

The Metropolitan Museum of Art  
Concerts

News Release

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**THE PACIFICA QUARTET TAKES UP RESIDENCE IN THE  
METROPOLITAN MUSEUM CONCERTS SERIES IN 2009-2010**

***Three-Concert Series Begins October 24, 2009, with Mozart, Janáček, and Brahms***

The Pacifica Quartet, Musical America's 2009 Ensemble of the Year and 2009 Grammy Award winner for "Best Chamber Music Performance" for its recording of Elliott Carter's String Quartets Nos. 1 and 5, will in 2009-2010 take up a distinguished mantle of quartet-in-residence in the Metropolitan Museum Concerts series, following in the footsteps of the Guarneri String Quartet, which in May 2009 concluded a 43-year run.

About hearing the Pacifica Quartet for the first time, Metropolitan Museum Concerts & Lectures General Manager Hilde Limondjian said, "As I listened to them in a free lunchtime concert at Columbia University two years ago, I can still remember the exhilaration, and, finally, the realization that here was the quartet I had been searching for for months!"

For the inaugural season of its ongoing residency, the quartet – Simin Ganatra and Sibbi Bernhardsson, violin; Masumi Per Rostad, viola; and Brandon Vamos, cello – will present three programs of works including Janáček's "Intimate Letters" quartet, Beethoven's Grosse Fuge, Schubert's "Death and the Maiden" quartet, Haydn's "Lark" quartet, and work written for the ensemble by Jennifer Higdon.

This series is supported in part by the Grace Jarcho Ross and Daniel G. Ross Concert Fund.

The three programs of the series are:

- Mozart's String Quartet No. 19 in C Major, K. 465, "Dissonant"; Janáček's String Quartet No. 2, "Intimate Letters"; and Brahms's String Quartet in A Minor, Op. 51, No. 2. *Saturday, October 24, 2009, at 7:00 p.m.*

- Mendelssohn's String Quartet No. 1 in E-flat Major, Op. 12; Jennifer Higdon's *Voices* (dedicated to the Pacifica Quartet); and Beethoven's String Quartet No. 13 in B-flat Major, Op. 130, "Liebquartett," and Grosse Fuge, Op. 133. *Saturday, January 16, 2010, at 7:00 p.m.*

- Haydn's String Quartet in D Major, Op. 64, No. 5, "The Lark"; Bartók's Quartet No. 4, Sz. 91; and Schubert's String Quartet in D Minor, D. 810, "Death and the Maiden." *Saturday, February 27, 2010, at 7:00 p.m.*

Tickets to each concert, priced at \$45, are available by calling 212-570-3949, or may be purchased online at [www.metmuseum.org/tickets](http://www.metmuseum.org/tickets).

Recognized for its virtuosity, exuberant performance style, and often daring repertory choices, the Pacifica Quartet has carved out a compelling and critically lauded musical path. In addition to the Musical America and Grammy wins, the Pacifica Quartet has swept top awards in the U.S. and abroad, including the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant in 2006, making the Pacifica only the second chamber music ensemble ever to be selected.

In the 2009-2010 season, in addition to assuming its new role at the Metropolitan Museum, the Pacifica Quartet will return to Europe for two separate tours, perform with acclaimed pianist Menahem Pressler, appear at the Casals Festival, and participate in Beethoven cycles around the United States.

Prolific in the recording studio, the Pacifica Quartet's CD *Declarations: Music Between the Wars* showcased music composed during the turbulent decades between World Wars I and II. In January 2008, the quartet released the first disc in a two-disc set of the complete string quartets of Elliott Carter, released on the Naxos label in celebration of the composer's 100th birthday. The second disc, presenting the three remaining string quartets, was released in February 2009. The Pacifica's recent recordings of the complete string quartets of Felix Mendelssohn have also attracted effusive praise from critics in the U.S. and abroad. On the heels of the release, the ensemble was featured on the cover of Gramophone magazine.

The members of the Pacifica Quartet live in Urbana-Champaign, Illinois, where they were appointed to the faculty of the University of Illinois in 2004 and serve as Faculty Quartet in Residence. They are also resident performing artists at the University of Chicago and the Longy School in Boston. Reflecting its dedication to musicians and music lovers of the next generation, the Pacifica Quartet was instrumental in creating the Music Integration Project, an innovative program that provides musical performances and teacher training to inner-city elementary schools. Originating on the West Coast, where it played its earliest concerts together, the quartet takes its name from the awe-inspiring Pacific Ocean. Throughout their journey as a string quartet, its members continually strive to be *Distinct as the billows/yet one as the sea*. (James Montgomery)

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September 29, 2009