

Waukegan Chamber Music Society

[www.waukegan Chamber Music Society.org](http://www.waukegan Chamber Music Society.org)

## 2018-2019 Concert Season

*All programs will take place at the Family Piano Co.  
114 South Genesee Street,  
Sunday Evenings.*

**Merling Trio, September 16, 2018, 7:30 PM**

**Wine and Cheese reception, 7:00PM – Guests welcome!**

**David Pedraza and Guests, November 11, 2018, 7:30 PM**

**Avanti Guitar Trio, April 7, 2019, 7:30 PM**

**5<sup>th</sup> House Piano Ensemble, May 11, 2019, 7:30 PM**

### Artist Biographies

Merling Trio

**September 16, 2018**



The Merling Trio is recognized as one of today's premier ensembles. A truly international trio, it brings together musicians from Polish, Japanese, and Dutch backgrounds. The Merling Trio has been hailed as a brilliantly distinguished group endowed with remarkable gifts of communication, magnificent precision, and

an impeccable blend of sound. The trio made its New York debut in Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in 1993, and was named a finalist for the Naumburg Foundation Chamber Music Award in 1994.

The Merling Trio has given numerous recitals throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe. Members of the Trio have performed with orchestras such as the English Chamber Orchestra, the Honolulu Symphony, the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, the Concerto Soloists of Philadelphia, and the South Carolina Philharmonic, under the baton of such notable conductors as Daniel Barenboim, Simon Rattle, and Christoph Eschenbach. Recent trio performances include concerts for the Lagerstrom Concerts Series at Caltech, the Texas Friends of Chamber Music Series, the Jewel Box Series in Chicago, the Charleston Chamber Music Society, Merkin Hall, and the Antioch College Professional Piano Series. Performances by the Merling Trio have been broadcast widely on television and radio, including WNYC, WFMT 98.7 in Chicago, Interlochen Public Radio, and Peachstate Public Radio. The 2016-17 season will include tours of Iowa, New York, Massachusetts, Florida, North Carolina, South Dakota, Nebraska, Nevada, Illinois, and Minnesota, as well as the trio's inaugural tour to China.

## David Pedraza and Guests, **November 11, 2018**



Violist, born in Reynosa, Mexico, David started his musical studies at 14 in the OCJM under Jose Vazquez. Later on he received a full scholarship to study the Bachelor of Music at Shenandoah Conservatory.

From 2003 to 2005 he was part of the Youth Orchestra of the Americas under Placido Domingo, Carlos Prieto and Gustavo Dudamel.

David holds a Professional Performance Certificate from Lynn University Conservatory of Music and recently he finished his Master of Music at the same institution with an award of full scholarship. He won the First Prize with Vitali String Quartet at the 2004 MTNA Virginia chamber music competition and also has received honorific mentions in 2005 and 2007 from the MTNA Viola competition in Florida. He has participated in master classes of Carol Rodland, Jeffrey Irvine, Roberto Diaz, Kim Kashkashian, Peter Slowik, Orlando Cole, Arnold Steinhardt, Ellen Rose Basil Vendryes and Wilfried Strehle.

Recently he performed the Bartok Viola Concerto with the Orquesta Sinfonica de la UAT. David has performed in countries like: Mexico, Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Panama, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, Peru, Spain, France, Switzerland and the UK. His main teacher was Ralph Fielding. Currently he is part of the Con Brio Quartet, and Principal Viola with Symphony of the Americas.

## Avanti Guitar Trio, April 7, 2019



The Avanti Guitar Trio is a world-class chamber ensemble whose performances are exciting, approachable, and welcoming. Guitarists Jason Deroche, Julie Goldberg, and Wesley Hixson blend together pristine technique and sensitive interpretation, earning critical acclaim for their engaging concerts and varied programming.

Their repertoire ranges from the Baroque to Contemporary, and features newly composed music, engaging transcriptions of classical masterpieces, and an occasional rock/pop or jazz tune.

Based in Chicago, Illinois, AGT has performed for the Waukegan Chamber Society, Chicago Composers' Consortium, Illinois Wesleyan University, Quincy University, Church of Beethoven, and Harold Washington Chicago Public Library. AGT has shared the stage with renowned guitarists Benjamin Verdery, William Coulter, Las Guitarras de España, and Earl Klugh.

Formed in 2010 the Avanti Guitar Trio continues to expand the guitar trio repertoire by composing/transcribing new works and collaborating with established and upcoming composers.

