JAZZ MEETS CLASSICS
IMPRESSIONS AND REFLECTIONS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2019, 8:00 P.M.

EMERSON CONCERT HALL
SCHWARTZ CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS
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<tr>
<th>Reflections in the Water</th>
<th>Claude Debussy (1862–1918)</th>
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<td>Julie Coucheron, piano</td>
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<th>Isn’t It Romantic?</th>
<th>Richard Rodgers (1902–1979)</th>
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<td>Gary Motley, piano</td>
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<th>Claire de Lune</th>
<th>Debussy</th>
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<th>When You Wish Upon A Star</th>
<th>Leigh Harline (1907-1969)</th>
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<th>Gardens in the Rain</th>
<th>Debussy</th>
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<tr>
<th>Jitterbug Waltz</th>
<th>Thomas “Fats” Waller (1904–1943)</th>
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---INTERMISSION---
PROGRAM

Allegro moderato: Très doux from String Quartet in F Major
Maurice Ravel
(1875–1937)

The Vega String Quartet

Try
Veronica and Gary Motley

The Gary Motley Trio

Assez vif: Très rythmé from String Quartet in F Major
Ravel

The Vega String Quartet

Cheesecake
Dexter Gordon
(1923–1990)

The Gary Motley Trio

 impressions and Reflections
Gary Motley

World Premiere

The Vega String Quartet and the Gary Motley Trio

The Vega String Quartet’s residency at Emory is made possible by the generosity of the Rebecca Madeline Katz-Doft Chamber Music Endowment.
JULIE COUCHERON

Born in Oslo, Norway, Julie Coucheron began playing the piano at age four. She earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees with honors from the Royal Academy of Music in London. At age 32, Coucheron has established an international career, winning major awards in Italy, Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Coucheron has collaborated with musicians including Emanuel Ax, Chee-Yun Kim, Christopher O'Riley, Yo-Yo Ma, and Elton John, and she has toured Europe, the United States, South America, and Asia, performing in halls including Verizon Hall, Wigmore Hall, the Kennedy Center, and Carnegie Hall. She has performed with the Norwegian Radio Symphony, Oslo Philharmonic, Jena Symphony, and the Ukrainian Symphony in Kiev.

Coucheron regularly performs at festivals such as the Oslo Chamber Music Festival, Bergen International Music Festival, Highlands-Cashiers, Juneau Jazz & Classics, and at La Jolla Summer Fest. She is artistic director of the Fjord Cadenza festival in Norway and for the Kon Tiki Chamber Music Festival in Oslo, Norway.

Coucheron enjoys a close collaboration with her brother, concertmaster of the Atlanta Symphony, David Coucheron, and together they have released two recordings, Debut and David and Julie on the Naxos label. In addition to her busy concert schedule, Coucheron is a sought-after teacher and pedagogue. In August 2014, she was appointed assistant professor at Kennesaw State University. Coucheron has given master classes and taught at schools including the New England Conservatory, Emory University, and Mercer University.

Coucheron enjoys a various and wide range of styles and repertoire emerging from her highly trained classical background to the more contemporary and popular music. Recent collaborations include performances with the Steve Miller Band and Elton John.

THE GARY MOTLEY TRIO

Gary Motley, piano; Emrah Kotan, drums; Billy Thornton, bass

Gary Motley is a jazz pianist and composer. He is best known for his captivating performances, classic yet current sound, and popularity in the southeastern United States jazz music scene. Motley has received awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Great American Jazz Piano Competition, and the American Composers Forum (ACF). Featured on NPR’s Piano Jazz with Marian McPartland, his notable performances also include the premiere of his first orchestral work The Artist and the Visionary; duo performances with pianists Dave Brubeck and Kenny Barron; and concerts with Jon Faddis, Eddie Daniels, Benny Golson, and others. Motley’s selection by the ACF as an artist-in-residence led to his second composition for string orchestra and jazz trio The Resolution of a Dream. He premiered his Highland Summit: A Suite for String Quartet and Jazz Quartet with the Vega String Quartet at the Highlands Chamber Music Festival and later performed his Suite Odyssey with the ensemble at
Carnegie Hall. In 2010, Motley premiered a composition based on a work by Toni Morrison at the Toni Morrison Society’s Sixth Biennial Conference in Paris. Recent travels include performances and workshops in South America and Cuba. Cited by his home state for his artistic and educational achievements, Motley was inducted into the Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame in 2015.

