

# CCM

FACULTY ARTIST SERIES  
PRESENTS

## ARIEL QUARTET

Alexandra Kazovsky, violin

Gershon Gerchikov, violin

Jan Grüning, viola

Amit Even-Tov, cello

Paul Watkins, cello

**Tuesday, September 17, 2024**  
**Robert J. Werner Recital Hall**  
**7:30 p.m.**

# PROGRAM

String Quartet in F Minor, Op. 80

Felix Mendelssohn  
(1809-1847)

- I. Allegro vivace assai*
- II. Allegro assai*
- III. Adagio*
- IV. Finale: Allegro molto*

Four Ladino Songs for String Quartet\*

Matan Porat  
(b. 1982)

- I. Floating – Meno mosso*
- II. Scherzando*
- III. Variation I - poco piu mosso, Theme - Var. II, nervous - piu mosso,  
Var. III - Var. IV, calmer - Var. V - Var. VI, slow, almost timeless -  
Var. 7 - Theme*

*\*Commissioned by Ann and Harry Santen and the University of Cincinnati  
College-Conservatory of Music*

## *Intermission*

String Quintet in C Major, D. 956

Franz Schubert  
(1797-1828)

- Allegro ma non troppo*
- Adagio*
- Scherzo. Presto -Trio. Andante sostenuto*
- Allegretto*

Paul Watkins, guest cello

# PROGRAM NOTES

## **Matan Porat, composer's note:**

"The Judeo-Spanish language, also known as Ladino, was originally spoken in Spain but after the Edict of Expulsion in 1492 spread across the Balkan, Turkey and Morocco among Jews.

These Four Ladino Songs were chosen from a rich heritage of folksongs, almost all of which are dealing with the themes of love and pain. The quartet is in three contrasting movements.

The first movement consists of two songs, "Los Bilbilicos" and "Yo Era Ninya", and depicts the yearning of a faraway loved one.

The second movement is a scherzo, full of humor and wit, on the text of "mi suegra, la negra", a humorous text about an evil stepmother who makes the life of the bride miserable.

The final movement is a theme with seven variations on "Durme, Durme", which concludes with the quartet singing the theme and nursing a baby to sleep.

The quartet was commissioned by Ann and Harry Santen and the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, for the 20th Anniversary of the Ariel Quartet."

*The original Ladino songs with English translation:*

### **Los Bilbilicos**

Los bilbilicos cantan  
Con suspiros de amor  
Mi neshama y mi ventura  
Estan en tu poder

La rosa enflorece  
En el mes de mai  
Mi neshama s'escurece  
Sufriendo del amor

Mas presto ven palomba  
Mas presto ven a mi  
Mas presto tu mi alma  
Que yo me vo morir

### **The Nightingales**

The nightingales sing  
With sighs of love  
My soul and my fate  
Are in your power

The rose blooms  
In the month of  
May My soul darkens  
Suffering from love

Come quickly my dove  
More quickly come to me  
Come, you my soul,  
For I will surely die

# PROGRAM NOTES

## **Yo era ninya**

Yo era ninya de kaza alta  
No savia de sufrir  
Por kaer kon ti berbante  
Me metites a servir

## **Mi suegra, la negra**

Mi suegra, la negra  
Kon mí se daquileya  
Yo no puedo más vivir kon ella  
Ella es muy fuerte, como la muerte  
Más presto me veré sin ella

Un día, asentada kon mi marido  
Ella detrás como un enemigo  
Me dió un pillisko, me dió un modrisco  
Más presto me veré sin ella

En los días de la dulzura  
Ella ensembra la amargura  
El güerco venga, por la soltura  
Que yo ya no puedo vivir  
Kon ella kon mi suegra, la negra

## **Durme, Durme**

Durme, durme ijiko de madre  
Durme, durme sin ansia i dolor  
Durme, durme sin ansia i dolor

## **I was a girl**

I was a girl from an upper class family and  
I never  
knew of any suffering,  
Because I fell in love with you,  
You've brought me misfortune.

## **My mother-in-law, the dark one**

My mother-in-law, the dark one  
Taunts me  
I cannot live with her anymore  
She is very strong, like death  
How quickly I can see myself without her

One day, sitting with my husband,  
She was behind me like an enemy,  
She gave me a pinch, she gave me a big  
bite  
How quickly I can see myself without her

On the sweetest of days  
She sows bitterness  
May the devil come and take her away  
For I can no longer live with her  
With my mother-in-law, the dark one

## **Sleep, sleep**

Sleep, sleep; mother's little boy  
Free from worry and from pain,  
Free from worry and from pain.

# BIOGRAPHY

## **Paul Watkins – Conductor, Cello**

Acclaimed for his inspirational performances and eloquent musicianship, Paul Watkins enjoys a distinguished career as concerto soloist, chamber musician and conductor. He is the Artistic Director of the Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival in Detroit (since 2014), the cellist of the Emerson String Quartet (2013-2023) and Visiting Professor of Cello at Yale School of Music (since 2018). He took first prize in the 2002 Leeds Conducting Competition, and has held the positions of Music Director of the English Chamber Orchestra and Principal Guest Conductor of the Ulster Orchestra.

As a cellist, Watkins has given regular concerto performances with prestigious orchestras across the globe. Also, a dedicated chamber musician, Watkins was a member of the Nash Ensemble (1997-2013) and the Emerson String Quartet (2013-2023). After 44 successful seasons, the Quartet has decided to retire, and undertaken an extensive series farewell tours, culminating in their final performances in New York Lincoln Center in October 2023, where the concert is being filmed for a planned documentary by filmmaker Tristan Cook, and the release of their final recording of Berg, Chausson, Schoenberg and Hindemith with prestigious guests soprano Barbara Hannigan and pianist Bertrand Chamayou.

As a conductor, Watkins has conducted all the major British orchestras, and a wide range of international orchestras. In 2006 he made his opera debut conducting a critically praised new production of Poulenc's *La Voix Humaine* for Opera North.

Highlights of the 23/24 season include a recording of the Richard Rodney Bennett cello concerto for Chandos with the BBC Scottish Symphony), Tippett's Triple Concerto with the Halle orchestra and Shostakovich with the Aalborg Symphony.

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