, San Francisco's **Kronos Quartet** – David Harrington (violin), John Sherba (violin), Hank Dutt (viola), and Sunny Yang (cello) – has combined a spirit of fearless exploration with a commitment to continually reimagine the string quartet experience. In the process, Kronos has become one of the world's most celebrated and influential ensembles, performing thousands of concerts, releasing more than 60 recordings, collaborating with an eclectic mix of composers and performers, and commissioning over 1000 works and arrangements for string quartet.

The group has won over 40 awards, including two Grammys, the prestigious Polar Music and Avery Fisher Prizes, and Edison Klassiek Oeuvreprijs. The nonprofit Kronos Performing Arts Association manages all aspects of Kronos' work, including the commissioning of new works, concert tours and home season performances, education programs, and the annual Kronos Festival. In 2015, Kronos launched *50 for the Future: The Kronos Learning Repertoire*, an education and legacy project that is commissioning—and distributing online for free—50 new works for string quartet composed by 25 women and 25 men.

Alphabet Rockers

Sat, Feb 27 at 11 A.M.

Supported in part by Clover Sonoma

National Endowment for the Arts

Alphabet Rockers make music that makes change. Led by Kaitlin McGaw (she/her) and Tommy Shepherd (he/him), they create brave spaces to shape a more equitable world through hip-hop. Their GRAMMY® nominated 2018 album, *Rise Shine #Woke* has reached 300,000 children and families since its release, inspiring kids to stand up to hate and be their brave and beautiful selves.

Their music, videos, concerts and curriculum are designed by an intercultural team of anti-bias thought leaders, educators, artists, parents and young people of all genders.

Quetzal

Thu, March 11 at 7 P.M.

QUETZAL is a relentlessly innovative Grammy award-winning ensemble that narrates the social, cultural and political stories of humanity. Describing the band's influences, Dr. Alex Chavez states, "You hear students of Chicano rock, rhythm and blues, JB funk, Cuban batá, punk, and Motown soul. You hear a band that has cut its teeth organizing, that has worked to fight forms of oppression in the communities they are connected to. And in

pursuit of forging these creative and political bridges, you hear artists who are at the epicenter of the transnational world of son jarocho.”

Clear Creek Creative

Thu, April 1 at 7 P.M.

Creating art that explores and inspires the possibility of living in harmony with nature and with one another Clear Creek Creative joins the Green Music Center in discussion of their theatrical work *Ezell: Ballad of a Land Man*, an environmental, cultural and spiritual parable derived from living in the foothills of Appalachia, one man among many seeking to make sense of the time, place and condition in which we live.

The development and sharing of this theatrical work is an attempt to make plain and disrupt domination — to reveal the patterns of domination behavior within this character *Ezell*, within his relationship to others and the land, within his livelihoods and his ways of being, within his ancestry and his belief system. It is meant for everyone who witnesses it as a motivation to continue — or an invitation to begin — the work of discovering and disrupting domination within and around themselves and to do so as an act of love and liberation.

Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center (Not part of The Green Room Subscription - FREE)

Front Row: National

BACH: The Complete Brandenburg Concertos

Sat, April 3 at 3 P.M.

Supported in part by Sonoma-Cutrer Vineyards and Exchange Bank

The **Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center** (CMSLC) has been capturing performances in HD video and sound for many years. Because this material is of such high quality – both artistically and technically – it represents a unique collection for chamber music lovers. *CMS Front Row: National* is a series of programs, expertly curated by CMS co-Artistic Directors David Finckel and Wu Han, to celebrate chamber music at its finest.

Paolo Bordignon, John Gibbons, Hyeyeon Park, Kenneth Weiss, Benjamin Beilman, Aaron Boyd, Francisco Fullana, Chad Hoopes, Bella Hristova, Paul Huang, Ani Kavafian, Sean Lee, Yura Lee, Cho-Liang Lin, Alexander Sitkovetsky, Danbi Um, Daniel Phillips, Che-Yen Chen, Lawrence Dutton, Mark Holloway, Matthew Lipman, Paul Neubauer, Richard O'Neill, Dmitri Atapine, Colin Carr, Timothy Eddy, Jakob Koranyi, Mihai Marica, Keith Robinson, Inbal Segev, Paul Watkins, Cello; Timothy Cobb, Joseph Conyers, Xavier Foley, Anthony Manzo, Scott Pingel, Sooyun Kim, Demarre McGill, Tara Helen O'Connor, Randall Ellis, James Austin Smith, Stephen Taylor, Marc Goldberg, Peter Kolkay, Julie Landsman, Jennifer Montone, David Washburn

