

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

### The Fry Street Quartet

Hailed as “a triumph of ensemble playing” (*New York Times*), the Fry Street Quartet has perfected a “blend of technical precision and scorching spontaneity” (*Strad*). Since securing the Millennium Grand Prize at the Fischoff National Chamber Music Competition in 2000, the Fry Street Quartet has reached audiences from Carnegie Hall to Sarajevo and Jerusalem. The Fry Street was also winner at the Yellow Springs Competition and the Banff International String Quartet Competition.

The Fry Street Quartet began its international career in 2002 as cultural ambassadors to the Balkan States, sponsored by Carnegie Hall and the U.S. Department of State. Subsequent international appearances have included the ProQuartet Academy at Pont-Royal, France, the Prague Chamber Festival and Trutnov Autumn Festival in the Czech Republic and Kulturvereinigung Oberschützen in Austria. In Israel, the Quartet participated in the International *Encounters* Chamber Music Seminar and studied with Isaac Stern, who subsequently arranged for the Quartet’s Carnegie Hall debut in 2001.

The Fry Street’s collaborations have included performances with pianists Misha Dichter, Wu Han and Joseph Kalichstein, and performances this season with Cleveland Quartet founding cellist Paul Katz and pianist Robert McDonald. Other memorable collaborations include performances with the Mendelssohn String Quartet at the 92nd St. Y, Donald Weilerstein at the New School in New York, and with pianists Jerome Lowenthal and Ursula Oppens, violinist Nurit Pacht, and soprano Toni Arnold as the quartet-in-residence with New York City’s Alliance Français.

“Equally at home in the classic repertoire of Mozart and Beethoven or contemporary music” (*Palm Beach Daily News*), the quartet recently debuted its innovative “From Prodigy to Master” series, pairing early and late works of Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, and Mendelssohn with engaging modern compositions inspired by the featured “masters” of the quartet genre.

A recent exciting milestone is the quartet’s first complete Beethoven Quartet Cycle with pre-concert lectures by renowned scholar Robert Winter, presented at Utah State University. The Fry Street Quartet’s fifth commercial recording presents an early and late quartet of Beethoven in audiophile recording quality utilizing revolutionary IsoMike™ and SACD technology. The Fry Street will record all of the Beethoven quartets in the summer of 2009.

The Fry Street Quartet has held the position of faculty quartet-in-residence in the Caine School of the Arts at Utah State University in Logan, Utah since 2002.

**William Fedkenheuer**, winner of the Lincoln Center Martin E. Segal Award, has performed at such venues as The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall Presents, San Francisco Performances, the National Gallery, the American Academy in Rome, and the Spoleto Festival. After his solo violin debut with the Calgary Philharmonic in 1994, Mr. Fedkenheuer received a Bachelor of Music degree from Rice University’s Shepherd School of Music and continued his graduate studies at Indiana University. Before his position at Utah State University with the Fry Street Quartet, he was on the faculty of the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. Mr. Fedkenheuer performs on a bow by H.R. Pfretzschner, and a Nicolò Gagliano violin nicknamed “Gunther.”

**Rebecca McFaul’s**, collaborations with great artists began at the age of fifteen with Leonard Bernstein and continued with many others including Eugene Lehner, and Alexander Schneider. As a principal player with the Chicago Civic Orchestra, she performed under the batons of Pierre Boulez, Michael Tilson Thomas, and Zubin Mehta and made a memorable concert appearance with Daniel Barenboim conducting Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 4 from the piano. Ms. McFaul served as concertmaster of the Spoleto Festival Orchestra. She received a B.M. in violin performance from the Oberlin Conservatory and a M.M. in violin performance from Northwestern University. She performs on a Carl Becker Sr., 1926, with a bow by Nicolas Maire.

**Russell Fallstad** has performed in such venues as Carnegie Hall, The Aspen Festival, the Jerusalem Music Center, and the Spoleto Festival. As a principal player in the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, he performed under the batons of Daniel Barenboim, Pierre Boulez, and Sir George Solti and debuted many new works at the Chicago Museum of Contemporary Art and the University of Chicago. He also performed on period instruments with Apollo's Fire and Ars Musica. Prior to Utah State University, he held positions at DePaul University, Northwestern University, and North Carolina School for the Arts. He is currently Director of the Cache Valley Suzuki School at Utah State University. Mr. Fallstad performs on a Carl Becker viola made in 1975, and a Pierre Simon bow made in 1862.

**Anne Francis** made her debut at age ten on the international stage of the Inaugural World Cello Congress. Winner of the Darius Milhaud Performance Prize, she has performed in venues from Carnegie Hall in New York to a Maori Longhouse in New Zealand and can be heard frequently on National Public Radio in the eclectic recordings of "The NPR Cellos". Beginning the cello at age four, Ms. Francis later became one of the youngest members of the Kalamazoo Symphony, performing in the cello section while still in high school. Ms. Francis received her Bachelor of Music degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music and her Master of Music degree from the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University, where she was assistant to Paul Katz. Ms. Francis performs on a Carl Becker, Sr. cello dated 1926 and a bow by A. Vigneron, Paris.

