



For Immediate Release

**MUSIC AT KOHL MANSION ANNOUNCES 44TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON
EIGHT INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED CHAMBER MUSIC ENSEMBLES:
SEASON HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE DEBUTS OF THE NEAVE TRIO AND THE
THUNDER EGG CONSORT PIANO QUARTET; A FESTIVE HOLIDAY PROGRAM WITH THE
PHILHARMONIA BAROQUE CHAMBER PLAYERS; AND AN ENCORE PRESENTATION OF
JAKE HEGGIE/GENE SCHEER'S *INTONATIONS: SONGS FROM THE VIOLINS OF HOPE*
WITH THE MIRÓ QUARTET & MEZZO-SOPRANO NIKOLA PRINTZ**



Eight Sunday Evenings at 7 p.m., Oct. 18, 2026–May 2, 2027
Season Tickets Now on Sale: www.musicatkohl.org

Burlingame, Calif. (June 22, 2026) — **Music at Kohl Mansion** (MAKM), one of the San Francisco Bay Area's preeminent chamber music presenters, today announced its 44th anniversary season featuring eight internationally acclaimed ensembles and artists in performances spanning Sunday, Oct. 18, 2026 through Sunday, May 2, 2027. Series subscription tickets go on sale July 1 at www.musicatkohl.org.

The new season brings together celebrated returning favorites and exciting debuts, highlighting the extraordinary range and vitality of chamber music today. From renowned string quartets, piano trios and piano quartets performing some of the most cherished classical repertoire to contemporary works, the series continues Music at Kohl Mansion's tradition of showcasing many of the world's leading musicians in the intimate setting of the historic Kohl Mansion.

In the new year, MAKM will present the house debut of the “thrilling and electrifying” **Neave Trio** with a program that will showcase the music of prominent early 20th century Croatian composer, Dora Pejačević on Sunday, Nov. 15. And in another important house debut, Bay Area audiences will enjoy a first listening of the newly formed and “brilliant” Portland-based **Thunder Egg Consort Piano Quartet**, in a program including the local premier of *Hard Winter/Holler and Stomp* by ensemble violist **Kenji Bunch** on Sunday, Jan. 17.

The '26-27 season will be further distinguished by an encore presentation of ***Intonations: Songs from the Violins of Hope***, by composer **Jake Heggie** and librettist **Gene Scheer**, a powerful song cycle that was commissioned by MAKM and premiered in 2020. The renowned chamber work, inspired by the priceless collection of restored Holocaust string instruments and their emotional stories of resilience, will be performed by the famed **Miró Quartet** with mezzo-soprano **Nikola Printz** on Sunday, May 2.

“Our 44th season honors the rich traditions of chamber music while looking ahead to an exciting and dynamic future,” said MAKM Executive Director **Patricia Kristof Moy**. “We are thrilled to welcome remarkable artists from across the United States and Europe and to invite audiences into the uniquely personal experience that chamber music offers, where every performance becomes a shared journey between artists and listeners. Just as important, we remain committed to extending that experience beyond the concert hall through collaborations with community partners, bringing the transformative power of live music to people of all ages and backgrounds throughout our region.”

~~~~~ **The MAKM 2026-27 Season** ~~~~~

**Sunday, October 18, 2026 at 7 p.m.**

**ESCHER STRING QUARTET**

**Adam Barnett-Hart, violin; Bryan Lee, violin; Pierre Lapointe, viola; Brook Speltz, cello**

Haydn Quartet in G Major, Op.76, No.1;

Shostakovich Quartet No. 3 in F Major, Op. 73;

Brahms Quartet in A minor, Op. 51, No. 2

**“Believe the buzz... the performance’s finesse, braininess, and ebullience characterized the rest of the concert.” — *The Arts Fuse***

The Escher String Quartet has established itself as one of the most accomplished chamber ensembles of its generation. Formed in New York City in 2005, and named after the Dutch graphic artist M.C. Escher, the quartet is celebrated for performances that combine technical brilliance, interpretive insight, and a distinctive ensemble sound. The group serves as Artists of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and has earned international recognition for its commitment to both the core string quartet repertoire and contemporary music.

