

The logo for Solisti Ensemble features the word "Solisti" in a large, elegant, black cursive script. Below it, the word "ENSEMBLE" is written in a smaller, black, all-caps, sans-serif font.

# Solisti ENSEMBLE

Solisti Ensemble Returns to NYC :  
Ode to Summer 2017

June 21, 2017  
@ The Theater at the Riverside Church

## **SOLISTI ENSEMBLE**

Founded in 2008, Solisti Ensemble is a conductorless string ensemble which seeks to revive the traditions of small-ensemble chamber music while pursuing the rich and vibrant sounds of contemporary, pop, tango, and jazz music. The unique size of the ensemble and each member's individual virtuosity and musicality create an extraordinary sound that is quite unlike the conventional classical music culture known today.

In hopes of making a meaningful musical contribution to its community, Solisti Ensemble envisions the enthusiastic revival of classical music in a way that is both culturally relevant and nostalgically reminiscent of an oft forgotten period of the art.

Solisti Ensemble promises to bring a most fulfilling and fascinating musical experience to audiences everywhere.

**PROGRAM**

***Holberg Suite*, Op. 40**

GRIEG

I. Praeludium (*Allegro vivace*)

II. Sarabande (*Andante*)

III. Gavotte (*Allegretto*)

V. Rigaudon (*Allegro con brio*)

**String Quartet No. 2 in A Major, Op. 68**

SHOSTAKOVICH

I. Overture (*Moderato con moto*)

***Passacaglia***

HANDEL-HALVORSEN

**Air on the G String**

BACH

***Jupiter* (From "The Planets")**

HOLST

***Oblivion***

PIAZZOLLA

***Souvenir de Florence*, Op. 70**

TCHAIKOVSKY

IV. *Allegro con brio e vivace*

***SOLISTI ENSEMBLE***

Byung-Kook Kwak, *founder and artistic director*

Violin I

Byung-Kook Kwak

Christine Kwak

Eric Silberger

Violin II

Jeoung Yin Kim

Xinou Wei

Jiazhi Wang

Viola

Wei-Yang Andy Lin

William Hakim

Cello

Zexun Shen

Jung-Hsuan Ko

Bass

Man Wai Che

ENSEMBLE

## Byung-Kook Kwak

Described by Anthony Tommasini of the New York Times, "... a distinguished artist, the violinist Byung Kook Kwak brought warm, penetrating sound and tasteful expressivity...".

Acclaimed as one of the finest violinists of his generation, Byung-Kook Kwak enjoys a multifaceted career as a soloist, chamber musician, conductor, and educator. From coast to coast, critics have hailed him as a premier violinist whose musical gifts and technical wizardry are powerful and sensitive. Mr. Kwak has performed with orchestras throughout North America, Europe, Asia, and Scandinavia. Finalist and prize winner of many international competitions, he was featured on PBS Live from Lincoln Center as a member of the renowned Sea Cliff Chamber Players. He has taught at Mannes College for 10 years as an assistant to Aaron Rosand and is currently a faculty member at Manhattan School of Music, Pre-College, and Nyack College. In addition, he also performs and gives master classes regularly in Seoul, Korea.

As a founder and artistic director of Solisti Ensemble, he has performed with the Ensemble in Stern Hall at Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center, and Zankel Hall at Carnegie Hall.

He has also been active as a choral conductor for over thirty years, and has lead countless performances of Handel's Messiah, Beethoven 9<sup>th</sup> Symphony, as well as many of the major choral works with Central Presbyterian Church Choir where he is serving as a music director.

Born in Seoul, Korea, Mr. Kwak was hailed as a child prodigy. He made his orchestral debut at the age of 7 with the Seoul Philharmonic. After earning much accolade and winning prestigious competitions in his native country, Mr. Kwak came to the U.S. and, at age 12, became one of Jascha Heifetz's youngest students. He earned both his Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees from the Juilliard School, where he studied with Ivan Galamian and Dorothy DeLay.

