



Momenta Quartet

Joseph Haydn
(1732 – 1809)

String Quartet in F Minor, op. 20, No. 5

- I. *Allegro moderato*
- II. *Menuetto - Trio*
- III. *Adagio*
- IV. *Finale. Fuga a 2 soggetti*

Alvin Singleton
(b. 1940)

String Quartet No. 1 (1967)

*** *intermission* ***

Florence Price
(1887 – 1953)

String Quartet in G Major

- II. *Andante moderato*

Sergei Prokofiev
(1891 – 1953)

String Quartet No. 2

- I. *Allegro sostenuto*
- II. *Adagio*
- III. *Allegro*

Momenta Quartet

Emilie-Anne Gendron and Alex Shiozaki, violins
Stephanie Griffin, viola
Michael Haas, cello

*Momenta Quartet is presented by the Williams College Department of Music
with the generous support of the W. Ford Schumann '50 Performing Arts Endowment.*

Wednesday, November 17, 2021

7:30 p.m.

*Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall
Williamstown, Massachusetts*

See music.williams.edu for full details and additional happenings as well as to sign up for the weekly e-newsletters.

Upcoming Events

Williams Percussion Ensemble
Fri Nov 19 | Chapin Hall | 7:30 PM

Violin Studio Recital
Tue Nov 30 | Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall | 4:30 PM

Williams Gospel Choir
Sat Dec 4 | Chapin Hall | 4:00 PM

A Christmas Service of Lessons & Carols, Thompson Memorial Chapel
Sat Dec 4 | Thompson Memorial Chapel | 7:00 PM

Sitar and Tabla Studio Recital
Mon Dec 6 | Chapin Hall | 5:00 PM

*Please turn off cell phones.
No photography or recording is permitted.*

Momenta: the plural of momentum—four individuals in motion towards a common goal. This is the idea behind the Momenta Quartet, whose eclectic vision encompasses contemporary music of all aesthetic backgrounds alongside great music from the recent and distant past. The NYC-based quartet has premiered over 200 works, collaborated with over 250 living composers and was praised by *The New York Times* for its “diligence, curiosity and excellence.” In the words of *The New Yorker*’s Alex Ross, “few American players assume Haydn’s idiom with such ease.”

The quartet came into being in November 2004, when composer Matthew Greenbaum invited violist Stephanie Griffin to perform Mario Davidovsky’s String Trio for events celebrating Judaism and Culture at New York’s Symphony Space and Philadelphia’s Temple University. A Temple composition department residency ensued, and the rehearsals and performances were so satisfying that the players decided to form a quartet. From the outset, *Momenta* treated all music equally, devoting as much time, care and commitment to the student works as to the imposing musical monuments.

Word of *Momenta*’s passionate advocacy for emerging composers spread quickly. Composers started inviting *Momenta* for similar concerts and residencies at other institutions. Today, *Momenta*’s educational-performing circuit includes Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Harvard, NY, Tufts, Washington and Yeshiva Universities; Bard, Bates, Haverford, Ithaca and Williams Colleges; and Cincinnati and Eastman conservatories. *Momenta* has received Koussevitzky commission grants for Malaysian composer Kee Yong Chong (2009) and Bolivian composer Agustín Fernández (2011); a Barlow commission for Claude Baker (2016); a Jerome grant to commission Eric Nathan (2013); and a Chamber Music America commission for Alvin Singleton (2017). Deeply committed to the musical avant-garde of the developing world, *Momenta* has premiered and championed the works of Tony Prabowo (Indonesia), Cergio Prudencio (Bolivia) and Hana Ajiashvili (Georgia); collaborates with several gamelan ensembles; and was recently brought by the U.S. State Department to Cochabamba, Bolivia for new-music concerts and a residency at the Instituto Laredo.

Momenta has appeared at such prestigious venues as the Library of Congress, National Gallery of Art, Smithsonian Freer Gallery, Rubin Museum, Columbia University’s Miller Theatre, Princeton Institute for Advanced Study, and the chamber music societies of Cincinnati, Louisville, and Philadelphia. Festival credits include Cervantino, MATA, Ostrava Days, Red Note, Yellow Barn, and since 2015, the quartet’s own annual member-curated *Momenta* Festival in NYC.

In 2021-22, *Momenta* is in residence at Binghamton University, having just concluded as Artists-in-Residence at Bates College. Other appearances include at Haverford and Williams Colleges, the Music From Japan festival, and “Concourse Counterpoint,” a community series at the South Bronx’s historic Andrew Freedman Home. The next in-person installment of the *Momenta* Festival resumes in NYC in June 2022. The quartet also continues its collaboration with Mexican actor/director Fernando Villa Proal on “The Lost String Quartet,” a theatrical string quartet for children with an original score by Stephanie Griffin.

Momenta’s debut album, “Similar Motion,” is available on Albany Records. Upcoming recordings include all thirteen quartets by historic Mexican microtonalist Julián Carrillo, and an American album featuring diverse works by Elizabeth Brown, Jason Hwang, Shawn Jaeger, Yusef Lateef, and Roberto Sierra. In 2022, New World Records will release “Hallelujah Anyway,” *Momenta*’s premiere recording of Alvin Singleton’s complete quartets.