

## The Annenberg Center Presents the Daedalus Quartet, January 25

(Philadelphia – January 20, 2020) — The [Annenberg Center](#) presents the [Daedalus Quartet](#), Penn's quartet in residence, **Saturday, January 25 at 7:30 PM**. Visit [AnnenbergCenter.org](http://AnnenbergCenter.org) for ticket information.

In this performance, the **Daedalus Quartet** explores migration through music, illustrating how centuries of cultural cross-pollination has enriched our artistic and spiritual life, and unified peoples through the universality of the human experience. The quartet will perform works that exhibit the richness and complexity of this cultural convergence, including the world premiere of composer **Nansi Carroll's** *On My Journey Now: Five Spirituals*, featuring soprano **Karen Slack**; **Sofia Gubaidulina's** *Reflections on the theme B-A-C-H*; Penn alumnus **Osvaldo Golijov's** *Yiddishbbuk*; and **Tan Dun's** *Ghost Opera*, featuring **Min Xiao-fen** on pipa. This performance is part of the Annenberg Center's *The Philadelphians: Migrations That Made Our City* series and is co-presented with the University of Pennsylvania's Department of Music.

### Daedalus Quartet

Since taking first prize at the 2001 Banff International String Quartet Competition, the **Daedalus Quartet** has performed in many of the world's leading venues, including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Library of Congress, the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, D.C., the Musikverein in Vienna, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, and the Cité de la Musique in Paris. In 2017-18 Daedalus received accolades for its performance of the complete quartets of Beethoven as part of their residency at the University of Pennsylvania. Among the works the ensemble has premiered are Laurie San Martin's *Six Cuts*, Joshua Hey's *lens fare from alpha centauri*, Joan Tower's *White Water*, and Fred Lerdahl's *Chaconne and Third String Quartet*. The Quartet's recordings include the music of Fred Lerdahl, George Perle and Lawrence Dillon, on the Bridge Records label, and Joan Tower's *White Water* and *Dumbarton Quintet* (with pianist Blair McMillen) for NAXOS records.

### Karen Slack (Soprano)

Hailed by critics for possessing a lustrous voice of extraordinary beauty and artistry of great dramatic depth, American soprano **Karen Slack** has performed with major conductors in opera houses including the Metropolitan Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Washington National Opera and San Francisco Opera. Equally at home on the concert stage, Slack has performed at the Bergen Festival in Norway, Sydney Symphony and most recently premiered Hannibal Lokumbe's *Healing Tones* with the Philadelphia Orchestra, conducted by Yannick Nézet-Séguin. A native of Philadelphia and a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music, she is a winner of numerous awards and competitions, including the George London Award, Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, Licia Albanese-Puccini Foundation, Montserrat Caballe International Competition and the Marian Anderson ICON Award.

### Min Xiao-fen (Pipa)

Few artists have done more to both honor and reinvent the 2000-year history of the pipa than renowned soloist, vocalist and composer **Min Xiao-fen**. Classically trained in her native China, Xiao-fen was an in-demand interpreter of traditional music before relocating to the United States and forging a new path for her instrument alongside many of the leading lights in modern jazz, free improvisation and experimental and contemporary classical music. The *Village Voice* has lauded her as an artist who "has taken her ancient Chinese string instrument into the future," while the *New York Times* has raved that her singular work "has traversed a sweeping musical odyssey."

Xiao-fen's expressive approach to the four-stringed lute has led to collaborations with such inventive luminaries as Wadada Leo Smith, Derek Bailey, Randy Weston, John Zorn, Christian Marclay and Björk. Her Blue Pipa Trio commingles legendary trumpeter Buck Clayton's Kansas City swing with the music of Li Jinhui, the "Father of Chinese popular music," in a project titled From Harlem to Shanghai and Back. Xiao-fen's 2012 album Dim Sum spotlighted the stunning scope of her original compositions, while her latest release, Mao, Monk and Me, is a deeply personal exploration of the music of Thelonious Monk combined with Chinese folk tunes and children's songs remembered from her childhood in the ancient capital of Nanjing.