The quartet has appeared at many of the world’s leading concert halls and festivals, including London’s Wigmore Hall, Amsterdam’s Concertgebouw, the Kennedy Center, Paris’s Auditorium du Louvre, and major chamber music festivals throughout North America, Europe, Australia, and Asia. Praised by critics for their precision, warmth, and expressive depth, the Escher String Quartet has received numerous honors, including the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant and Lincoln Center’s Martin E. Segal Award.

The ensemble's critically acclaimed recording projects include the complete string quartets of Alexander Zemlinsky and Felix Mendelssohn and more. Through its adventurous programming and consistently compelling performances, the Escher String Quartet continues to be recognized as one of the leading chamber ensembles on the international stage.

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Sunday, November 15, 2026 at 7 p.m.

NEAVE TRIO* (MAKM Debut)

Anna Williams, violin; Mikhail Veselov, cello; Eri Nakamura, piano

Dora Pejačević: Piano Trio in C Major, Op. 29

Robert Schumann: Piano Trio in G minor, Op 110

Johannes Brahms: Piano Trio in C Major, Op. 87

"... thrilling and electrifying performances ..." – *Gramophone*

Since its founding in 2010, the GRAMMY-nominated Neave Trio has emerged as one of the most compelling chamber ensembles on the international stage. The trio is celebrated for its vibrant artistry, innovative programming, and commitment to contemporary music. New York classical music station WQXR described the ensemble's performances as "bright and radiant" music-making, a reflection of the Gaelic meaning of the word *neave*.

The trio has appeared at many of the world's leading concert halls and festivals, including Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart Festival, Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall, Bard Music Festival, Rockport Chamber Music Festival, Kaatsbaan Summer Festival, and London's Kings Place, while also touring extensively throughout Europe and Japan.

Praised by *Gramophone* for its "thrilling" and "electrifying" performances, the Neave Trio has earned international recognition through a distinguished discography on Chandos Records. Its recordings have been selected among the year's best by *The New York Times* and BBC Radio 3. Recently, the trio's recording of *La Mer: French Piano Trios* earned a 2026 GRAMMY nomination, further solidifying its reputation as one of today's leading piano ensembles. The *Boston Musical Intelligencer* praised the ensemble's "unanimity, communication, variety of touch, and expressive sensibility," calling it a first-tier chamber group poised for an enduring international career.

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**Sunday, December 6, 2026 at 7 p.m. -- *Baroque Holiday Concert***

**PHILHARMONIA BAROQUE CHAMBER PLAYERS with soprano Morgan Balfour; Elizabeth Blumenstock, violin; Gonzalo X. Ruiz, oboe; and musicians to be announced**

George Frideric Handel: "Rejoice greatly" from *Messiah*

Gaetano Maria Schiassi: "Pastorale per il Santissimo Natale," Op. 1, No. 12, "Christmas Symphony"

J.S. Bach: Siciliano from Oboe Concerto in F Major, BWV 1053R

Domenico Scarlatti: Cantata "Oh di Betlemme altera povertà venturosa"

Alessandro Marcello: Oboe Concerto in D minor, S D935

Antonio Vivaldi: Concerto for Violin in E Major, RV 270, "Il Riposo per Natale"

J.S. Bach: "Weichet nur, betrübte Schatten," BWV 202

With the elegant Kohl Mansion resplendent in magnificent holiday décor, MAKM will present a joyous *Baroque Holiday Concert* with the Philharmonia Baroque Chamber Players, an ensemble renowned for its artistry and excellence as one of America's most illustrious period-instrument companies. Drawn from the acclaimed Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra & Chorale, the Chamber Players bring together virtuoso musicians dedicated to illuminating the rich repertoire of the Baroque, Classical, and early Romantic eras through historically informed performance. Their interpretations combine scholarly insight with expressive vitality, revealing familiar masterpieces and lesser-known treasures with freshness, elegance, and authenticity.

Founded as part of the Bay Area-based Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, the ensemble has earned an international reputation for performances that capture the style, spirit, and distinctive sound world of earlier centuries through the use of period instruments and historically informed techniques. Philharmonia has been widely praised for its vibrant performances and has become the largest organization of its kind in the United States.

