

**THE CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY
OF LINCOLN CENTER**

For immediate release...
Contact: Marlisa Monroe
212.875.5776
mmonroe@chambermusicsociety.org

**THE CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY OF LINCOLN CENTER
DAVID FINCKEL AND WU HAN, ARTISTIC DIRECTORS**

ANNOUNCES

CHAMBER MUSIC IMMERSIONS

**INTENSIVE TRAINING WORKSHOPS
FOR HIGHLY GIFTED YOUNG MUSICIANS FROM KOREA AND TAIWAN**

FACULTY TO INCLUDE

**DAVID FINCKEL, WU HAN, LEON FLEISHER, ANI KAVAFIAN,
PHILIP SETZER, ARNOLD STEINHARDT, IAN SWENSEN,
AND ARA GUZELIMIAN**

Recognizing the astounding level of talent and commitment to classical music coming from Asia today, The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center's Artistic Directors, David Finckel and Wu Han, have established forthcoming training programs in Korea and Taiwan. The objective of these workshops is to enhance the quality of chamber music performance in these countries and to increase awareness of chamber music as a powerfully communicative and inclusive art form.

About the training programs, David Finckel and Wu Han offer the following:

“For us, the deep exploration of chamber music masterpieces, guided by mentors and in collaboration with colleagues, has taught us more about music than all our other studies combined. We look forward to bringing programs to Korea and Taiwan that will reveal to young performers the joy of intimate musical communication, the endless possibilities of interpretation, and the thrill of taking responsibility for musical success as a communal effort. We are confident that all the young musicians we will encounter will come away from these “Immersion” as deeply more empowered performers, who will spread the benefits of their experience throughout their countries.”

Joining David and Wu Han will be a group of carefully-selected colleagues who count among today's leading performers of chamber repertoire and who are, as well, devoted to nurturing a younger generation of players. The faculty, in addition to David Finckel and Wu Han, includes violinist Ian Swensen in Korea; and pianist Leon Fleisher; violinists Ani Kavafian, Philip Setzer, violinist/violist Arnold Steinhardt, and lecturer Ara Guzelimian in Taiwan.

SEOUL, KOREA

The first of the two residency programs will take place in Seoul, South Korea, from August 11-19, 2009. Pianist Wu Han, violinist Ian Swensen, and cellist David Finckel will conduct nine days of intensive training for the students, sponsored by the newly-inaugurated (March 2009) LG Chamber Music School. During CMS' residency, the seven student groups will receive individual coaching from each of the faculty. The LG Chamber Music School is comprised of eighteen students, ages 13-19, and is taught by a Korean faculty of highly praised teachers, led by Artistic Director and pianist Dai-Uk Lee. The CMS faculty will give a concert on August 14, the Korean faculty will give a concert on August 15, and the students will give two concerts on August 16. The final days of the workshop will consist of a string of master classes given by CMS faculty. The CMS faculty performance will feature Beethoven's Piano Trio in E-flat major, Op. 1, No. 1; Shostakovich's Cello Sonata in D minor, Op. 40; and Smetana's Piano Trio in G minor, Op. 15.

TAIPEI, TAIWAN

The second residency program in the Far East will take place at the National Chiang Kai-Shek Cultural Center in Taipei, Taiwan, from December 18-27, 2009 and is sponsored by Taiwan's National Concert Hall. Pianists Leon Fleisher and Wu Han, violinists Ani Kavafian and Philip Setzer, violinist/violist Arnold Steinhardt, cellist David Finckel, and guest lecturer Ara Guzelimian will lead ten days of intensive training for fifteen students culled from Taiwan's most talented young musicians, carefully selected from live auditions to be held in August 2009. Each group will have multiple coaching opportunities with the faculty. The residency will culminate in concerts by the student participants on December 27. The faculty will give a performance on December 21 at the Concert Hall of the National Theater. Repertoire will include Shostakovich's Piano Trio in E minor, Op. 67 and Brahms Piano Quintet in F minor, Op. 34.