**STUART MALINA** is one of America's most versatile and accomplished conductors in a wide variety of concerts, from masterworks and grand opera to pops. Maestro Malina made his Carnegie Hall debut in 2007 conducting a sold-out performance with the New York Pops in an all-Gershwin tribute including "Rhapsody in Blue," which he conducted while also performing on the keyboard.

Stuart Malina won a Tony Award for orchestration with Billy Joel for the musical *Movin' Out*, which he helped create with director and choreographer Twyla Tharp. He was music supervisor for both the National Tour and the London/European Tour of the show.

An accomplished concert pianist, Maestro Malina has impressive credits as a soloist, having performed throughout the United States, the Netherlands, and with the acclaimed Piccolo Spoleto Contemporary Music Festival.

Maestro Malina holds degrees from Harvard University, the Yale School of Music, and the Curtis Institute of Music, where he studied conducting with Otto-Werner Mueller. He has been Music Director and Conductor of the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra since June 2000.

**ODIN RATHNAM**, since his critically acclaimed Lincoln Center debut in 1993, has established himself as one of the most passionate and versatile artists of his generation. He has received unanimous praise from critics and audiences for his "captivating temperament," "brilliant technique" and "recalling the legendary violinists of the past." A veteran performer at major European and American festivals, he has also appeared in Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall and Carnegie Recital Hall where he first appeared at the age of 15. As a soloist, he has performed with the Baltimore Chamber Orchestra, the New Amsterdam Symphony, the Columbian National Symphony, the Camden and Hayes orchestras in England, and the symphonies of York, Hershey, Lancaster, and Harrisburg. He has been Concertmaster of the Harrisburg Symphony since 1991.

Odin Rathnam studied Mannes College of Music and The Juilliard School. He plays a 1755 violin crafted by Bartolomeo Calvarola.

**GERARD REUTER**, recipient of the prestigious Pro Musicis International Award, has enjoyed a distinguished international career. Much sought after as a guest at summer festivals, including Caramoor, Marlboro, La Jolla, Round Top and the Chamber Music Festival of the Library of Congress in the United States, and the Flanders Festival, the Dartington Festival and the International Musicians Seminar at Prussia Cove in Europe, he has also appeared as soloist with orchestras throughout the United States, including the Jupiter Symphony and Philharmonia Virtuosi in New York, the National Chamber Orchestra in Washington, DC, the Soviet Emigré Orchestra and the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, of which he was a founding member. Also active as a chamber musician, he is a member of the Dorian Wind Quintet and was a founding member of the ensemble, An die Musik.

Increasingly active as a conductor in recent seasons, Mr. Reuter has appeared as guest conductor with the Jupiter Symphony, Riverside Symphony Orchestra, Claremont Strings and the Schenectady Symphony Orchestra.

Gerard Reuter has been heard on major radio stations throughout this country and in Europe and has been recorded in concert for worldwide broadcast on The Voice of America. He has recorded for Sony, New World, Telarc, Columbia, BMG-Catalyst, Dorian, Summit and Musical Heritage Society.

Mr. Reuter studied oboe at the Juilliard School with Lois Wann and at the Royal College of Music in London.

**MICHAEL SHEPPARD** trained at the Peabody Conservatory where he studied with Leon Fleisher and Ann Schein. As one of two 2003 Classical Fellows of the American Pianists Association he toured Southern Asia and the Middle East in collaboration with the Cultural Programs Division of the United States Department of State. After his return, he made his Kennedy Center debut. Since then he has played with many orchestras internationally and has given several recitals at Carnegie Hall's Weill Hall. He has been a Fellow at the Tanglewood Music Center and the La Gesse Foundation and a prizewinner in the National Federation of Music Clubs National Competition. He has recently released an album of contemporary American music for the Harmonia Mundi label.

Michael Sheppard is also a composer.

**DONOVAN STOKES'** playing encompasses a wide range of styles from arco, pizzicato or "slap" style, from concert hall to club stage and from Bach to Rockabilly. Stokes is also a specialist in the use of amplified and electronically manipulated double bass.

As a composer, he has received recent commissions from the Young Bassist's Division of the International Society of Bassists, Musical Arts Society of Chicago and the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra. His most recent concert work *Damaged*, for Double Bass, Violin and Orchestra was premiered in February 2009, featuring violinist Blanka Bednarz.

The author of several articles on double history and pedagogy, Dr. Stokes has given presentations for the International Society of Bassists on a wide range of subjects. Stokes is a regular clinician at the Richard Davis Bass Conference and has been on the faculty of the Golden Gate Bass Camp.

Dr. Stokes is currently Associate Professor of Bass at Shenandoah Conservatory in Winchester, VA.