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THE ZORA STRING QUARTET

Dechopol Kowintaweewat & Hsuan-Hao Hsu, violins

Pablo Muñoz Salido, viola Zizai Ning, cello

The Zorá String Quartet leapt to national attention in 2015, after capturing the Grand Prize and Gold Medal of the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition, and First Prizes in the Coleman National Chamber Music and the Young Concert Artists International Auditions. The quartet has toured extensively ever since and last season, in addition to being named the Quartet-in-Residence at the Curtis Institute of Music, it was presented in New York and Washington, DC debuts in the Young Concert Artists Series followed by performances throughout the U.S. at Chamber Music Wilmington, the Lied Center of Kansas, the Paramount Theatre, Rockefeller University, Hayden's Ferry Chamber Music Series, University of Florida Performing Arts, the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, and Chamber Music International.

The 2017-2018 season's featured performances include engagements in Paris, Salzburg, Berlin and Munich as part of Curtis on Tour, in which it premiered a work by Andrew Hsu commissioned by Curtis and written especially for the Zorá String Quartet, as well as Curtis on Tour performances in which it collaborated with artists including clarinetist David Shifrin. The Quartet also debuted at Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston, the Morgan Library & Museum in New York, and the Buffalo Chamber Music Society, and performed at Bravo! Vail, the Verbier Academy, the Evergreen Library and Museum, Chamber on the Mountain and Bryn Mawr College, as well as numerous educational programs at schools. The quartet's performance at the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society will featured the ensemble playing quartets as well the Brahms String Sextet with cellist Peter Wiley and violist Roberto Diaz.

Selected to participate in The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center's Chamber Music Encounters program, concluding a performance at Alice Tully Hall, the Zorá String Quartet has also appeared at Chamber Music Northwest, Oregon Music Festival, and the Emilia Romagna Festival. It participated in chamber music residencies at the Banff Centre, the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival and at the Center for Advanced Quartet Studies of the Aspen Music Festival, where it worked intensively with Earl Carlyss, the Takács Quartet, the Pacifica Quartet, and the American String Quartet.

Chosen as the string quartet in residence to perform and study manuscripts at the Beethoven-Haus in Germany, the Quartet has also been champions of new works, having collaborated with Pulitzer-Prize-winning American composer Caroline Shaw and the NOTUS Contemporary Ensemble.

The Zorá String Quartet aspires to educate individual students, serve as mentors for collegiate-level string players, and initiate outreach projects to introduce new audiences to chamber music. It worked with the non-profit organization Reimagining Opera for Kids and has performed at the Wylie House Museum, Waldron Arts Center, and the Art Museum of IU Bloomington to better bridge the gap with the local community.

The Quartet's members earned prestigious Chamber Music Performer's Diplomas from the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University, and served as the graduate quartet-in-residence at the Jacobs School of Music under the tutelage of the Pacifica Quartet and Atar Arad. It was then quartet-in-residence at the Curtis Institute of Music. The Quartet recently gave master classes for YCA alumna Ani Kavafian and for Sir Andrés Schiff.

The name "Zorá" was chosen by Bulgarian professor Kevork Mardirossian; it means "sunrise" in Bulgarian.

[Group name is pronounced: Zor-AH]

Dechopol Kowintaweewat: *DEH-sha-pole Ko-WIN-ta-wee-wat*

Hsuan-Hao Hsu: *Schwan-how Schwee*

Pablo Muñoz Salido: *Pablo MOON-yoze Sal-EE-do*

Zizai Ning: *Zee-Zai (rhymes with "eye") Nin*