

MANHATTAN CHAMBER PLAYERS

Violin, viola, cello, double bass, piano

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2024 | 7:30 PM
CASPARY AUDITORIUM

BIOGRAPHY

The **Manhattan Chamber Players** (MCP) is a chamber music collective of New York-based musicians who share the common aim of performing the greatest works in the chamber repertoire at the highest level. Formed in 2015 by Artistic Director and violist Luke Fleming, MCP is comprised of an impressive roster of musicians who all come from the tradition of great music making and are former students of The Curtis Institute, The Juilliard School, Colburn School, and New England Conservatory.

At the core of MCP's inspiration is its members' joy in playing this richly varied repertoire with longtime friends and colleagues, with whom they have been performing since they were students. Its roster allows for the programming of the entire core string, wind, and piano chamber music collection—from piano duos to clarinet quintets to string octets.

PROGRAM

Frank Bridge (1879-1941)

Phantasy Piano Quartet in F-sharp Minor, H. 94

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Piano Quintet in C Minor

Allegro con fuoco

Andante

Fantasia, quasi variazioni

INTERMISSION

(15 minutes)

Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904)

Piano Quartet No. 2 in E-flat Major, Op. 87

Allegro con fuoco

Lento

Allegro moderato, grazioso

Allegro ma non troppo

Photography and video recording during the performance are strictly prohibited.

Program and personnel subject to change.

As a courtesy to the artists, please remain seated until they have left the hall.

Manhattan Chamber Players appear by arrangement with Arts Management Group, Inc.

For more information about the concert series, please contact:

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212-327-8966 • stuly@rockefeller.edu • www.rockefeller.edu/peggy

MEET THE PLAYERS

Adam Golka, piano Brook Speltz, cello
Brendan Speltz, violin Pawel Knapik, double bass
Luke Fleming, viola

Adam Golka (piano) has garnered numerous accolades since the start of his professional journey. His Carnegie Stern Auditorium debut in 2010 with the New York Youth Symphony marked a significant milestone in his career, further solidifying his reputation as a leading pianist on the international stage. Beyond his performances, Mr. Golka is Artist-in-Residence at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts, where he has imparted his knowledge and passion for music to aspiring musicians.

Brendan Speltz (violin), second violinist of the world renowned Escher String Quartet, has toured the globe with groundbreaking ensembles. He has performed as a guest with the New York New Music Ensemble, Mark Morris Dance Group, and American Ballet Theatre, among others, and as a founding member of the conductorless string orchestra, Shattered Glass. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Southern California and his Master's degree from the Manhattan School of Music. Mr. Speltz plays a 1925 Carl Becker violin.

Luke Fleming (viola) assumed the role of Founding Artistic Director for both the Manhattan Chamber Players and the Crescent City Chamber Music Festival in 2015, showcasing his commitment to nurturing young talents and enriching the cultural landscape. Mr. Fleming is Adjunct Professor of Viola at the University of New Orleans School of the Arts, where he shares his expertise with aspiring musicians. Additionally, as a founding member of the Serafin Ensemble, he continues to champion chamber music excellence. Mr. Fleming holds degrees from The Juilliard School and the Royal Academy of Music.

Brook Speltz (cello) is the cellist of the internationally renowned Escher String Quartet—Quartet-in-Residence at Southern Methodist University in Dallas—and an artist of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. He has performed as a soloist, chamber musician, and recitalist throughout the US, Canada, Latin America, Europe, and Asia. Mr. Speltz studied at the renowned Curtis Institute of Music and at the Juilliard School. He performs on a 1756 J.C. Gigli on loan from his father, a cellist and his first inspiration in a family of professional musicians.

Pawel Knapik (double bass) showcased his musical talent early, securing second prize in the XVI International Bach Competition for Strings after just one year of instruction. Graduating with top honors from the Lipinski Academy of Music, his professional musical journey spans continents, with performances across the US, Europe, and Central America. Mr. Knapik remains active in premiering new works and spearheading innovative projects, such as his solo performances of contemporary compositions and the establishment of the “Pawel Knapik and Friends” ensemble.

2023–2024 PEGGY ROCKEFELLER CONCERT DONORS

The concert series was founded in 1958 by Professor Theodore Shedlovsky and renamed in 1996 in memory of Peggy Rockefeller, wife of longtime chair David Rockefeller. The Rockefeller University gratefully acknowledges the following contributors who make it possible for us to offer affordable tickets for every performance, as well as subsidized tickets for students and postdoctoral fellows:

IN MEMORIAM

David Rockefeller (1915-2017)

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THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

The Rockefeller University is one of the world's foremost institutions dedicated to research and graduate education in the biomedical sciences, chemistry, and physics. Founded by John D. Rockefeller, Sr., in 1901 as The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, it was the first institution in the United States devoted exclusively to biomedical research. In the 1950s, the institute expanded its mission to include graduate education. It was renamed The Rockefeller University in 1965.

