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### **Conspirare**

Soprano Sonja DuToit Tengblad, commended by the Boston Globe for her “crystalline tone and graceful musicality,” is a versatile performer with credits spanning the Renaissance era through the most current composers of our time. Recent highlights include Monteverdi’s *Il ritorno d’Ulisse in patria* with Boston Baroque, Handel’s *Acis and Galatea* with the Blue Hill Bach Festival, and her Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center debuts, both with the New York City Chamber Orchestra. In 2014 she was awarded 2nd place in the American Prize competition’s art song and oratorio division.

Tenor Dann Coakwell made his solo debut at Carnegie Hall in New York in February 2010 as the lead role of Andrey in the world premiere of Prokofiev’s newly discovered and reconstructed opera act, *Dalyekie Morya*, and he is a featured soloist on the 2009 Grammy Award-nominated album *A Company of Voices: Conspirare in Concert*. He has performed as a soloist internationally and stateside with such acclaimed conductors as Helmuth Rilling, Masaaki Suzuki and former King’s Singers Simon Carrington and Gabriel Crouch. Mr. Coakwell holds an Artist Diploma in Vocal Performance from Yale University, an MM from Texas Tech University, and a BM from the University of Texas at Austin.

### **Vienna Piano Trio**

Founded in 1988 and celebrated for its finesse, infectious exuberance, tonal allure, and its irresistible panache, the Vienna Piano has long been hailed by *The Washington Post* as one of the “world’s leading ensembles of piano, violin and cello”. As of September 2015, that reputation is being kept alive with David McCarroll as its new violinist who brings to this ensemble an already-rich relationship with the chamber music repertoire. The Vienna Piano Trio today performs in the major concert halls worldwide, in North America, Canada Mexico and the Caribbean.

### **Shanghai Quartet**

Renowned for passionate musicality and impressive technique, the Shanghai Quartet has become one of the world’s foremost chamber ensembles. Its elegant style melds the delicacy of Eastern music with the emotional breadth of Western repertoire.

Formed at the Shanghai Conservatory in 1983, they have performed throughout Europe, Asia, North and South America, from the Beijing International Music Festival to Carnegie Hall and the Beethoven Festival in Prague. Among innumerable collaborations with noted artists, they have performed with the Tokyo, Juilliard and Guarneri Quartets, Yo-Yo Ma, Lynn Harrell, Wu Man and Peter Serkin.

### **Austin Shakespeare**

Austin Shakespeare presents professional theatre of the highest quality with an emphasis on the plays of William Shakespeare, bringing to the public performances that are fresh, bold, imaginative, thought-provoking and eminently accessible.



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Equity and non-Equity actors train together to embody the depth and breadth of Shakespeare's characters and to speak the text with beauty, clarity and spontaneity. They seek to develop an approach to acting that spans two poles: from the intimacy of film experience to the grandeur of theatricality.

### **Marian Anderson String Quartet**

In September 30, 1989 the members of the Marian Anderson String Quartet, then known as the Chaminade Quartet, came together; unaware that they would soon change history. In 1991, the Quartet won the International Cleveland Quartet Competition, becoming the first African American ensemble in history to win a classical music competition. To highlight this singular achievement the members of the quartet asked permission of the great contralto, Marian Anderson, to use her name as their own. Miss Anderson responded with heartfelt approval and, in a memorable show of gratitude, the Marian Anderson String Quartet played for its legendary namesake and her nephew, conductor James DePriest.

The Marian Anderson String Quartet's artistic endeavors have taken them across the globe to New York's Alice Tully Hall, the Library of Congress, the Cleveland Institute of Music, Kilbourn Hall and the Chateau Cantanac-Brown in Bordeaux, France to name but a few places.

