

**MUSIC MOUNTAIN**  
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**SERIES OF CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERTS**

**THIRTEEN CONSECUTIVE SUNDAY AFTERNOONS**  
**THREE SATURDAY TWILIGHT CONCERTS**

**THE SHANGHAI**  
**STRING QUARTET**

**WEIGANG LI, VIOLIN**  
**YIWEN JIANG, VIOLIN**

**HONGGANG LI, VIOLA**  
**NICHOLAS TSAVARAS, CELLO**

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**ASSISTING ARTIST**  
**SOPHIE SHAO, CELLO**

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**SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 2008 at 6:30 P.M.**

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**GORDON HALL**

**MUSIC MOUNTAIN**

**FALLS VILLAGE, CT**

**SEVENTY-NINTH YEAR**  
**2008**

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 2008

## THE ARTISTS

### THE SHANGHAI STRING QUARTET

“The whole performance was superb,” says *The New York Times*. Originally formed in Shanghai 25 years ago, this versatile ensemble is known for their passionate musicality, impressive technique, and multicultural innovations. The Shanghai Quartet’s elegant style of melding the delicacy of Eastern music with the emotional breadth of Western repertoire allows them to traverse the genres, from traditional Chinese folk music to cutting edge contemporary classical works. To celebrate their 25th anniversary (2008-09), the Quartet will premiere commissions from the three continents that comprise their artistic and cultural worlds: Chen Yi, Krzysztof Penderecki, and jazz pianist Dick Hyman.

The Quartet has performed on the world’s most prominent concert stages, and regularly tours the great music centers of Europe, North and South America, and Asia. Recent seasons have included tours of Japan, China, Australia, New Zealand, and Europe. The Quartet has made regular appearances at Carnegie Hall both in chamber performance and with orchestra, and in 2006 performed the world premiere of a Concerto for Quartet and Orchestra by Takuma Itoh in Carnegie’s Isaac Stern Auditorium.

The Quartet has a long history of championing new music and juxtaposing Eastern and Western sounds. In addition to their 25th Anniversary Commissions, the Quartet’s range of commissions and premieres includes Works by Lowell Lieberman, Bright Sheng, and Zhou Long, among others.

The Quartet has built an extensive discography that now totals over 20 recordings, on multiple labels. Some of the most recent include Mendelssohn Octet (Camerata), and Zhou Long’s “Poems for Tang” Quartet and Orchestra (BIS). In 2003, the Quartet released its most popular disc to date: a 24-track collection of Chinese folk songs, titled ChinaSong, featuring music arranged by Yi-Wen Jiang that reflect on his childhood memories of the Chinese Cultural Revolution. Their current projects include recording the complete Beethoven string quartets (Camerata), beginning with the Opus 18 Quartets. The complete cycle is scheduled for release over the next five years.

The Quartet has appeared in a diverse and interesting array of media projects. They performed on the soundtrack recording (Bartok Quartet No. 4), as well as making a cameo appearance on screen, for the Woody Allen film, "Melinda and Melinda." They have appeared on PBS's *Great Performances* television series. Other on-screen film accomplishments include an appearance by violinist Weigang Li in the documentary "From Mao to Mozart: Isaac Stern in China," and cellist Nick Tzavaras' family was the subject of the 1999 film "Music of the Heart," which starred Meryl Streep.

The Quartet has a distinguished teaching record. They serve as the Ensemble-in-Residence at Montclair State University. They also serve as visiting professors at the Shanghai Conservatory and the Central Conservatory in China.

### **SOPHIE SHAO, CELLO**

Cellist Sophie Shao is rapidly gaining international acclaim for her brilliant, mature interpretations of repertoire ranging from Bach and Beethoven to Crumb and Wilson. *Strad Magazine* praised her "superior sense of style" and the *World News* described her "sensitive, stylistic playing, with great finesse, emotion, and gorgeous tone."

Winner of top prizes at the 2001 Rostropovich Competition and the XII Tchaikovsky Competition in 2002, Ms. Shao received the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant at the age of nineteen. She made her first appearance with the Houston Symphony at the age of eleven, playing Boccherini's Cello Concerto, and has returned to perform with the orchestra on numerous occasions. Other orchestral appearances include the Orchestre de Paris with Christoph Eschenbach, the Russian State Academic Symphony Cappella with Valery Poliansky, Erie Symphony, Yale Symphony, Abilene Philharmonic, Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes, the Cayuga Chamber Orchestra, among others. She has performed recitals throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia, and has appeared in performances in such venues as the 92nd Street Y, Carnegie, Avery Fisher, Alice Tully, and Merkin Halls in New York, Suntory Hall in Tokyo, Heinz Hall in Pittsburgh, Ford Centre in Toronto, and Rice University in Houston.