Cellist and co-artistic director of the Chamber Music Society **David Finckel** leads a multifaceted career as 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 "one of the top ten, if not top five, cellists in the world today" (*Nordwest Zeitung*, Germany). Highlights of recent seasons include recitals throughout North America with pianist Wu Han; the world premiere of Gabriela Lena Frank's *Compadrazgo* with the ProMusica Chamber Orchestra; and the world premiere of Pierre Jalbert's Cello Sonata at the Aspen Music Festival. In addition, Wu Han and David Finckel made their Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center recital debut in 2006. Additional solo and chamber appearances include the Aspen Music Festival, Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, and Music@Menlo, and over 100 concerts annually as cellist of the Grammy Award-winning Emerson String Quartet. Other recent appearances as orchestral soloist include Elgar's Cello Concerto with the Slovenia Symphony Orchestra and Shostakovich's First Concerto and the Beethoven Triple Concerto (with Wu Han and violinist Margaret Batjer) with the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra. David Finckel's expansive musical activities include the launch of ArtistLed, classical music's first musician directed, Internet based recording company. The label's *Russian Classics*

recording received *BBC Music Magazine's* coveted "Editor's Choice" award. ArtistLed recently released David Finckel's recording of the Dvořák Concerto and Augusta Read Thomas's *Ritual Incantations*, and this season will release its 11th album, a recording of the Schubert piano trios, featuring David Finckel, Wu Han, and violinist Philip Setzer. In recent years, David Finckel and Wu Han have become widely recognized for their initiatives in expanding audiences for classical music, and for guiding the careers of countless young musicians. They are also the founders and Artistic Directors of Music@Menlo, a chamber music festival in Silicon Valley. Prior to launching Music@Menlo, Wu Han and David Finckel served for three seasons as Artistic Directors of La Jolla SummerFest.

Pianist and co-artistic director of the Chamber Music Society, **Wu Han** ranks among the most esteemed and influential classical musicians in the world today. Her career has taken her to many of the world's most prestigious venues, including Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, and Washington's Kennedy Center. She has toured North and South America, Europe, and Asia, and her regular summer festival appearances include Aspen, Santa Fe, Chamber Music Northwest, Caramoor, and Music@Menlo. She is active as a concerto soloist as well, recently appearing with the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra in a performance of the Beethoven Triple Concerto. She is a frequent collaborator with many of today's finest musicians and ensembles, including the Borromeo, Emerson, Pacifica, and St. Lawrence quartets. With cellist David Finckel, she performs extensively across the United States and Europe. In 2006 Wu Han and David Finckel made their Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center recital debut. Last season the duo gave the world premiere of Pierre Jalbert's Cello Sonata at the Aspen Music Festival, and this season they will give the world premiere of a new work by George Tsontakis. Wu Han's wide-ranging musical activities include the founding of ArtistLed, classical music's first musician-directed, Internet-based recording company. All ten ArtistLed recordings have received critical acclaim and are available via the company's website. ArtistLed's recent release, *Russian Recital*, features works by Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov, and Scriabin, and marks Wu Han's first full-length solo recording for the label. This season ArtistLed releases its 11th album, a recording of the Schubert piano trios, featuring David Finckel, Wu Han, and violinist Philip Setzer. In recent years, Wu Han and David Finckel have become widely recognized for their initiatives in expanding audiences for classical music, and for guiding the careers of countless young musicians. They are the founders and artistic directors of Music@Menlo, a chamber music festival in Silicon Valley. Prior to launching Music@Menlo, they served for three seasons as artistic directors of La Jolla SummerFest.

Renowned pianist, conductor and teacher **Leon Fleisher** started piano lessons at age four, and gave his first recital at eight. A year later he began studying with the great German pianist Artur Schnabel, and by 16, in 1944, made his debut with the New York Philharmonic. He was the first American to win the prestigious Queen Elisabeth of Belgium competition, in 1952. Fleisher concertized all over the world with every major orchestra and conductor, and gave recitals everywhere. However, in 1965 two fingers of his right hand became immobile. He undertook many treatments that gave only temporary relief, and was forced to "retire" at the age of 37. But recently, with new

treatment, Fleisher been able to resume occasional performances with both hands. In the nearly 40 years since his keyboard career was so suddenly curtailed, he has followed two parallel careers - as conductor and teacher - while learning to play the extensive but limiting repertoire of compositions for piano left-hand. Teaching, in fact, has been a crucially important element in Fleisher's life. As a revered pedagogue, he has held the Andrew W. Mellon Chair at the Peabody Conservatory of Music since 1959, and also serves on the faculties of the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia and the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto. From 1986-97 he was Artistic Director of the Tanglewood Music Center. His teaching activities at the Aspen, Lucerne, Ravinia and Verbier festivals, among others, have brought him in contact with students from all over the world.

