

MEDIA CONTACT

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The Perlman Music Program Suncoast Presents

The Stearns Point Quartet

With PMP Alumni K.J. McDonald, violin; Phoebe Gardner, violin

Julian Seney, viola; and Leland Ko, cello

Wednesday, March 29, at Sarasota Art Museum

The four members of the quartet have been a part of the Perlman Music Program and PMP Suncoast since 2011. Despite living in different cities, their passion for PMP and the times they spent together, including in Sarasota, inspired them to start this group.

(March 1, 2023) The Perlman Music Program nurtures the talent of gifted young musicians by providing an opportunity for them to train in Sarasota with Itzhak Perlman at the PMP Winter Residency. After the residency, PMP students move on to higher education and careers. The Perlman Music Program Suncoast (PMP Suncoast) then invites these alumni back to the Sarasota-Manatee region for performances and outreach initiatives throughout the year. Each performance offers a unique opportunity

for area audiences to learn about and interact with the musicians through Q&A sessions.

This month, PMP Suncoast presents a recital by The Stearns Point Quartet, four PMP alumni whose passion for PMP and the times they spent together, including in Sarasota, inspired them to recently start the quartet. The event is Wednesday, March 29, 7 p.m., in the Thomas McGuire Hall at Sarasota Art Museum, 1001 S Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. Tickets are \$15. ***To purchase tickets, visit PerlmanSuncoast.org.***

The program features Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Divertimento in D major, K. 136; Ludwig van Beethoven's String quartet in B-flat major (op. 18, no 6); John Cage's "FOUR," and Felix Mendelssohn's String quartet in F minor (op. 80, no. 6). *The program is subject to change.*

"We're excited to present the Stearns Point Quartet's first performance in our area," says Lisa Berger, executive director of Perlman Suncoast. "The four members of the quartet have been a part of the Perlman Music Program and PMP Suncoast as students, and now alum, since 2011. Despite living in different cities, their passion for PMP and the times they spent together, including at the PMP Winter Residency in Sarasota, inspired them to form this group. Violinist Julian Seney stated, 'There's something beautiful about being able to play with people we grew up with and with whom we have a collective memory. Sarasota is especially important to us since we did a lot of our growing up here.'"

Berger adds that what makes these performances so rewarding for audiences is that the artists share insights into the music and the composer of the music they will

play. Audiences have a chance, during the Q&A sessions afterwards, to learn more about both the music and the musicians.

Artist Bios

K.J McDonald, violin

K.J. McDonald, violin (Santa Clarita, CA), received his B.M. and M.M. with Itzhak Perlman and Catherine Cho at The Juilliard School, where he received a Kovner Fellowship. He has worked with composers Steve Reich, Thomas Ades, Alvin Singleton, Kaija Saariaho, Tan Dun, and John Adams, and regularly premieres and commissions music from upcoming composers in venues like Alice Tully Hall. McDonald has founded several string quartets and piano trios, with both present and past members of the Juilliard string quartet, members of the Cleveland Quartet, Joseph Kalichstein, Merry Peckham, and Kirsten Docter. He has a passion for pedagogy and has travelled the world teaching underprivileged children.

Phoebe Gardner, violin

Phoebe Gardner is a violinist and violin teacher based in Sydney, Australia. Gardner graduated with a Bachelor of Music in Violin Performance from The Juilliard School, where she studied with Itzhak Perlman and Catherine Cho, and was supported by the Dorothy DeLay Violin Scholarship. Gardner has performed as a soloist and chamber musician throughout the United States, Britain, Norway, Germany, Israel and Australia. She has won prizes in several national competitions in the U.S. and Australia and has attended and been awarded fellowships to summer festivals throughout the U.S. and Europe, including the Perlman Music Program Summer Music School and Chamber Music Workshop, Conservatoire américain de Fontainebleau, Aspen Music Festival and School and Valdres Sommersymfoni. Throughout her time at The Juilliard School, Phoebe was privileged to work with wonderful conductors including Alan Gilbert, Pablo Heras-Casado and Michael Tilson Thomas, and to be coached in chamber music with members of the Juilliard String Quartet. She was also invited to perform in

masterclasses for the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Centre and musicians of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra.

Julian Seney, viola

Julian Sneige-Seney (Huntington, NY), a student at the New England Conservatory, studies with Kim Kashkashian and was previously taught by Paul Coletti at the Colburn School, and Cindy Wu. He has performed in many venues, including Walt Disney Concert Hall, Carnegie Hall, the Beijing Concert Hall, and the Seoul Arts Center. Sneige-Seney has also performed in outreach concerts in Los Angeles public schools and regularly participates in music festivals across the nation.

Leland Ko, cello

Leland Philip Ko says he is the kind of person who “always has an overflow of energy.” His restlessness has led him to various callings, from competitive tennis and distance running to calligraphy and origami. Aside from these interests, he’s found that making music with and for others is where his true passion lies. Though he has chosen to dedicate himself to classical music, he does his best to remember and live by a former mentor’s advice that music is about life, not the other way around. Leland lives in Boston.

About The Perlman Music Program Suncoast

The Perlman Music Program Suncoast cultivates, educates and inspires audiences of all ages through classical music performances and education outreach programs, including hosting the annual Perlman Music Program Winter Residency on the University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee Campus, PMP Alumni: Around Town, and PMP Alumni: In Schools. Through its relationship with PMP, founded by Toby Perlman, and with a world-renowned faculty, including internationally acclaimed violinist and conductor Itzhak Perlman, Perlman Suncoast offers the public the unique opportunity to witness the talent and spirit of extraordinarily gifted and promising young string students and accomplished graduates. For more information, visit PerlmanSuncoast.org.