

Reflecting on a challenging three-year ride

It remains difficult to fully appreciate and process the crazy COVID kaleidoscope we've been navigating these past seasons. Three years ago – midsummer 2020 – I was not at all confident David Rowe Artists would survive...maybe I was already retired without knowing it?? In June 2020 I had even taken the exceedingly difficult and humbling step of asking artists on our roster – at least the ones who had steady income via residency or secure administrative positions – if they could contribute a modest monthly amount to help us keep the lights on. As awkward as that felt, I was reminded (for the 800th time) that open vulnerability frequently leads to deeper and richer relationships. Such was my experience here, and my gratitude for those who were able to step in was – and remains – truly heartwarming.

Happily that moment was short-lived due to some successful video projects, the extension of unemployment benefits (including allowing business owners to apply), a second round of PPP loans, and ultimately the SVOG legislation which, incredibly, recognized and included talent agents as a key component of the performing arts eco-system, making us eligible for benefits!

Our SVOG saga could fill an entire newsletter. Suffice to say that, in addition to the standard challenges everyone faced (the false start, the uncertain criteria, interminable and unexplained post-application delays, unclear and ever-evolving guidance) our case became “ground zero” for how the SBA calculated awards to talent agents. During those months-long conversations with SBA leadership we created an opportunity – with indispensable assistance from Americans for the Arts Action Fund Executive Director Nina Ozlu Tunceli, a veritable font of political and practical wisdom – to suggest that replacing lost income for roster artists could be an allowable expense. One of my proudest professional moments was the personal email received days before Christmas 2021 from the director of the SVOG program agreeing that reimbursements to artists would be allowable! As a direct result of our interactions, talent agents received an additional \$250 million in awards (35% more than originally granted), a large portion of which flowed to artists who were so severely impacted by the pandemic.

Two years ago in this space we wondered “*Are we there yet?*” with respect to our field’s pandemic recovery. It actually seemed possible with vaccines widely distributed and case counts receding, but of course turned out to be hopelessly naïve during winter’s brutal Omicron surge. Last summer we asked “*What’s Next?*” recognizing there were still more questions than answers – and plenty of anxiety – about the future for performing arts touring. Today, at last, it feels we are truly post-pandemic: audience confidence continues to steadily rise, and anecdotally we hear some organizations are reporting sales at or even beyond 2019 levels, with most others at least seeing a much clearer path towards long-term stability and sustainability.

Whatever the actual data, I am immensely grateful - and relieved - that the collective mood is far more positive than the past two summers!

With best wishes to all for a successful 23/24 and beyond,



DAVID ROWE ARTISTS 2024/25 ROSTER

ACADEMY OF ST MARTIN IN THE FIELDS
CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

ACADEMY OF ST MARTIN IN THE FIELDS
WIND ENSEMBLE

BRENTANO STRING QUARTET

CASTALIAN STRING QUARTET

CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY OF
LINCOLN CENTER

ELIAS STRING QUARTET

DAVID FINCKEL, cello &
WU HAN, piano

ISIDORE STRING QUARTET

JERUSALEM QUARTET

THÉOTIME LANGLOIS DE SWARTE, violin

LE CONSORT

ST. LAWRENCE STRING QUARTET

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TOURS & PROJECTS 2024-25-26



ACADEMY OF ST MARTIN IN THE FIELDS CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

***Oct 3-20, 2024**

****Dates TBD in Oct 2025**

* Strings only, featuring the Mendelssohn Octet
** Winds and Strings, featuring the Schubert Octet

“An ensemble of first-rate musicians, technically superb,
generously expressive, and obviously enjoying themselves.”
—*Dallas Morning News*



ACADEMY OF ST MARTIN IN THE FIELDS WIND ENSEMBLE

April 1-17, 2025

Dates TBD in Spring 2026

Programs for wind quintet

“Impressive sophistication and complexity of phrasing, elegant
articulation and an impeccable sense of balance.”
—*Seen and Heard International*



BRENTANO STRING QUARTET **General Availability**

SPECIAL PROJECTS:
“Evocations of Home”

Featuring a new work by Lei Liang honoring
Chou Wen-chung

Haydn: the six Op. 33 Quartets

Other collaboration: with pianist **Gloria Chien**
performing the Piano Quintet by Amy Beach

“Magical ensemble playing....effervescent”
— *The Strad*



CASTALIAN STRING QUARTET **Nov 1-20, 2024**

Dates TBD in 2025/26

“Deep contemplation and vivid spontaneity...The quartet’s [playing] is
nothing short of a revelation in its lucidity of line and sheer beauty of
sound.”