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Sunday, January 17, 2027 at 7 p.m.

THUNDER EGG CONSORT PIANO QUARTET* (MAKM Debut)

Anthea Kreston, violin; Kenji Bunch, viola; Jason Duckles, cello; Monica Ohuchi, piano

Ernst von Dohnányi: Serenade in C Major for String Trio, Op.10

Béla Bartók: Hungarian Folk Melodies for violin and cello, Sz. 53

Kenji Bunch: *Hard Winter/Holler and Stomp*

Johannes Brahms: Piano Quartet No. 1 in G minor, Op. 25

"The Thunder Egg Consort is a small band of Oregon Super Stars! Not only do they play brilliantly, but they communicate their love of music to the audience more effectively than just about any group I know." – *Bacho Press*

One of the most exciting emerging chamber ensembles in the Pacific Northwest, the Portland-based Thunder Egg Consort Piano Quartet brings together four exceptional musicians whose distinguished solo, chamber, and orchestral careers have earned acclaim across the U.S. and abroad spanning Carnegie Hall to Tajikistan, Berlin to Melbourne. Although recently formed—and named after the state rock of Oregon—the ensemble has quickly attracted attention for its extraordinary artistic pedigree, vibrant musical chemistry, and fresh approach to the piano quartet repertoire.

Each member of the Thunder Egg Consort has built an impressive career performing at major concert halls, festivals, and chamber music series, collaborating with internationally renowned artists—including Yo-Yo Ma, Mark O'Connor, and Harry Connick Jr.—and appearing on acclaimed recordings for Sony and Naxos. Their decision to unite as a piano quartet reflects a shared commitment to musical exploration, expressive communication, and the uniquely intimate artistry of this genre. The Thunder Egg Consort seems poised to become a significant new voice in chamber music.

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**Sunday, February 21, 2027 at 7 p.m.**

**TRIO CON BRIO COPENHAGEN**

**Soo-Jin Hong, violin; Soo-Kyung Hong, cello; Jens Elvekjaer, piano**

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky: Piano Trio in A minor, Op. 50

Lili Boulanger: *D'un matin de printemps* and *D'un soir triste*

Ludwig van Beethoven: Piano Trio No. 5 in D Major, Op. 70, No. 1, "Ghost"

**“Trio con Brio ... they belong to the top of the world’s elite when it comes to today’s classical chamber music.” – *Politiken***

Founded in Vienna in 1999 and now based in Denmark, the internationally celebrated Trio con Brio Copenhagen has established itself as one of the world’s premier piano trios. The ensemble brings together South Korean sisters violinist Soo-Jin Hong and cellist Soo-Kyung Hong, and Danish pianist Jens Elvekjaer in a unique artistic partnership that combines technical brilliance, emotional depth, and an adventurous spirit of musical exploration.

Beloved by the Music at Kohl Mansion audience since their debut on the Kohl stage in 2006, the Trio performs regularly at the world's most prestigious concert halls and chamber music series, including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Wigmore Hall, Berlin’s Pierre Boulez Saal, and Amsterdam’s Concertgebouw. Their artistry has earned them Denmark’s prestigious Carl Nielsen and Anne Marie Carl-Nielsen Award, along with numerous international competition honors.

Acclaimed for recordings on Orchid Classics, the trio has received major distinctions from *Gramophone*, *BBC Music Magazine*, and the German Record Critics’ Award. Their complete Beethoven piano trios recording was hailed by *American Record Guide* as “One of the greatest performances of chamber music I’ve ever encountered.” Beyond the concert stage, the musicians are devoted educators, festival directors, and champions of contemporary music, bringing exceptional artistry and imaginative programming to audiences around the world.

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Sunday, March 14, 2027 at 7 p.m.