## Fifth House Ensemble, May 11, 2019



Praised by the New York Times for its “conviction, authority, and finesse,” the Chicago-based Fifth House Ensemble harnesses the collaborative spirit of chamber music to reach beyond the traditionally-perceived limits of classical music. The ensemble’s artistic, educational, and civic programs engage theater groups, video game designers, corporate innovators, and folk bands to share stories as diverse as the communities it serves.

In its 2018-2019 season, Fifth House Ensemble presents a world-spanning collaboration with Tuvan throat-singing masters Alash Ensemble that explores storytelling, participation, and ritual through interviews and documentary video filmed on location in the remote Siberian republic. Sonic Meditations brings together folk storytelling, Deep Listening and meditation practices, and new commissions from Fresh Inc Festival alum William Pearson and Grammy-nominated video game composer Austin Wintory. Composer and Fifth House Artistic Director Dan Visconti’s musical puzzle, *Unchained Melodies*, forms another program of virtuosic solo pieces that combine in counterpoint to form duos, trios, and ultimately a full dectet. The world premiere of prolific opera composer Daron Hagen’s newest project, *Orson Rehearsed*, looks at the process of art through the lens of pivotal creative force Orson Welles.

Also this season, Fifth House visits Ball State University (Muncie, IN), Georgia Tech University, The Harris Center (Folsom, CA), and MSU Denver with *Journey LIVE*, an interactive arrangement for Fifth House of Austin Wintory’s Grammy-nominated score responsive to live game play, and visits the Studebaker Theater, Chicago Latino Music Festival, Waukegan Chamber Music Society, Fermilab, Illinois State University, University of Dayton, Old Town School of Folk Music, and Southeast Missouri State University for performances, training workshops, and residency activities this season.

Performances in previous seasons include those at Texas Performing Arts, LiveConnections (Philadelphia, PA), MAGFest music and gaming festival (National Harbor, MD), WFMT Impromptu (Chicago, IL), Steppenwolf Theater, the Forma Festival (Moscow), National Sawdust (NYC) and the Miller Theatre (NYC).

Through the ensemble’s heartfelt social and civic practice work, Fifth House has co-created artistic projects with urban neighborhoods, social service organizations, and an agricultural community to spark conversations on issues that matter. Recent projects include *Broken Text*, a collaboration with Raven Theatre and DJ Search11te inspired by multi-week residencies at the Cook County Temporary Youth Detention Center and St. Leonard’s Ministries; *Voices from the Dust Bowl*, a collaboration with composer Steven Snowden and bluegrass band Henhouse Prowlers exploring stories from workers’ rights organizations nationwide; *Nedudim*, an exploration of music and cultural identity in collaboration with Baladino that engages Chicago-based organizations representing Israel, Iran, Germany and Spain, and

Harvest, a year-long partnership with DePauw University and the Greencastle, IN community culminating in a Mother's Day celebration of the people, places, and stories of Putnam County.

Reaching 17,000 students annually through its arts-integrated educational programs, Fifth House connects K-12 core curricula to vivid, custom-crafted, and interactive musical experiences which challenge students to share and lead. A member of the Illinois Arts Council Association's Arts-in-Education Roster, Fifth House has presented performances and residencies at Chicago public schools and the Chicago Cultural Center in partnership with the International Music Foundation, the Chicago Teachers' Center, Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, Chicago Arts Partnerships in Education, and Ravinia's Reach\*Teach\*Play program.

As an extension of this work, Fifth House enters its fourth year of partnership with Loyola University's Center for Urban Research and Learning this season, through which the ensemble is in residence at sites serving at-risk youth and adults including Deborah's Place, Teen Living Programs, and Nancy B. Jefferson Alternative School at the Chicago Temporary Youth Detention Center. Fifth House also partners with Storycatchers Theatre as part of its residency at the detention center to develop new curriculum culminating in a new theatrical work based on participants' own experiences.

An established partner and resource to the nation's top music schools and conservatories, Fifth House launches the careers of emerging artists through entrepreneurship residencies and training programs, including those at Yale College, Eastman School of Music, New England Conservatory, Indiana University, Roosevelt University, the Cleveland Institute of Music, UT-Austin, Northwestern University, San Francisco Conservatory, DePaul University, and the Colburn School. Recent creative partnerships have included those with The Cleveland Orchestra and the San Francisco Opera. In 2012, Fifth House launched fresh inc, a two-week, intensive training program for emerging composers and performers where Fifth House works with participants on building careers in music in line with their own unique, vision and values.

Fifth House is currently an Ensemble in Residence at the Music Institute of Chicago.