The university's laboratory-based structure encourages collaborations between disciplines and empowers faculty members to take on high-risk, high-reward projects. No formal departments exist, bureaucracy is kept to a minimum, and scientists are given resources, support, and unparalleled freedom to follow the science wherever it leads.

The Rockefeller University Community

- 70 heads of laboratory
- 200 research scientists
- 210 postdoctoral investigators
- 255 Ph.D. and M.D.-Ph.D. students
- 1,431 alumni
- 1,325 support staff

Acclaimed Scientists

In the course of Rockefeller's history, 26 of its scientists have been awarded the Nobel Prize; 25 have received a Lasker Award; and 20 have garnered the National Medal of Science, the nation's highest scientific honor.

At Present, the Faculty at Rockefeller Includes

- 5 Nobel laureates
- 6 recipients of Lasker Awards
- 33 members of the National Academy of Sciences
- 4 recipients of MacArthur Fellowships
- 3 recipients of the National Medal of Science

Some Clinical Concerns under Study

- Aging
- Alzheimer's disease
- Antibiotic resistance
- Autism
- Cancer
- COVID-19
- Diabetes
- Epilepsy
- Heart disease and stroke
- Hepatitis
- HIV/AIDS
- Multiple sclerosis
- Obesity, nutrition, and weight loss
- Parkinson's disease
- Skin diseases
- Vaccine development
- Vision and hearing disorders

The Rockefeller University Hospital

Established in 1910, The Rockefeller University Hospital was the first hospital in the nation dedicated exclusively to patient-oriented investigations. Patients at the hospital are participants in clinical studies that build on basic research findings from Rockefeller laboratories. This allows the university to maintain an unbroken spectrum of research, from basic to clinical.

Groundbreaking Accomplishments

Among the pioneering discoveries at Rockefeller are many seminal advances that have transformed science and reduced human suffering. Scientists at Rockefeller:

- Discovered that DNA is the basic material of heredity
- Developed vaccines against meningitis and pneumococcal pneumonia
- Determined that cancer can be caused by a virus
- Discovered blood groups and ways to preserve whole blood
- Isolated and first successfully tested natural antibiotics
- Developed methadone maintenance therapy for people addicted to heroin
- Developed the AIDS "cocktail" drug therapy
- Showed that an adult brain of a higher species can form new nerve cells
- Discovered an obesity gene and the weight-regulating hormone leptin
- Discovered the dendritic cell, a key regulator of the immune system
- Discovered the molecular mechanisms controlling circadian rhythm
- Developed assays that paved the way for drugs that cure hepatitis C

An Exceptional Place to Learn

Rockefeller's Ph.D. program offers training in the biomedical and physical sciences. With neighboring Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and Weill Cornell Medicine, the university also offers one of the nation's top M.D.-Ph.D. programs. In addition, Rockefeller provides intensive postgraduate training. At any one time, more than 200 postdoctoral investigators conduct research in university laboratories. Rockefeller's acclaimed Clinical Scholars Program, a three-year master's degree program, provides a unique opportunity for recent M.D. or M.D.-Ph.D. recipients to begin careers in patient-oriented research. Working with senior faculty members, clinical scholars develop and implement translational research studies at The Rockefeller University Hospital.

Infrastructure that Fosters Collaboration and Interaction

Rockefeller invented the modern bioscience institute, and has spent the past 122 years perfecting it. The university's beautifully landscaped 16-acre campus includes nine research buildings containing roughly 500,000 square feet of laboratory space, where investigators employ the latest technology to answer the most challenging questions in their fields. The Stavros Niarchos Foundation-David Rockefeller River Campus, which opened in 2019 and features the Marie-Josée and Henry R. Kravis Research Building, provides a number of new amenities, including additional cutting-edge laboratory space, a river view dining commons, academic and conference centers, and magnificent rooftop gardens.

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The Rockefeller University is an independent, nonprofit institute that relies on a broad base of government and private support to advance its mission of biomedical research. Each year, a committed group of individuals, foundations, and corporations helps to fund the university's scientific and educational programs. For information about these programs, or to discuss ways in which you can support and advance the work of the university, please contact:

Kate Kadoun, Senior Director, Outreach Initiatives
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