### **Bad Plus**

The Bad Plus came together at the end of the 20th century and has avoided easy categorization ever since, winning critical hosannas and a legion of fans worldwide with their creativity, unique sound and flair for live performance. Based in New York City, the intensely collaborative trio has constantly searched for rules to break and boundaries to cross, bridging genres and techniques while exploring the infinite possibilities of three exceptional musicians working in perfect sync. The Bad Plus' 10th studio recording, *Inevitable Western*, sees bassist Reid Anderson, pianist Ethan Iverson, and drummer David King further honing the same conceptual base that fired their inception. Yet again they continue to explore myriad musical forms born of jazz along with any sonic source that forwards music that is uniquely The Bad Plus. *Inevitable Western* is an album where pop, blues, and folk meld with classic melodies and rhythmic innovation into that rarest of hybrids: intelligent music for the masses.

### **Takács Quartet**

Recognized as one of the world's great ensembles, the Takács Quartet plays with a unique blend of drama, warmth and humor, combining four distinct musical personalities to bring fresh insights to the string quartet repertoire. The quartet was formed in 1975 at the Franz Liszt Academy in Budapest by Gabor Takács-Nagy, Károly Schranz, Gabor Ormai and András Fejér, while all four were students.

It first received international attention in 1977, winning First Prize and the Critics' Prize at the International String Quartet Competition in Evian, France.

Their critical acclaim has since continued with the quartet winning Disc of the Year and Chamber Award from BBC Music Magazine, Album of the Year at the Brit Awards and a Japanese Record Academy Award. Their recordings of the early and middle Beethoven quartets collected a Grammy, a Gramophone Award, a Chamber Music of America Award and two further awards from the Japanese Recording Academy. Of their performances and recordings of the Late Quartets, the Cleveland Plain Dealer wrote "The Takács might play this repertoire better than any quartet of the past or present."

### **Schumann Chamber Players**



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Pianist Michelle Schumann Hailed for her “sensitive, flexible, and tempestuous dexterity,” by Fanfare Magazine has built a reputation for evocative and moving performances that are infused with unique energy and zeal. Winner of the 2006 Janice K. Hodges Competition for Contemporary Music, Schumann’s programs feature meticulously integrated selections of classic and contemporary repertoire producing performances that The Austin American Statesman call “smart, irresistible, and utterly captivating.” Recent international performances have taken her to the City de la Musique-Paris, Conservatoire de Maurice Ravel in France; Birmingham Conservatory and St. Mary’s Cathedral-Haxby in England; the Roxy Theatre in Edinburgh, Scotland; and the Salzburger Dom Cathedral and Konzervatorium Wien in Austria.

Cellist Amy Levine-Tsang enjoys an active career as both chamber musician and teacher. In addition to being a founding member of the Laurel Trio, Ms. Levine-Tsang collaborates frequently in performance with numerous ensembles such as the Brentano, Cassatt, Colorado, and Meridian String Quartets, the New Jersey Chamber Music Society, the Richardson Chamber Players, and the Chamber Soloists of Austin. She has been a frequent performer at numerous festivals including the Marlboro Music Festival, the Gerhart Chamber Music Festival, the Portland Chamber Music Festival, the Cactus Pear Music Festival, Music in the Vineyards and the Laurel Festival of the Arts. As a soloist, she has appeared with the Philharmonia Virtuosi of New York, the Rutgers Summerfest Orchestra and the Princeton Symphony Orchestra.

Violinist Sandy Yamamoto has dazzled audiences in concert performances around the globe for the past three decades as a soloist and as a member of the Miró Quartet.

Ms. Yamamoto began her violin studies at the age of 4. At 11, she made her solo debut with the North Carolina Symphony and has since appeared with orchestras throughout the US and Europe to critical acclaim.

Since leaving the Quartet in May 2011, she has been appointed Senior Lecturer of Violin at the Butler School of Music at the University of Texas at Austin. She also founded the Butler Trio with Miró Quartet cellist, Joshua Gindele and pianist, Colette Valentine. She has since been enjoying a versatile performing career, playing concertos and recitals as well as leading noted chamber orchestras throughout the United States.