



BREVARD MUSIC CENTER
SUMMER INSTITUTE AND FESTIVAL

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The Harlem String Quartet at Brevard Music Center

(Brevard, NC) – The Brevard Music Center is proud to present an evening of chamber music featuring “**The Harlem String Quartet**” on Monday, July 12 at 7:30 pm. The performance will take place at the Porter Center at Brevard College. The Quartet will perform an array of fiery and eclectic musical selections including: Turina’s *La Oración del Torero* (The Bullfighter's Prayer), Haydn’s String Quartet in G Major, Op. 76, No. 1, Strayhorn’s *Take the "A" Train* (arranged by Chihara), Ravel’s String Quartet in F major, and Wynton Marsalis’ String Quartet No. 1: *At the Octoroon Balls*.

The Harlem String Quartet, praised for its "panache" by *The New York Times*, is an ensemble that includes First-Place Laureates of the Sphinx Competition. The Harlem Quartet is comprised of violinists Ilmar Gavilán and Melissa White, violist Juan-Miguel Hernandez, and cellist Desmond Neysmith. The quartet strives to advance diversity in classical music while engaging young and new audiences through the discovery and presentation of varied repertoire, highlighting works by minority composers.

The Harlem Quartet made its acclaimed Carnegie Hall debut in 2006 at the Sphinx Organization's 10th anniversary gala concert. They have returned to Carnegie on numerous occasions, including a performance in late January 2007 as participants in Arts Presenters' prestigious and highly competitive Young Performers Career Advancement (YPCA) program and an October 2008 appearance with Paul Katz at the annual Sphinx gala. In 2006, it made its debut at Harlem's legendary Apollo Theatre with a well-received performance of Wynton Marsalis’ *At the Octoroon Balls*.

Dedicated to education and community engagement as well as to superb classical performance, the Harlem Quartet serves as principal faculty at the Sphinx Performance Academy at Oberlin College and Roosevelt College in Chicago, Illinois, and as visiting faculty at the Sphinx Preparatory Music Institute at Wayne State University in Detroit.

Each member of the Harlem Quartet is a seasoned solo artist, having appeared with the New York Philharmonic, the Boston Pops, and the Atlanta, Baltimore, Cleveland, Detroit, National, New World, and Pittsburgh symphony orchestras, among others. As a quartet, they have performed in many communities across the country including Detroit, New York, Los Angeles, Atlanta, and Boston.

The Harlem Quartet opened its 2009-10 season returning as featured soloists on the national Sphinx Chamber Orchestra Tour, making thirteen stops coast-to-coast including Carnegie Hall, Eastman School of Music, and Oberlin College. In December 2009, it played two performances at the White House for guests of President Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama. In 2009, the quartet also performed by invitation with Itzhak Perlman at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and made its London debut performing at the residence of the U.S. ambassador to the United Kingdom. The Harlem Quartet is co-managed by Sciolino Artist Management (SAM) of New York City, and the Sphinx Organization of Detroit, MI.

The Brevard Music Center is also presenting an evening featuring “**Vivaldi: The Four Seasons**” with acclaimed conductor and violinist Andrés Cárdenes on Tuesday, July 13 at 7:30 pm. The performance will be at the Porter Center in Brevard College. Tickets for the Harlem Quartet concert cost \$20. For more information, please visit brevardmusic.org or call (828) 862-2105.

The Brevard Music Center was founded by James Christian Pfohl in 1936. His vision to establish a music program for talented young people has since matured into one of this country’s finest summer institutes and festivals for aspiring musicians. Nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Western North Carolina, BMC welcomes to its 180-acre campus each year 400 students, representing over 40 states and eight foreign countries. It has, as well, 65 distinguished faculty artists drawn from America’s most prestigious conservatories, universities and orchestras. Each summer, the Center invites an array of celebrated guest artists to appear in performance with the students of BMC. BMC’s unique learning environment—students living and working alongside faculty and guest artists—creates an unparalleled sense of community.

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