

SIRIUS QUARTET



Fung Chern Hwei, violin
Gregor Huebner, violin
Ron Lawrence, viola
Jeremy Harman, cello

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Internationally acclaimed veterans of contemporary music, Sirius Quartet champions a forward-thinking, genre-defying approach to performing that makes labels like ‘New Music’ sound tame. *Time Out New York* calls them “four-string virtuosos boast[ing] an outlandishly diverse repertoire,” while *The New York City Jazz Record* describes them as “a stellar ensemble that transforms standard chamber music frameworks with exceptional playing, writing and arranging.”



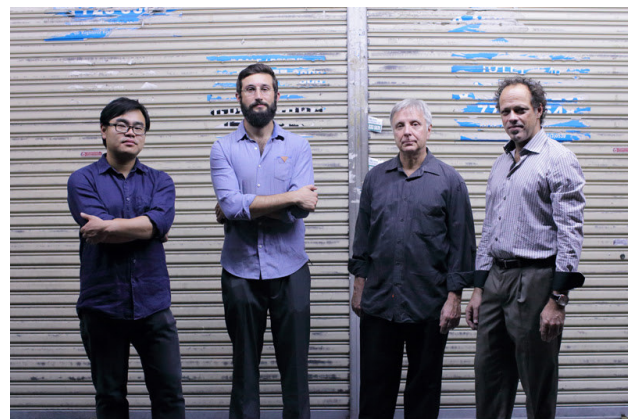
Having premiered works by significant living composers, Sirius continues its long-running commitment to musical innovation with bold, original works by its own members, pushing beyond the conventional vocabulary of string instruments by incorporating popular song forms, gripping improvisations, extended techniques and undeniable contemporary grooves.

Since their debut concert at the original Knitting Factory in New York City, the quartet has played many important US venues, including Lincoln Center’s Alice Tully Hall, the Miller Theatre at Columbia University, the Whitney Museum of American Art, LACMA, the Andy Warhol Museum (co-presented by Music on the Edge), Merkin Concert Hall, the American Composers Alliance Festival, the Chelsea Music Festival, Tribeca New Music, Issue Project Room, The Kitchen and CBGB.

International appearances have included the Beijing Music Festival, the Cologne Music Triennale, the Stuttgart Jazz Fest, the Tianjin International Jazz Fest, Musique Actuelle in Canada, the Soundbridge Festival at University Putra Malaysia, Bern University of the Arts, and repeat visits to the Taichung Jazz Fest – Taiwan’s biggest jazz event.

Sirius has shared studio and stage with the likes of Marin Alsop, Billy Martin, John Zorn, Jeremy Pelt, Frank Almond, Dianne Reeves, Uri Caine, John Patitucci, Theo Bleckmann, Ivo Perelman, Matthew Shipp, Elliott Sharp, Nick Didkovsky, Linda Oh, John Escreet, and many others.

Sirius’s upcoming album, *Paths Become Lines* (Autentico Music/Naxos 2016), exclusively features music composed by quartet members, while their previous album, the critically-acclaimed *Colors of the East* (Autentico Music/Naxos 2015), spotlights the music of Sirius violinist Gregor Huebner. The group can also be heard on Billy Martin’s *Wandering*; Elliott Sharp’s *String Quartets 2002-2007*; Nick Didkovsky’s *Tube, Mouth, Bow, String*; Jin Hi Kim’s *Living Tones*; Jeremy Pelt’s *Close To My Heart*; Dianne Reeves’s *Christmas Time Is Here*; William Thomas McKinley’s *Crazy Rags* with the Concordia



Chamber Ensemble and conductor Marin Alsop; and many other commercial recordings.

Sirius has conducted workshops and master classes on improvisation, composition and performance with students around the world. For the last several years, they have partnered with the American Composers Orchestra to bring ACO’s Music Factory and Rhythm Factory educational programs to the public schools of New York City.

Fung Chern Hwei, violin

Born and raised in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Fung Chern Hwei absorbed a large amount of musical information in his diverse surroundings: Chinese pop and classical music, Indian Bollywood tunes, Malay dance music, and Western classical music. He insisted on learning the violin when he was 4 or 5 years old, but couldn't find a teacher until he was 8. Since then, Chern Hwei has thrust himself into the world of violin and never looked back.

Shortly after starting his violin lessons, Chern Hwei found himself imitating electric guitar and saxophone sounds on his violin. In high school, he broke his school's ban on rock music and electronic instruments by sneaking a heavy metal band onto the stage during a charity night.



Upon finishing his masters degree in New York, Chern Hwei chose to freelance in New York City, absorbing even more musical languages and expressions. He can be heard performing western classical music, jazz, Middle Eastern belly dance music, baroque historical performance, rock, and hip hop. He recently self-released his debut album, "From The Heart".

Artists who he was fortunate to work with include Uri Caine, Ryuichi Sakamoto, Stanley Clarke, Tony Bennet, Bobby McFerrin, Steve Wilson, Elliot Sharp, Antonio Sanchez, composer Mikael Karlsson, among others.

