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Ravinia's Steans Music Institute to Celebrate Beethoven with a 250th Birthday Concert

HIGHLAND PARK, IL — Ravinia Festival will honor two occasions this April. Strings from Steans—a select group of alumni from Ravinia's Steans Music Institute (RSMI), the festival's prestigious summer music program—will perform a program of Beethoven chamber works in celebration of the composer's 250th birthday. Additionally, the concert will mark **Miriam Fried**'s 90th performance at Ravinia. As director of the Program for Piano & Strings since 1994, the world-renowned violinist has cultivated RSMI's prestigious status and has shaped the careers of its nearly 1,500 alumni.

The celebratory performance will take place on Saturday, April 11, 2020, at 8:00 p.m. in Ravinia's intimate Bennett Gordon Hall, featuring Beethoven's Piano Trio No. 1 and String Quartet No. 12, along with the Bartók's String Quartet No. 2. Joining Fried will be violinists **Geneva Lewis** (2017, 2018) and **Maria Ioudenitch** (2016, 2017), violist **Tanner Mennes** (2016, 2017), cellist **Timotheos Petrin** (2017), and pianist **Sahun Hong** (2016, 2017), all alumni of RSMI. Tickets are available through Ravinia's box office and online at Ravinia.org.

The Strings from Steans touring ensemble will take its program to several venues along the East Coast, including Rockefeller University and the Merkin Concert Series in New York; the Downtown Concert Series in Princeton, NJ; the Treetops Chamber Music Society in Connecticut; and the Phillips Collection's Sunday Chamber Concert Series in Washington, DC.

ABOUT THE MUSICIANS

Miriam Fried: Miriam Fried has been recognized for years as one of the world's preeminent violinists. A consummate musician—equally accomplished as recitalist, concerto soloist, and chamber musician—she

has been heralded for her “fiery intensity and emotional depth” (*Musical America*) as well as for her technical mastery. Fried has played with virtually every major orchestra in the United States and Europe and has been a frequent guest with the principal orchestras of Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, New York, Philadelphia, and Pittsburgh, as well as with the Israel Philharmonic, London Symphony, Royal Philharmonic, and Vienna Symphony. Fried has served as the director of the RSMI Program for Piano & Strings at Ravinia Festival since 1994.

Maria Ioudenitch: An American with a Russian heart and soul, Maria Ioudenitch began her violin studies surrounded by the sounds of the piano, played by both of her parents, Tatiana and Stanislav Ioudenitch. Her teachers have included Gregory Sandomirsky, Ben Sayevich, and later Pamela Frank and Shmuel Ashkenasi at the Curtis Institute of Music. Currently, Ioudenitch is pursuing her master’s degree at the New England Conservatory with Miriam Fried. Ioudenitch was appointed concertmaster of the Curtis Symphony Orchestra for 2016/17, ending the season with a tour through Finland, Germany, Austria, the UK, and Poland, featuring Strauss’s *Ein Heldenleben*.

Geneva Lewis: Originally from Auckland, New Zealand, violinist Geneva Lewis has performed as a chamber musician and soloist throughout the United States and Europe. She has been a member of many prizewinning ensembles, including the Callisto Trio, which earned the bronze medal in the senior division at the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition as the youngest group to ever compete in the finals. Lewis has received several solo and chamber music awards, winning first prize at the 2018/19 NEC Concerto Competition as well as being named a finalist at the 2018 Naumburg Competition. As a soloist, she has performed with many orchestras, including the Pasadena Symphony, the NEC Philharmonia, and Symphony NH.

Tanner Menees: Tanner Menees is a young violist rising in the US chamber music scene. His performance has been praised by the *Boston Globe* as “magnificent—emotionally gripping, precise in its execution, and bearing an unmistakable narrative shape even in its densest moments.” Menees has collaborated in chamber music performances with notable artists such as Martin Beaver, Denis Bouriakov, Miriam Fried, Clive Greensmith, Lynn Harrell, Frans Helmerson, Gary Hoffman, Hsin-Yun Huang, Kim Kashkashian, Laurence Lesser, Joseph Lin, Daniel Phillips, Marcy Rosen, Peter Stumpf, Mitsuko Uchida, Donald Weilerstein, and Peter Wiley. In the summers, he has performed at such festivals as the Marlboro Music Festival, Ravinia’s Steans Music Institute, Chamberfest Cleveland, Menuhin Festival String Academy, Edinburgh Music Festival, Juilliard String Quartet Seminar, and McGill International String Quartet Academy.

Timotheos Petrin: Greek Russian cellist Timotheos Petrin is quickly garnering international recognition for his distinctive musical voice. He came to the spotlight as a top-prize winner at the prestigious International Paulo Cello Competition in Finland in 2018, where he was praised for “a great and passionate soloist style: expressive, vibrant singing lines, sparkling rhythm” as well as “an interesting, original personality” (*Helsingin Sanomat*). Other important collaborations include performances with the Lahti Symphony Orchestra, Tapiola Sinfonietta, Israel Camerata, Athens Symphony Orchestra, Thessaloniki State Symphony Orchestra, the Symphony in C orchestra, and the Greek-Turkish Youth Orchestra. In 2017, he was named Young Artist in Residence with the *Performance Today* radio program of American Public Media, the most listened-to classical music program in the US. Petrin is a scholarship recipient and fellow of the Onassis Foundation and is currently pursuing his Artist Diploma at the New England Conservatory under the tutelage of cellist Laurence Lesser.

Sahun Hong: Sahun Hong is praised as an “artist already of enormous prowess” (Verbier Festival Newsletter) with “lots of clarity, confidence, and wisdom” (*New York Concert Review*). Pianist Hong brings his colorful style and riveting energy to the solo, chamber, and concerto stages. A prolific arranger of chamber music and orchestral works, Hong has had arrangements performed around the world, including in Italy, England, Finland, Hungary, and Hong Kong. He organizes annual tours of these arrangements through his own agency, Subito Arts. An avid chamber musician and collaborator, Hong has appeared at such festivals as Ravinia’s Steans Music Institute, Chamber Music Encounters at Lincoln Center, and the Taos School of Music. He is currently a student of Leon Fleisher in the Doctor of Musical Arts program at the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University.