

KRONOS

David Harrington, violin

John Sherba, violin

Hank Dutt, viola

Jeffrey Zeigler, cello

For more than 30 years, the Kronos Quartet—David Harrington, John Sherba (violins), Hank Dutt (viola) and Jeffrey Zeigler (cello)—has pursued a singular artistic vision, combining a spirit of fearless exploration with a commitment to expanding the range and context of the string quartet. In the process, Kronos has become one of the most celebrated and influential groups of our time, performing thousands of concerts worldwide, releasing more than 40 recordings of extraordinary breadth and creativity, collaborating with many of the world's most eclectic composers and performers, and commissioning hundreds of works and arrangements for string quartet. Kronos' work has also garnered numerous awards, including a Grammy for Best Chamber Music Performance (2004) and "Musicians of the Year" (2003) from Musical America.

Kronos' adventurous approach dates back to the ensemble's origins. In 1973, David Harrington was inspired to form Kronos after hearing George Crumb's Black Angels, a highly unorthodox, Vietnam War-inspired work featuring bowed water glasses, spoken word passages, and electronic effects. Kronos then began building a compellingly diverse repertoire for string quartet, performing and recording works by 20th-century masters (Bartók, Shostakovich, Webern), contemporary composers (Aleksandra Vrebalov, John Adams, Alfred Schnittke), jazz legends (Ornette Coleman, Charles Mingus, Thelonious Monk), and artists from even farther afield (rock guitar legend Jimi Hendrix, Azeri vocalist Alim Qasimov, avant-garde saxophonist John Zorn).

Integral to Kronos' work is a series of long-running, in-depth collaborations with many of the world's foremost composers. One of the quartet's most frequent composer-collaborators is "Father of Minimalism"

Terry Riley, whose work with Kronos includes the early Sunrise of the Planetary Dream Collector; Cadenza on the Night Plain and Salome Dances for Peace; 2002's Sun Rings, a multimedia, NASA-commissioned ode to the earth and its people, featuring celestial sounds and images from space; and, most recently, The Cusp of Magic, commissioned in honor of Riley's 70th birthday celebrations in 2005 and recorded and released in 2008. Kronos commissioned and recorded the three string quartets of Polish composer Henryk Mikolaj Górecki, with whom the group has been working for nearly 20 years. The quartet has also collaborated extensively with composers such as Philip Glass, recording his complete string quartets and scores to films like Mishima and Dracula (a restored edition of the Bela Lugosi classic).

Saturday Concert Program

Ram Narayan (arr. Kronos, transc. Ljova) / Raga
Mishra Bhairavi: Alap +

Bryce Dessner / Ahey *
Traditional (arr. Jacob Garchik) / Smyrneiko Minore +
Ramallah Underground (arr. Jacob Garchik) /
Tashweesh *

Sigur Rós (arr. Stephen Prutsman) / Flugufrelsarinn
(The Fly Freer) +

Thomas Newman / NEW WORK +
INTERMISSION

Terry Riley / The Welcoming Baptism of Sweet Daisy
Grace * World premiere

Hamza El Din (realized by Tohru Ueda) / Escalay
(Water Wheel) *

Café Tacuba (arr. Osvaldo Golijov) / 12/12 *

PROGRAM SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Updated: 07/02/2009

* Written for Kronos

+ Arranged for Kronos