



Wave Hill A public garden & cultural center

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Composer-Pianist Michael Brown Premieres Wave Hill-Commissioned Contemporary Chamber Work on February 25, 2018

Inspired by, and Performed in, Three World-class Gardens

Bronx, NY, January 17, 2018—Wave Hill is pleased to announce the world premiere of *Garden Quartet*, a new work of contemporary chamber music commissioned by Wave Hill, to be performed here on February 25, 2018. The work is composed by Michael Brown, “one of the leading figures in the current renaissance of performer-composers” (*The New York Times*). Mr. Brown will perform his new work with cellist Nicholas Canellakis and violinist Elena Urioste, who perform as a trio; they will be joined by guest clarinetist Alex Fiterstein. A public garden and cultural center in the Bronx, Wave Hill has a long and distinguished history as a performance venue for chamber music across a wide range of genres.

“We were interested in bringing several gardens together through music,” explained Jennifer McGregor, Wave Hill’s Senior Director of Arts, Education & Programs. “In this new work, each movement is inspired by one of three gardens where it will be performed. Two years ago, we reached out to colleagues across the country to partner with gardens who present music in the context of nature and horticulture.” The project is an important part of Wave Hill’s commitment to fostering new work by young artists. The commission has been generously funded by Chloe Kramer, in memory of her husband Alan Kramer.

In this new work, Mr. Brown employs the same instrumentation as Olivier Messaien’s landmark *Quartet for the End of Time*, using accessible musical language so as to engage a broad audience. The clarinet movement of Messaien’s work, “Abyss of the Birds,” will be performed as part of the program.

“We are delighted to be furthering our partnership with Michael Brown, an adventurous and uniquely gifted young composer and performer,” commented Wave Hill President and Executive Director Karen Meyerhoff. “As part of the commission, he has explored and experienced all three gardens, and we anticipate that *Garden Quartet* will be an evocative, fresh experience—through his ears—of these special places. We want to encourage people to connect to the natural world through the arts.”



Composer-pianist Michael Brown
Credit: Jessica Tong

In addition to the February 25 premiere at Wave Hill, performances of *Garden Quartet* will take place at the Desert Botanical Garden, Phoenix, AZ, on April 8, and at Longwood Gardens, just west of Philadelphia, PA, on May 1.

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“Here at Desert Botanical Garden,” commented Executive Director Ken Schutz, “we have always celebrated the intersection of art and nature. Initially we focused on the visual arts, but more recently we have had great success with the performing arts, including both newly commissioned, outdoor performances by Ballet Arizona, using the garden as set ‘scenery,’ and an annual ticketed concert series by our local Chamber Music Society, performed here in our garden. I am certain the same dynamic will apply to the performance here by Michael Brown, especially since one of the movements was inspired by his visit to the Sonoran Desert.”

“Longwood Gardens is honored to be part of Michael Brown’s Garden Project,” said Tom Warner, Director of Performing Arts at the garden. “We continually strive to present innovative programming for our guests. The opportunity to showcase a new chamber work, created by a composer of growing reputation and inspired in part by Longwood, not only elevates our mission, but promises to be a memorable experience for our guests.”

Mr. Brown has received considerable attention for his work as a composer. A Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center Artist, he has been named a Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts 2018 Emerging Artist. He is currently Composer-in-Residence with the New Haven Symphony Orchestra, which has commissioned his first symphony, to be premiered in the spring of 2019.

About Wave Hill

Wave Hill is an internationally recognized public garden and cultural center overlooking the Hudson River and Palisades. Its mission is to celebrate the artistry and legacy of its gardens and landscapes, to preserve its magnificent views, and to explore human connections to the natural world through programs in horticulture, education and the arts. Wave Hill’s indoor concert series takes place in Armor Hall in historic Wave Hill House. Originally built to house the remarkable collection of arms and armor of former Wave Hill House resident Bashford Dean, Armor Hall’s soaring windows afford views of the stunning garden landscape, while the gracious intimacy of the space offers superb acoustics.

About Longwood Gardens

Longwood Gardens is one of the world’s great horticultural displays, encompassing 1,083 acres of dazzling gardens, woodlands, meadows, fountains, a conservatory and a 10,010-pipe Aeolian organ. Longwood’s mission is to inspire people through excellence in garden design, horticulture, education and the performing arts, through programming that includes exhibitions, musical performances by leading artists, renowned horticulture education programs, horticulture research, environmental stewardship and community engagement. More at longwoodgardens.org.

About Desert Botanical Garden

The largest botanical garden in the southwest U.S., Desert Botanical Garden, located outside Phoenix, AZ, features 55,000 plants from across the world in a setting that allows visitors to experience the beauty of a desert environment. It has a sustained commitment to exploring the intersection of art and nature. More at dbg.org.

Tickets for the February 25 concert at Wave Hill may be purchased at www.wavehill.org.

The Performing Arts Program at Wave Hill is supported in part by Michael J. Shannon and the Cathy and Stephen Weinroth Commissioning Fund for the Arts. The chamber work by composer Michael Brown is funded by Chloe Kramer in loving memory of Alan Kramer. Wave Hill, Inc. is an independent, non-profit cultural institution governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. The buildings and grounds of Wave Hill are owned by the City of New York. With the assistance of the Bronx Borough President and Bronx representatives in the City Council and State Legislature, Wave Hill's operations are supported with public funds through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; the Zoos, Botanical Gardens and Aquariums Grant Program administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation; the National Endowment for the Arts; the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; and New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.



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