In May 2016, Xiao-fen was the principal soloist with Washington, D.C.'s PostClassical Ensemble for the world premiere of Daniel Schnyder's Concerto for Pipa & Orchestra, written expressly for Xiao-fen by the Swiss-American composer. Still a revered performer of traditional Chinese repertoire, she has been a featured soloist with a number of leading symphony orchestras. In February 2018, Xiao-fen premiered her original score, a duo with acclaimed guitarist Rez Abbasi, for the long-lost 1934 Chinese silent film The Goddess. In August, she premiered Alan Chan's Moon Walk for pipa and jazz orchestra. That major event follows a fruitful 2017, when Xiao-fen served as artist-in-residence with the Sound of Dragon Society at the Vancouver International Jazz Festival, and was a guiding artist for the Creative Music Studio in New York, performing with founder Karl Berger and his CMS Improvisers Orchestra in the fall. She is the founder of Blue Pipa Inc. ([minxiaofenbluepipa.org](http://minxiaofenbluepipa.org)) and currently lives in New York.

### **About the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts**

The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts serves as a major cultural destination and crossroads connecting Penn and the greater Philadelphia region through innovative human expression in theatre, music, dance, and film, serving an annual audience of over 80,000. The Annenberg Center also serves as a key resource for the arts at Penn, connecting master artists with Penn students in support of and as an enhancement to the arts curriculum. Student performing arts groups are also key users of the Annenberg Center's multiple performance and rehearsal spaces, while also staffing many operational roles throughout the academic year. In reflection of Penn's core values as a world-respected academic institution, the Annenberg Center emphasizes artistic and intellectual excellence, diversity, and rigor in its presentations; prioritizes broad inclusiveness in the artists, audiences, and groups it serves; manages outstanding performance, conference, and meeting facilities; and stresses comprehensive event planning, production support, and customer service. The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is a major provider of performing arts access for school children and actively engages a broad range of primary, secondary, and post-secondary student audiences and inclusive constituencies from the campus, community, and greater Philadelphia region. Visit [AnnenbergCenter.org](http://AnnenbergCenter.org).

---

## **CALENDAR LISTING**

### **Daedalus Quartet**

Saturday, January 25, 7:30 PM

The Daedalus Quartet, Penn's quartet-in-residence, explores migration through music, illustrating how centuries of cultural cross-pollination has enriched our artistic and spiritual life. Music truly has no borders, unifying through the universality of the human experience. In this performance, the quartet will perform works that exhibit the richness and complexity of this cultural convergence, including a world premiere of composer Nansi Carroll's new arrangement of traditional African American spirituals, along with music by Tan Dun, Sofia Gubaidulina, and Penn alumnus Osvaldo Golijov. This performance is part of the Annenberg Center's *The Philadelphians: Migrations That Made Our City* series.

Program:

Sofia Gubaidulina - *Reflections on the theme B-A-C-H*

Osvaldo Golijov - *Yiddishbbuk*

Nansi Carroll – *On My Journey Now: Five Spirituals* (World premiere)

with Karen Slack, soprano

Tan Dun - *Ghost Opera*

with Min Xiao-fen, pipa

*Annenberg Center Presents the Daedalus Quartet*

Co-presented with the University of Pennsylvania's Department of Music.

Visit [AnnenbergCenter.org](http://AnnenbergCenter.org) for ticket information.

[Photographs for the Daedalus Quartet](#)

# # #

CONTACTS:

Katherine Blodgett, for the Annenberg Center

Email: [katherineblodgett@gmail.com](mailto:katherineblodgett@gmail.com)

Phone: 215.431.1230

Alexander Freeman, Director of Marketing and Ticketing

Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts

Email: [freemana@ac.upenn.edu](mailto:freemana@ac.upenn.edu)

Phone: 215.898.9081