Gregor Huebner, violin

Gregor Huebner is an award-winning composer and violinist, celebrated by audiences and critics alike for his visionary work across genres. His music has been described by *The New York City Jazz Record* as "challenging and vivid... seamlessly incorporat[ing] chamber elements with avant garde jazz," while *All About Jazz* describes him as "a virtuoso with broad experience in large and small classical ensembles." Huebner's recent *El Violin Latino*, an album exploring the role of the violin in traditional Latin American musics, was praised by *The Wall Street Journal* as "by turns sexy and sly, impassioned and dreamy, his collection of well-known tunes, unexpected arrangements and original compositions brings together far-flung members of the fiddle diaspora."



As a composer, Huebner's unique musical voice variously integrates improvisation, experimental notation, traditional counterpoint, pop song structures, post-tonal gestures and innovative performance techniques within formal compositional frameworks. Recent commissions include "Clockwork Interrupted," an orchestral work premiered by the Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra and SWR Big Band in July 2014; and "Six Songs of Innocence," a lyrical setting of poems by William Blake premiered by Sirius Quartet and

Collegium Iuvenum Stuttgart Boys Choir in June 2014. Huebner has also been commissioned by the International Bach Academy in Stuttgart, the State Theater of Fürth and the State Academy of Music Ochsenhausen, among many others. His works have been premiered by major ensembles such as the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, the Nova Philharmonic Orchestra and the Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra.

A highly sought-after player, Huebner has appeared in many major concert halls and festivals around the globe, including Carnegie Hall, the Apollo Theater, Berlin Philharmonie, the Hollywood Bowl,

Montreux Jazz Fest, Frauenkirche in Dresden, JVC Jazz and Gewandhaus Leipzig. He has performed and recorded with some of the most respected names in jazz and pop, including Smokey Robinson, Diane Reeves, Billy Hart, Randy Becker and John Patitucci. Huebner's collaborations with Richie Beirach and George Mraz have yielded three critically acclaimed albums, including the Latin Grammy-nominated *Round About Federico Mompou*. *The Guardian* writes, "the excellent violinist Huebner take[s] off in muscular manner... the playing itself is beautiful," while *The Irish Times*, reviewing a recording of Huebner, Beirach and saxophonist Charlie Mariano, writes, "violinist Gregor Huebner... is in the kind of mood to blow anyone away... emotionally complex... lovely."

As a seasoned educator, Huebner has given workshops and masterclasses on performance, composition and improvisation with esteemed institutions like the Manhattan School of Music, Berlin Music School, Cologne College of Music, Lübeck Academy of Music, the Klagenfurt Music Forum, the Kaufman Music Center and Face the Music. He is currently a guest professor of composition at the University of Music and Theater in Munich, and in 2009 he published his method book for string improvisation, *Exercises, Etudes and Concert Pieces*, with Advanced Music Publishing. Huebner received his formal education from the Vienna College of Music, the Stuttgart College of Music, and the Manhattan School of Music, where he earned his master's degree and was recognized with a "President's Award." Huebner was born in Stuttgart, Germany, and is based in the Harlem neighborhood of New York City.

Ron Lawrence, viola

From John Adams to John Zorn, violist Ron Lawrence has performed and recorded with many of new music's most exciting personalities. Besides being a founding member of the Sirius Quartet, he has performed extensively with Cuartetango, Quartet Indigo, the Soldier String Quartet and the Orchestra of St. Luke's. Other collaborators include Anthony Braxton, John Blake, Bob Beldon, Anthony Davis, Regina Carter, Elliott Sharp, James Blood Ulmer, Cassandra Wilson, John Cale, and Eumir Deodato. Further uptown, he has recorded with Kathleen Battle, Robert Craft, John Cage, and Andre Previn.

One of Ron's most exciting projects was a journey to Alaska to record John Luther Adams' multi-media spectacular, *Earth and the Great Weather –A Sonic Geography of the Arctic*. Despite a rigorous performance schedule, he was able to break away each evening to cross-country ski under the Northern Lights.



Jeremy Harman, cello



Boston-based cellist/guitarist Jeremy Harman is quickly establishing a unique reputation among a new generation of musicians who refuse to be pinned down by genres and labels. With roots in rock, metal, and jazz fusion in addition to classical music, he has chalked up an incredibly diverse list of performances, playing everywhere from concert halls and art galleries, to carnivals and street corners, bars and clubs to DIY basement shows.

Harman has been heard on NPR's *Mountainstage* with instrumental chamber music/indie rock alchemists *Cordis*, and seen on *Make TV* (PBS) with his friends in *Humanwine*, and *Balcony TV* in Dublin and *OBA Live* in Amsterdam with

singer-songwriter Christian Cuff, with whom he has been touring and performing his own tunes for solo cello across the States and Europe, including shows in Ireland, England, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Italy, and Slovakia.

Harman has also served as principal cellist of the Henry Mancini Institute in Los Angeles, where he collaborated with such musical legends as Tony Bennett, John Williams, Bobby McFerrin and Quincy Jones, in performances at the Kodak Theatre, Walt Disney Hall, and Royce Hall at UCLA. In recent years he has also shared the stage with Sting, Peter Gabriel, Lady Gaga, Mary J Blige, and Elton John.

Harman studied cello with Carter Enyeart at the UMKC Conservatory in Kansas City, MO, and with Terry King at the Longy School in Boston, MA, where he received a Master of Music degree with Distinction in Performance.