In great demand as a chamber musician, she has collaborated with members of the Beaux Arts Trio, the Guarneri, Juilliard, Orion, Cleveland, Mendelssohn String Quartets, and has performed with such distinguished artists as Gary Graffman, David Shifrin, Jaime Laredo, Andre Previn, Eugene Istomin, Cho-Liang Lin, Andre-Michel Schub, Paquito D'Rivera, Andras Schiff, Fred Sherry, Ani Kavafian, Claude Frank, Andre Watts, Martha Argerich, and Christoph Eschenbach. Ms. Shao's many festival appearances include Marlboro, Chamber Music Northwest, Bard, Caramoor, Bridgehampton, Sarasota, Music from Angel Fire, Vail, Saratoga, and Ravinia. In the 1998-1999 and 1999-2000 seasons, Sophie Shao was a member of Chamber Music Society Two, the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center's program for emerging young artists, and continues to be a regular guest at the Chamber Music Society. In the 2003-2004 season, she performed frequently with Concertante, an ensemble devoted to playing chamber works of five people or more, and her chamber music collaborations this season takes her throughout the United States and Taiwan.

Ms. Shao can be heard on EMI Classics, playing Andre Previn's *Reflections* with the Curtis Orchestra under the direction of the composer. Her 1995 performance of Mendelssohn's *Quartet in a minor* appears on Marlboro Music Festival's 50th Anniversary Album on Bridge Records. Just released by Albany Records in July of 2005, "Diablerie" features the music of composer Richard Wilson, performed by Rolfe Schulte, violin, Sophie Shao, cello, Allen Blustine, clarinet, and Richard Wilson, piano.

A native of Houston, Texas, Ms. Shao began playing the cello at age six, and was a student of Shirley Trepel, then the principal cellist of the Houston Symphony and professor at Rice University. At age thirteen she enrolled at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, studying cello with David Soyer and chamber music with Felix Galimir. After graduating from the Curtis Institute, she continued her cello studies with Aldo Parisot at Yale University, receiving a B.A. in Religious Studies from Yale College and an M.M. from the Yale School of Music, where she was enrolled as a Paul and Daisy Soros Fellow. She now resides in Manhattan, and teaches cello at the Bard College Conservatory of Music, Vassar College, and Princeton University.

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## PROGRAM

STRING QUARTET IN F MAJOR,  
OPUS 59 #1 (1806)

Ludwig van Beethoven  
(1770-1827)

Allegro

Allegretto vivace e sempre scherzando

Adagio molto e mesto

Theme Russe: Allegro

## INTERMISSION

CELLO QUINTET IN C MAJOR,  
OPUS 163, D. 956 (1828)

Franz Schubert  
(1797-1828)

Allegro ma non troppo

Adagio

Scherzo: Presto; Trio: Andante sostenuto

Allegretto

### ARKIVMUSIC.COM

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## PROGRAM NOTES

### **STRING QUARTET IN F MAJOR, OPUS 59 #1**

by Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

This is the first of two concerts in which we will present all three of the Opus 59 Beethoven String Quartets, commemorating the 200th year since their composition in 1806.

Count (later Prince) Andreas Cyrillovich Rasumovsky served for nearly a quarter century as Russian Ambassador at the court of Vienna. His palace, with its library picture gallery and collection of statues by Canova, was a center of artistic life in the city. The Count owed his exalted status to the fact that his father and his father's brother were well-qualified lovers who had great success with two imperial princesses, later known as the Empresses Elizabeth Petrovna and Catherine II.

The Count, like his father, was also known as an admirable violinist and played second violin in readings of Haydn quartets. He hired a string quartet with Ignaz Schuppanzigh as first violinist for his private use. They adopted the name "Rasumovsky Quartet" and gained international fame as interpreters of Haydn's works. The group was placed at the disposal of Beethoven for rehearsal of his works at any time. It was to Count Rasumovsky that Beethoven dedicated the three quartets of Opus 59.

Each of the movements of the F major Quartet is in sonata form.

The F Major Quartet was one of the favorite works of the Gordon String Quartet, Music Mountain's founding quartet. In fact, during the 1931 season, the Quartet played it twice, first on June 14 and again on August 22, the anniversary of Music Mountain's Inaugural Festival the year before.