FAURÉ PIANO QUARTET

Dirk Mommertz, piano; Erika Geldsetzer, violin; Sasha Frömbling, viola; Konstantin Heidrich, cello; guest singer to be announced

Gabriel Fauré: select songs to be announced

Mélanie Hélène “Mel” Bonis: Piano Quartet No. 1 in B-flat Major, Op. 69

Gabriel Fauré: Piano Quartet No. 1 in C minor, Op. 15

**“This quartet thinks and breathes as one, focused on a singular, clear vision for their music making.”
— *Toronto Star***

Germany’s distinguished Fauré Quartet is internationally recognized as one of the leading piano quartets of its generation, celebrated for its extraordinary technical mastery, expressive depth, and innovative approach to chamber music. Founded in 1995, the ensemble has built a remarkable reputation through performances that combine precision, passion, and an adventurous spirit, captivating audiences across Europe, Asia, and North and South America.

The quartet appears regularly at many of the world's foremost concert halls and festivals, including the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Berlin Philharmonie, Wigmore Hall, Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires, and major festivals such as Schleswig-Holstein, Rheingau, and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. Renowned for both traditional repertoire and contemporary works, the ensemble has expanded the boundaries of the piano quartet genre through imaginative programming and collaborations that bridge classical music with jazz, world music, and multimedia projects.

The Fauré Quartet's extensive discography has garnered widespread critical acclaim, earning prestigious awards including the ECHO Klassik and multiple honors from international music publications. Critics have praised the ensemble for its "electrifying intensity," "superb ensemble playing," and "exceptional interpretive insight."



Sunday, April 11, 2027 at 7 p.m.

HARLEM QUARTET

Ilmar Gavilán, violin; Melissa White, violin; Jaime Amador, viola; Felix Umansky, cello

Felix Mendelssohn: Capriccio and Fugue from Four Pieces for String Quartet, Op 81

J.S. Bach/Piazzolla (arr. Eckart Runge): *Fuga del Ángel*

Ludwig van Beethoven: String Quartet No. 15 in A minor, Op. 132

"Bringing a new attitude to classical music, one that is fresh, bracing and intelligent." — *The Cincinnati Enquirer*

The Grammy Award-winning Harlem Quartet has earned international acclaim for its dynamic artistry, innovative programming, and commitment to expanding the reach of classical music. Founded in 2006 by the Sphinx Organization, the ensemble has become one of America's most engaging chamber groups, celebrated for performances that combine technical brilliance with a spirit of cultural exploration and inclusion.

The Harlem Quartet performs a wide-ranging repertoire that embraces the traditional string quartet canon while incorporating jazz, Latin American, and contemporary works. This distinctive approach has brought the ensemble to major concert halls, festivals, and universities throughout the United States and around the world, including this back by popular demand by MAKM audiences.

The quartet has collaborated with an impressive roster of artists including Chick Corea, Paquito D'Rivera, Stanley Clarke, Imani Winds, and Anthony McGill. Their recording projects have garnered major recognition, including a 2024 Grammy Award for *Passion for Bach and Coltrane*. Praised for its energy, versatility, and communicative power, the Harlem Quartet continues to inspire audiences through performances that celebrate both musical excellence and the rich diversity of today's cultural landscape.



Sunday, May 2, 2027 at 7 p.m.

MIRÓ QUARTET

Daniel Ching, violin; William Fedkenheuer, violin; John Largess, viola; Joshua Gindele, cello

with guest mezzo soprano Nikola Printz; guest solo violinist to be announced.

Jake Heggie/Gene Scheer: *Intonations: Songs from the Violins of Hope*

Additional repertoire to be announced

“One of America’s most celebrated string quartets.” — *The New Yorker*

Among the most celebrated chamber ensembles performing today, the Miró Quartet has been captivating audiences worldwide for nearly three decades with its passionate interpretations, impeccable musicianship, and deeply communicative performances. Formed in 1995 and based in Austin, Texas, the ensemble has established itself as one of America’s premier string quartets, appearing at leading venues including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, and major international festivals throughout Europe, Asia, and North America.

The quartet is renowned for its compelling performances of the classical masterworks of Haydn, Beethoven, Schubert, and Bartók, while also championing contemporary composers and commissioning important new works. Their extensive discography has earned widespread critical acclaim, with *The New Yorker* praising the ensemble’s “furiously committed performances,” while *The Strad* has lauded the quartet’s “exceptional tonal focus and interpretive intensity.”