As director of jazz studies at Emory, Motley has developed the Strickland Jazz Studio—an interactive teaching facility that integrates the rich heritage of American jazz with today’s technology practices. He holds memberships with the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences and the Jazz Education Network.

Emrah Kotan is a classically trained percussionist who came to the United States from his native Turkey and received a master’s degree in jazz studies from Georgia State University. After playing some of the most renowned venues in the world such as the Istanbul Jazz Festival, Singapore Jazz Festival, Montreux Jazz Festival, Playboy Jazz Festival, and the Blue Note in New York, Kotan is one of the most sought-after musicians in the Atlanta music scene. His unique musical ability transcends many genres and cultures. He is involved in various musical projects, including his own, and he is the drummer/percussionist for Grammy Award–winning artist India.Arie and Emmy Award– and Grammy Award–winning artist Jennifer Holliday.

Aside from performing, Kotan is an enthusiastic music educator who has conducted master classes and has taught many students through the years, some of who have been awarded music scholarships by the colleges of their choice. Kotan teaches students of all ages privately and is the director of the jazz and world percussion ensembles at Agnes Scott College. Kotan proudly endorses Pearl drums and percussion and he is a voting member of the Recording Academy.

Billy Thornton is a bass player and educator from Tifton, Georgia. He moved to Jacksonville, Florida, in 1999 to study jazz at the University of North Florida. While in Jacksonville, Thornton established himself as a top call in the region for jazz, rock, top-40, and many other styles, in addition to travelling nationally with the Celtic rock band Rathkeltair and jazz artists Christian Tamburr and Dominick Farinacci. He has played numerous times at the Jacksonville Jazz Festival and he has also performed for the TEDMED talk in Washington, DC; Jazz at Lincoln Center in Doha, Qatar; the San Jose Jazz Summer Fest; and performed for Jazz at Lincoln Center in Mexico City, Mexico. During this same period, Thornton was an adjunct professor at Jacksonville University teaching jazz bass.

Since moving to Atlanta, Thornton has ingratiated himself to the local jazz scene, recording on Darren English’s Imagine Nation and playing with local legends such as Russell Gunn, Kevin Bales, Joe Gransden, and Colonel Bruce Hampton. He recently joined the faculty of Georgia State University as a professor in the jazz studies department. When not playing or teaching, Thornton spends his time with his wife, Melissa, and their three children.
THE VEGA STRING QUARTET
Elizabeth Fayette and Jessica Shuang Wu, violins;
Yinzi Kong, viola; Guang Wang, cello

The international award-winning Vega String Quartet is on the cutting edge of the new generation of chamber music ensembles. The New York Times raved about its “playing that had a kind of clean intoxication to it, pulling the listener along . . . the musicians took real risks in their music making . . .” and the Los Angeles Times praised its “triumphant L.A. debut”. Based in Atlanta where it is quartet-in-residence at Emory, the Vega also tours throughout Europe, Asia, and North America, performing in major cities including Berlin, Brussels, Cologne, London, Mexico City, Milan, New York, Paris, Tokyo, Seoul, Shanghai, Vancouver and Vienna. The quartet is a frequent guest at numerous music festivals including Aspen, Brevard, Mostly Mozart, Rockport, San Miguel de Allende, Highlands-Cashiers, Musicorda, Kingston, and SummerFest La Jolla, among others. It has been quartet-in-residence at the Van Cliburn Institute and on the artist roster of Carnegie Hall’s New York City Neighborhood Concert series and Community Concerts Association roster. The quartet is also a member of Young Audiences of Atlanta presenting educational programs throughout the public-school system.

The quartet’s live broadcast credits include NPR’s Performance Today, the National Radio of China, Shanghai TV, Radio France, France Musiques, German Radio, and the National Radio of the Czech Republic. The quartet captured four of the top six prizes at the Bordeaux String Quartet Competition (including the international music critics’ prize), as well as top prizes at the Coleman Chamber Ensemble Competition, the Carmel Chamber Music Competition, and the National Society of Arts and Letters String Quartet Competition.

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