Violinist **Ani Kavafian** enjoys a productive career as a soloist, chamber musician, and teacher. In the 2008-09 season, she begins her tenure as concertmaster of the New Haven Symphony Orchestra and performs as soloist and guest concertmaster with the Seattle Symphony. She also appears frequently with her sister, violinist and violist Ida Kavafian, as they celebrate the 25th anniversary of their Carnegie Hall debut as a duo. With violist Barbara Wesphal and cellist Gustav Rivinius she is a member of the Trio da Salo, she has teamed with clarinetist David Shifrin and pianist André-Michel Schub to form the Kavafian-Schub-Shifrin Trio, and she appears in the Triton Trio with William Purvis and Mihae Lee. Together with cellist Carter Brey, she is artistic director of Mostly Music, a chamber music series in New Jersey. She has appeared as soloist with the New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, and the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra. Her recordings include the Bach sonatas with Kenneth Cooper on fortepiano, Mozart sonatas with Jorge Federico Osorio, Henri Lazarof's Divertimento with the Seattle Symphony, and Tod Machover's *Forever and Ever* with the Boston Modern Orchestra. An Avery Fisher Career Grant recipient and winner of the Young Concert Artist International Auditions, she is a full professor at Yale University. Ms. Kavafian, who plays a 1736 Stradivarius, has been an Artist of The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center since 1979.

Violinist **Philip Setzer** is a founding member of the Emerson String Quartet, which has received eight *Grammy* Awards, three *Gramophone* Awards, and the coveted Avery Fisher Prize, and has performed cycles of the complete Beethoven, Bartók, and Shostakovich string quartets in the world's musical capitals, from New York to Vienna. *The Noise of Time*, a groundbreaking theater collaboration between the Emerson Quartet and Simon McBurney about the life of Shostakovich, was based on an original idea of Mr. Setzer's. As a soloist, he has appeared with the National Symphony, Aspen Chamber Symphony, Memphis Symphony, New Mexico Symphony, Puerto Rico Symphony, Omaha Symphony, Anchorage Symphony, and on several occasions with the Cleveland Orchestra. He has also participated in the Marlboro Music Festival. He has been a regular faculty member of the Isaac Stern Chamber Music Workshops at Carnegie Hall and the Jerusalem Music Center. His article about those workshops appeared in *The New York Times* on the occasion of Isaac Stern's 80th birthday celebration. He is also a professor at SUNY Stony Brook and has given master classes at schools around the world, including The Curtis Institute, London's Royal Academy of Music, The San Francisco

Conservatory, UCLA, The Cleveland Institute of Music, and Mannes College. He studied with Josef Gingold and Rafael Druian, and at The Juilliard School with Oscar Shumsky.

Arnold Steinhardt was born in Los Angeles. He received his early training from Karl Moldrem, Peter Meremblum and Toscha Seidel, and made his solo debut with the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra at age fourteen. He continued his studies with Ivan Galamian at the Curtis Institute of Music and with Joseph Szigeti in Switzerland. Winner of the Philadelphia Youth Competition in 1957, the 1958 Leventritt Award, and Bronze Medallist in the Queen Elizabeth International Violin Competition in 1963, Mr. Steinhardt has appeared throughout North America and Europe as a recitalist and soloist. Mr. Steinhardt was first violinist and a founding member (1964) of the internationally acclaimed Guarneri String Quartet with which he has made innumerable tours across the globe and recorded dozens of albums. He is professor of violin at Rutgers University's Mason Gross School of the Arts, the University of Maryland, Bard College, and the Curtis Institute of Music. Arnold Steinhardt has written two books: *Indivisible by Four: A String Quartet in Pursuit of Harmony* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1998); and *Violin Dreams* (Houghton Mifflin, 2006).

Violinist **Ian Swensen** is one of the most sought after musicians of his generation. As one of the few violinists with the distinction of being awarded the Walter W. Naumberg International Competition's top prize for both chamber music and violin, Mr. Swensen enjoys a career as soloist, chamber musician, and professor of violin. Swensen studied at The Juilliard School with Dorothy DeLay, and at the Eastman School of Music with Donald Weilerstein. As a teenager, he formed the Meliora String Quartet and toured internationally with it for many years. Passionate about chamber music, Ian Swensen has performed in many prestigious festivals, including Music@Menlo, Spoleto, Santa Fe, and Marlboro. He has collaborated with members of the Juilliard, Cleveland, Emerson, Takacs, Concord and Tokyo string quartets; the Beaux Arts Trio and the Peabody Trio; Gilbert Kalish, Mark O'Connor, YoYo Ma, and Martha Strongin Katz. Equally passionate about teaching, Ian is Chair of the String Department at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and also teaches at Sacramento State University. A frequent master class presenter, Ian Swensen has coached string players from California to Canada and across Europe.

For more information on The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center visit www.ChamberMusicSociety.org