**QUINTET FOR CELLO AND STRINGS IN C MAJOR,  
OPUS 163, D. 956**

by Franz Schubert

Many music lovers are prepared to say that the Schubert Cello Quintet is probably the greatest work in the chamber music repertory. Homer Ulrich writes “In nobility of conception, beauty of melody, and variety of mood it is without equal.” William Mann describes it as “Schubert’s masterpiece and perhaps the greatest of all his works in range of emotion, quality of material, and formal perfection.” The legendary pianist Artur Schnabel asked that the slow movement be played at his funeral and the violinist Joseph Serebrinsky had the second theme of the first movement engraved on his tombstone. Through the loftiness of its melodies and the masterfulness of its technique, the Quintet touches listeners in a very special and personal way.

Grove’s says of this and other of Schubert’s last instrumental works that they “have a splendor in which there is no sign of decline; no sinking glow as of autumn or sunset lights these vigorous masterpieces.”

Schubert completed the Quintet just weeks before his death. In a letter of October 2, he offered it to a publisher, who rejected it! The Quintet was first performed in 1850. It was published in 1853.

Schubert died on November 19, 1828. His last activity was correcting the proofs of part 2 of *Winterreise*. His last words were “Here, here is my end.”

The Quartet was first played at Music Mountain on September 22, 1935 by the Gordon String Quartet, Music Mountain’s founding quartet, and James Kann, cello.

**THE FINAL TWO WEEKENDS OF THE 2008 SEASON**

**TOMORROW'S CONCERT**

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31 at 3 P.M.

***SPECIAL BENEFIT CONCERT  
FOR THE  
MUSIC MOUNTAIN OPERATING FUND***

**THE SHANGHAI STRING QUARTET  
THE AMERNET STRING QUARTET**

Yiwen Jiang: Selections from China Song

Beethoven: String Quartet in B Flat Major, Opus 18 #6

Brahms: Viola Quintet in G Major, Opus 110

Mendelssohn: Octet for Strings in E Flat Major, Opus 20

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 at 6:30 P.M.

**AN EVENING OF KLEZMER MUSIC  
WITH THE  
ALEX FITERSTEIN TRIO  
ALEX FITERSTEIN, CLARINET  
ZEV FELDMAN, DULCIMER, CIMBALON  
CHRISTINE CROWDER, ACCORDION**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 at 3 P.M.

**THE ST. PETERSBURG STRING QUARTET  
ALEXANDER MEKINULOV, PIANO**

Mozart: Trio for Violin, Viola & Piano in E Flat, K. 498 "Kegelstatt"

Shostakovich: String Quartet #8, Opus 110

Piazzolla: Trio for Violin, Viola & Piano, "Winter", "Autumn"

Brahms: Piano Quartet in G Major, Opus 25

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*Children 5-18 Admitted at No Charge  
(When accompanied by a ticket holder.)*

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You may contribute to Music Mountain's General Fund, its Endowment or to the Julie Miles Gordon Memorial Fund.

The Julie Miles Gordon Memorial Fund was established in 2005 to honor the memory of Julie Miles Gordon, the late wife of Music Mountain's longtime president, Nicholas Gordon. Its purpose is to assist in enabling artists from many different countries to participate and enrich Music Mountain teaching programs and concerts. Grants from the Julie Miles Gordon Memorial Fund are designed to replace funding sources that are reduced or no longer available, including grants from various cultural organizations and national governments.

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## MUSIC MOUNTAIN

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Both stations stream their broadcast service, making it possible to hear each concert on the Internet at local station broadcast time.

### INTERNET

Music Mountain Chamber Music concerts are available worldwide on the Internet through [www.musicmountain.org](http://www.musicmountain.org)

Go to [www.musicmountain.org](http://www.musicmountain.org) and click on "Listen on Line"

One concert each week, available 24 hours per day.



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The cooperation of the audience in keeping noise to a minimum is greatly appreciated.

Visit Music Mountain's web site:  
[www.musicmountain.org](http://www.musicmountain.org)  
860-824-7126

Music Mountain is listed in the  
National Register of Historic Places

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This program uses the same typefaces, color paper, and design as the original Music Mountain programs of the 1930s. The typefaces are New Century Schoolbook and **Times Ten** by Opticraft. The cover drawing is from the first Music Mountain poster in the 1930's.