—*BBC Music Magazine*

“As refreshing as it is profound. There’s a distinctive quality to this
ensemble’s playing that fuses personality and oneness.”

— *The Strad*



THE CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY OF LINCOLN CENTER David Finckel & Wu Han, Artistic Directors

Various tour dates and programs:

November 2024: “Poulenc’s Homage to Winds”
Jan/Feb 2025: “Spanish Journey”
March 2025: “Trout Quintet”
April 2025: “Two times Three”

“A potent evening of first class music making.”
—*The Strad*

“Cathartic drama, at once intimate, scalding, and grand.”
—*New York Magazine*



DAVID FINCKEL, cello & WU HAN, piano **General Availability**

Also offering: Piano Trio programs
with violinist **Philip Setzer**

“The kind of visceral familiarity and perfect synchronization
born of years of shared music-making.”
— *Washington Post*

“Eloquent and deeply committed performances. He played with
a deep and burnished tone, and she with a sparkling virtuosity.
Best of all was how keenly they listened to each other.”
— *The New York Times*



ELIAS STRING QUARTET **Feb 27-Mar 18, 2025**

Special Collaboration:
Elgar Piano Quintet with
Jonathan Biss

“Striking....The Elias enable Beethoven’s radical
modernity to be heard afresh.”
—*BBC Music Magazine*

“Intensely absorbing, exquisitely considered...
stunning.” —*Phildelphia Inquirer*



ISIDORE STRING QUARTET **General availability** Winner of the 2022 Banff International String Quartet Competition and a 2023 Avery Fisher Career Grant!

“A focus and command beyond their years....the sweeping coherence
and blazing virtuosity of their narrative had the audience leaping to
their feet.”

— *Violinist.com*

“Exquisite poise and balance....the Isidore projected the infinite variety
that Beethoven mines. Time stood still....exceptional.”
—*Chicago Classical Review*



THÉOTIME LANGLOIS DE SWARTE, violin with Les Arts Florissants Vivaldi: “Four Seasons at 300”

March 15-Apr 10, 2025

Possible additional tour in Oct 2025!

Also available as soloist/guest leader with
orchestras

“Théotime Langlois de Swarte reminds me why I fell in
love with Baroque violin in the first place...His playing is
joyful; it is wild and beautiful.”
—*Gramophone*



LE CONSORT **Oct 13-Nov 3, 2024**

Programs of well-loved and lesser-
known works of the Baroque era

“Ravishing, exhilarating and uniquely beautiful.”
—*BBC Music Magazine*

“Undeniably excellent...Bravi tutti.”
—*Gramophone*

“Brilliant throughout, daring, sensual, Le Consort delights us.”
—*Diapason*



JERUSALEM QUARTET **Oct 27-Nov 9, 2024**

Oct 18-31, 2025
Apr 19-May 2, 2026

Offering the **Shostakovich Cycle** in five programs

“The Jerusalem Quartet plays with artistic authority,
immense energy, perfectly blended tone, and a unity of
ensemble that borders on psychic.”
—*Plain Dealer* (Cleveland)

“As near to perfect as one can possibly find.”
—*BBC Music Magazine*



ST. LAWRENCE STRING QUARTET

The St. Lawrence String Quartet has been
deeply moved by the tremendous outpouring of
love and support from the musical community
following the death of our beloved partner Geoff
Nuttall. We have decided to create necessary
space to grieve, process and reflect, and will not be performing
concerts during this period. We appreciate everyone’s understanding
during this difficult time, and will issue a further statement when our
future plans have clarified.

—*Lesley Robertson, Christopher Costanza, & Owen Dalby*
November 20, 2022