Recipients of the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant and Musical America’s Ensemble of the Year Award, the Miró Quartet is equally admired for its dedication to education and audience engagement. Through performances of extraordinary depth, technical brilliance, and emotional power, the ensemble continues to reaffirm the enduring vitality of chamber music for audiences around the world.

The Miró Quartet returns with rising star mezzo-soprano Nikola Printz for an encore performance of *Intonations: Songs from the Violins of Hope*, the powerful 2020 song cycle commissioned by Music at Kohl Mansion from composer Jake Heggie and librettist Gene Scheer. Inspired by a remarkable collection of restored Holocaust-era instruments, the powerful work gives voice to stories of resilience, remembrance, and hope.

Music at Kohl Mansion's auspicious presentation of *Intonations: Songs from the Violins of Hope* will occur on the eve of *Yom HaShoah*, May 3-4, the Jewish and Israeli day of Holocaust remembrance, tied to the Hebrew calendar and the legacy of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

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### **MUSIC AT KOHL MANSION 2026-27 SEASON TICKETS**

Subscriptions go on sale Wednesday, July 1 at 10 a.m. Subscription tickets for seven chamber music concerts, not including the Baroque Holiday program, are: **\$380 (Adult), \$365 (Seniors age 62+) and \$175 (Youth, age 30 and below)**. Subscriptions for the full eight concert series, including the Baroque Holiday Program, are: **\$430 (Adult), \$415 (Seniors, age 62+) and \$200 (Youth, age 30 and below)**.

Individual tickets to all eight concerts will go on sale Monday, Aug. 17 at 10 a.m. Single tickets are priced: **\$68 (Adult), \$65 (Seniors, age 62+) and \$30 (Youth, age 30 and below)**. All ticket prices are inclusive of fees. To purchase tickets, visit [www.musicatkohl.org](http://www.musicatkohl.org) or call the MAKM Box Office (650) 762-

1130. Ticket holders are invited to a complimentary post-performance wine and sweets reception with the artists.

### **YOUNG CHAMBER MUSICIANS**

Music at Kohl Mansion will once again proudly collaborate with founder **Susan Bates** and the award-winning **Young Chamber Musicians** organization to present free public masterclasses at 5 p.m. in the Kohl Mansion Library, featuring talented pre-college musicians before all eight season concerts.

### **PRE-PERFORMANCE TALKS**

**Christopher Costanza**, distinguished cellist and Stanford educator/coach, will offer an informative **pre-concert lecture** for ticket holders at 6 p.m. in the Kohl Mansion Library before all eight concerts.

### **COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

Music at Kohl Mansion is the longest-running chamber music-only presenter on the San Francisco Peninsula. In addition to presenting concerts at Kohl Mansion, MAKM will continue its successful partnerships with numerous organizations including the **San Mateo Public Library; Palo Alto City Library; the Mechanics' Institute Library in San Francisco; the Peninsula Jewish Community Center** in Foster City; the **Stratford** senior residence center; **HIP Housing** affordable living community in San Mateo; and extensive presentations in elementary, middle and high schools throughout San Mateo County. No fewer than 140 events are planned for Season 44 reaffirming MAKM's diverse community engagement and mission to uplift, inspire and connect people through the power of music.

### **SUPPORTERS**

Music at Kohl Mansion gratefully acknowledges and thanks the following for their support: **Mervyn L. Brenner Foundation, Sam Mazza Foundation, Dragonfly Community Arts, Atkinson Foundation, Carlstrom Productions, Y & H Soda Foundation, Ross McKee Foundation, Bill Graham Community Foundation, San Mateo Arts Commission/Office of Arts & Culture, Performing Arts Equitable Payroll Fund, City of Burlingame, Broadway Grill**, and over 100 generous individual donors.

Music at Kohl Mansion presents the 2026-27 season of international chamber music concerts in the Great Hall of the historic Kohl Mansion, 2750 Adeline Drive, Burlingame. Ample free parking is always available. For more information, visit [www.musicatkohl.org](http://www.musicatkohl.org)

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Please connect for feature interviews, artwork and press credentials.  
All programs and artists are subject to change.

**\*Music at Kohl Mansion Debut**