PROGRAM

Bach: Brandenburg Concerto No. 1 in F major, BWV 1046 (1720)

Bach: Brandenburg Concerto No. 2 in F major, BWV 1047 (1720)

Bach: Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 in G major, BWV 1048 (1720)

Bach: Brandenburg Concerto No. 4 in G major, BWV 1049 (1720)

Bach: Brandenburg Concerto No. 5 in D major, BWV 1050 (1720)

Bach: Brandenburg Concerto No. 6 in B-flat major, BWV 1051 (1720)

Michael Mwenso's Black Music Series

Episode 5: Our Own Journeys (Artists Perspectives of the LGBTQ+ Experience) feat. Vuyo Sotashe, Jules Latimer

Thu, April 8 at 7 P.M.

Supported in part by Cartograph Wines, Redwood Credit Union and the National Endowment for the Arts

Musician, artist and social commentator Michael Mwenso offers his unique and ancestral perspective on Black music and its power to heal us.

Through a roundtable discussion led by Michael Mwenso with prominent artists Vuyo Sotashe and Jules Latimer, we explore how Black artists have negotiated their LGBTQ+ identity within the confines of tradition and bring to the forefront how artists are reshaping the experience today.

St. Lawrence String Quartet

Sun, May 9 at 3 P.M.

Supported in part by Balletto Vineyards and Willow Creek Wealth Management

“Modern,” “dramatic,” “superb,” “wickedly attentive,” “with a hint of rock 'n roll energy” are just a few ways critics describe the musical phenomenon that is the St. Lawrence String Quartet (SLSQ). The SLSQ is renowned for the intensity of its performances, its breadth of repertoire, and its commitment to concert experiences that are at once intellectually exciting and emotionally alive.

For Donors/Subscribers Only

Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center (FREE & NON-TICKETED - Not part of The Green Room Subscription)

Front Row: National

Winds from Different Lands

Sat, Mar 6 at 3 P.M.

Supported in part by Sonoma-Cutrer Vineyards

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PROGRAM

MOZART: Selections from *Don Giovanni*

James Austin Smith, Stephen Taylor, oboe; Tommaso Lonquich, Rome de-Guise Langlois, clarinet; Mark Goldberg, Peter Kolkay, bassoon; David Jolley, Erik Reed, horn

BALAKIREV: Octet for Flute, Oboe, Horn, Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass, and Piano, Op. 3

Ransom Wilson, flute; James Austin Smith, oboe; David Jolley, horn; Sean Lee, violin; Mark Holloway, viola; Inbal Segev, cello; Xavier Foley, double bass; Michael Brown, piano

BARBER: Summer Music for Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, and Horn, Op. 31

Tara Helen O'Connor, flute; Stephen Taylor, oboe; Sebastian Manz, clarinet; Peter Kolkay, bassoon; Radovan Vlatkovic, horn

POULENC: Sextet for Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, Horn, and Piano

Tara Helen O'Connor, flute; Stephen Taylor, oboe; Romie de-Guise Langlois, clarinet; Peter Kolkay, bassoon; Radovan Vlatkovic, horn; Jean-Efflam Bavouzet, piano

ABOUT THE GREEN MUSIC CENTER

Nestled in the foothills of Northern California's esteemed Wine Country, the Green Music Center (GMC) at Sonoma State University is a focal point for arts in the region. It is comprised of the spectacular 1,400-seat Weill Hall, an acoustically exceptional venue with a modular rear wall that opens to terraced lawn seating, providing picturesque views of the surrounding countryside, and the 240-seat Schroeder Hall, a cathedral-like recital hall designed specifically to accentuate instruments, organ and voice in a small, intimate setting. The Green Music Center presents year-round programming of top classical, contemporary, jazz, and world music artists and is home to the Santa Rosa Symphony.

ABOUT SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

Located in California's premier wine country one hour north of San Francisco, Sonoma State is a small campus with big ideas. With a tradition of promoting intellectual and personal growth, leadership opportunities and technological proficiency, SSU offers its students a friendly, safe and informal atmosphere on a beautiful campus setting. One of the most requested campuses in the CSU system, SSU is regularly named a "Best Regional University" by U.S. News & World Report.

The Press Democrat is the Media Sponsor of the Green Music Center

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