

Contrasts Quartet



Ayako Oshima, Clarinet
Lisa Kim, Violin
Caroline Stinson, Cello
Evelyne Luest, Piano

Acclaimed for their exhilarating performances of old and new repertoire, the Contrasts Quartet is a group of four extraordinary virtuosi whose instruments include clarinet, violin, cello and piano. The group chose its name to describe the contrasting timbres of their instruments, as well as the variety of their repertoire. The ensemble performs a mix of duos, trios and quartets, presenting a broad range of programs from the Baroque through today's repertoire. The Contrasts Quartet has worked with many living composers and has commissioned and premiered works of Aaron Jay Kernis, Michael Torke, Ned Rorem, Scott Johnson and Derek Bermel, among others. Their recording of Ned Rorem's *Nine Episodes for Four Players* was nominated for a 2006 Grammy Award.

Contrasts has been invited to perform in Europe and across the United States. Concert appearances have included performances at Carnegie's Weill Hall, Merkin Hall, Miller Theatre, Symphony Space and live appearances on New York's WNYC Radio and the nationally syndicated *St. Paul Sunday* radio program. Their concert tours have taken them from San Francisco to Spain. Contrasts has also been invited to participate in many residencies, including Norfolk Summer Festival in Connecticut, the Atlantic Center for the Arts in Florida, Music in the Park Series in St. Paul, Minnesota, Detroit Pro Musica, Penn State/Erie, Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire, Bowdoin College in Maine, the Fitchburg Public Schools and Fitchburg State College in Massachusetts, and Stanford University in California.

Contrasts has recorded a CD of the works of Aaron Jay Kernis on the Phoenix label, all premiere recordings, and a CD of the works of Ned Rorem. The ensemble has been honored with awards and grants from the American Composers Forum, Meet the Composer, the Fromm Foundation, the New York Foundation for the Arts, the Aaron Copland Fund for Music and Chamber Music America.

In 2010 the quartet will be touring with a program in honor of Aaron Kernis' 50th Birthday, containing some pieces that were written for the members of the quartet.



Hunstein Artist Services 65 West 90th Street #13F New York, NY 10024 tel 212.724.2693