

**THE CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY OF LINCOLN CENTER
ANNOUNCES**

**ARTISTIC DIRECTORS DAVID FINCKEL AND WU HAN
SIGN NEW FIVE-YEAR CONTRACT**



**[CMS Board of Directors Chairman
Peter Frelinghuysen, Wu Han and David Finckel]**

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**DUO APPEAR IN SOLD-OUT RECITAL JAN. 31
CONDUCT DAY-LONG MASTER CLASS JAN. 30
UNVEIL PLANS FOR NEW SEASON FEB. 2**

The Board of Directors of The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center is pleased to announce that David Finckel and Wu Han have signed a new five-year contract as CMS Artistic Directors. The previous tenure of David Finckel and Wu Han began in 2004. On the occasion of the signing, CMS Board of Directors Chairman Peter Frelinghuysen stated:

On behalf of the board of directors, artists and staff of the Chamber Music Society, I am extremely pleased to announce that David Finckel and Wu Han will continue their dynamic leadership of CMS. Their strong commitment, unflagging energy and wealth of creativity have contributed significantly to the strength and goals of our organization.

David Finckel and Wu Han responded:

We could not feel more honored to be invited to continue our artistic leadership of CMS for another five-year term. At this tremendously important juncture in the Society's history - with a glorious new hall, an ever-widening flow of artists, projects both international and in collaboration with our Lincoln Center neighbors – there could not be a more exciting, nor demanding responsibility than to help guide CMS towards its 50th anniversary. We accept the challenges with optimism, enthusiasm and with gratitude to all – artists, board and staff - who have brought CMS to unprecedented heights.

The contract news comes at a period in the current season activity which sees a number of high-profile events involving David Finckel and Wu Han. On January 30 in the Rose Studio, they will lead a day-long master class, free and open to the public, on the Beethoven Cello Sonata repertoire. The next day, the duo will perform the Complete Beethoven Cello Sonata Cycle in Alice Tully Hall. Already sold-out, stage seats have been made available to accommodate the demand for tickets. On February 2, the co-artistic directors will unveil their plans for the 2010-1011 CMS season.

During their tenure as artistic directors, David Finckel and Wu Han have implemented a wide range of new initiatives, and strengthened pre-existing programs. Developments under their leadership include:

The Evolution of the CMS Artist Roster: A defining feature, its artist members constitute the repertory company. Finckel and Wu Han have ensured a healthy rotation of the roster, offering opportunities for fresh energy on stage.

Evolution of CMS Two: The CMS Two residency program for exceptional young performers has grown from 2 to 3 years. CMS Two artists are integrated into all performances, touring, and recording activities, creating an across-the-boards inter-generational roster of musicians.

Touring: CMS has dramatically increased national touring activity.

New Satellite Series: An annual CMS presence has been established in New Jersey and Kentucky, and continues at Boston's Gardner Museum in Massachusetts and Fairfield's Quick Center for the Performing Arts series in Connecticut.

Training Workshops in the Far East: *Chamber Music Immersions* was created in recognition of the high level of talent and commitment to classical music coming from

Asia today. During the 2009-2010 season, CMS artistic directors and colleagues appeared in concert and conducted intensive training programs with young musicians in Korea and Taiwan.

European Residencies: Performance residencies have been established for the fall of 2010 at the Festspiele in Mecklenburg, Germany, and Wigmore Hall in London, England. In the fall of 2011, CMS will be in residence at the Alpen Klassik in Bad Reichenhall, Germany.

Recording Activity: During the first contract period of David Finckel and Wu Han's leadership, CMS released a series of acclaimed recordings in conjunction with signing with Deutsche Grammophon's DG Concerts i-Tunes download series (7 recordings), and established its first in-house label: CMS Studio Recordings (3 recordings to date).

Annual Festival Programming: Annual festivals are devoted to innovative programming and have included the work of composers Ligeti, Carter, and Kirchner, and broad-ranging repertoire from England, Finland, and America.

Master Classes: Free and open to the public, the line-up of distinguished artists working with young talent has included mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe, composer William Bolcom, pianist Angela Hewitt, violinist Daniel Hope, pianist Menahem Pressler, cellist David Finckel and pianist Wu Han.

Website Initiatives: Online radio streaming; informational and creative videos; master classes and lectures.

Commitment to New Music

Full-length concerts of new music showcase the works of living composers.

The "Season Composer" concept established multiple performance and commissioning opportunities throughout a season. In addition, Season Composers are invited to curate programs featuring their own work alongside more traditional repertoire.

In the past five years, CMS has commissioned 18 new works and presented 36 premieres.

National Radio Series: The nationally-distributed CMS Radio Series, which features one-hour programs drawn from live performances recorded during the previous season, has been expanded from 13 programs to 26. In addition, broadcasts feature commentary from David Finckel and the performers.

Bios

CMS Co-Artistic Director cellist **David Finckel** leads a multifaceted career as a concert performer, recording artist, educator, arts administrator, and cultural entrepreneur that places him in the ranks of today's most influential classical musicians. He has been hailed as a "world class soloist" (*Denver Post*) and "one of the top ten, if not top five, cellists in

the world today” (*Nordwest Zeitung*, Germany). In high demand as a chamber musician, David Finckel appears each season in recital with pianist Wu Han and in over one hundred concerts annually as cellist of the Grammy Award-winning Emerson String Quartet. His activities as a concerto soloist include performances and recordings of the Dvořák Concerto, John Harbison Concerto, and Augusta Read Thomas's *Ritual Incantations*. In 1997 David Finckel and Wu Han launched ArtistLed, classical music's first musician-directed and Internet-based recording company, whose catalogue of 11 albums has won widespread critical acclaim. David Finckel's recording for the ArtistLed label of the Rachmaninov, Shostakovich, and Prokofiev sonatas received *BBC Music Magazine's* coveted Editor's Choice award. This season, ArtistLed released its 12th album, featuring contemporary works composed for David Finckel and Wu Han by Bruce Adolphe, Lera Auerbach, Pierre Jalbert, and George Tsontakis. David Finckel has achieved universal renown for his passionate commitment to nurturing the careers of countless young artists. For many years, he taught alongside the late Isaac Stern at Carnegie Hall and the Jerusalem Music Center. David Finckel and Wu Han are also the founders and Artistic Directors of Music@Menlo, a chamber music festival and institute in Silicon Valley that has garnered international acclaim since its inception in 2003.

CMS Co-Artistic Director pianist **Wu Han** ranks among the most esteemed and influential classical musicians in the world today. Leading an unusually multifaceted artistic career, she has risen to international prominence through her wide-ranging activities as a concert performer, recording artist, educator, arts administrator, and cultural entrepreneur. In high demand as a recitalist, concerto soloist, and chamber musician, Wu Han has appeared at many of the world's most prestigious concert series and venues across the United States and around the world. She is a frequent collaborator with many of today's finest musicians and ensembles, and appears extensively each season as duo pianist with cellist David Finckel. In addition to her distinction as one of classical music's most accomplished performers, Wu Han has established a reputation for her dynamic and innovative approach to the recording studio. In 1997, Wu Han and David Finckel launched ArtistLed, classical music's first musician-directed and Internet-based recording company, whose catalogue of 11 albums has won widespread critical acclaim, including *BBC Music Magazine's* coveted Editor's Choice award for the label's *Russian Classics* album. Wu Han has achieved universal renown for her passionate commitment to nurturing the careers of countless young artists through a wide array of education initiatives. For many years, she taught alongside the late Isaac Stern at Carnegie Hall and the Jerusalem Music Center.
