

FORT GREENE ORCHESTRA

**BEETHOVEN'S
FIFTH**

&

**BACH'S DOUBLE
VIOLIN CONCERTO**

FORT GREENE ORCHESTRA
THIS EVENING'S PROGRAM

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

*Double Violin Concerto
in D minor*

- I. Vivace
- II. Largo ma non tanto
- III. Allegro

Doori Na & Daniel Zinn, violin soloists

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN

*Symphony No. 5
in C minor*

- I. Allegro con brio
- II. Andante con moto
- III. Scherzo: Allegro
- IV. Allegro

Daniel Zinn, conductor

PROGRAM NOTES
LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN · 1808

Symphony No. 5
in C minor

Beethoven is an enigmatic figure in classical music. He is singular in his effect over all the composers who came after him. In the words of the famous Franz Schubert: "Who can do anything after Beethoven?" And indeed, I quite often find that entire styles and subgenres of classical music, and the inspirations of various composers, can be traced back to some of Beethoven's most famous music — his Ninth Symphony, his Fifth Symphony, his piano sonatas. No one has been more influential than he.

PROGRAM NOTES

Consequently, a lot has been written about him. Many stories — some of them are even true. By many accounts he was a grumpy and proud person; by other accounts he was also known to be very kind. For an accurate historical analysis of his personality, I'll leave that job to historians and musicologists.

What I'm particularly concerned with is his personality as it's exposed in the music — and one of the most important things for me is that it's a personality that shines to me in different ways throughout the years, which I think is the mark of a great composer.

PROGRAM NOTES

The music of Beethoven can be heavily leaned on and relied upon, in the most difficult of times, to produce beauty and emotion more than 200 years after it was written. Some of it is completely surreal. Some of it is as tender as it gets. It can be as grand as any symphony, and as minimalist as anything written in the 20th century — and no composer since hides their affiliation with Beethoven.

Tonight's symphony, his Fifth, is probably the most famous piece of classical music — and as a person who has dedicated his life to learning scores, I find that curious, and a little bit scary.

PROGRAM NOTES

How does one approach a piece of music that's been performed thousands and thousands of times and sits within everyone's ear, in a fresh, new way? I'm a firm believer that one needs to eat the music and let it become a part of you.

I'd suggest we do an experiment tonight: as you prepare to listen to this piece, do the best you can imagining that you are one of those people who was in the audience in 1808, three hours deep into a concert, completely unsuspecting of what might be unleashed upon you in moments. Let's all try to listen to this symphony with new ears, and allow ourselves to be surprised and delighted like the first people who ever heard this symphony.

PROGRAM NOTES

J. S. BACH · 1730

*Double Concerto
in D minor*

Bach's Double Violin Concerto is surely one of his most beloved pieces. In the hands of this master, this ornate and super-technical writing style flows like a river. The art of writing polyphonic music — several melodies that sound good when played at the same time — requires years of training, and is often perceived to be technical and dry. It definitely can be boring. This concerto, however, I'm happy to report, is not.

PROGRAM NOTES

The tunes are catchy, extremely groovy, and the second movement is as beautiful as any aria by Puccini.

I've re-emerged from my retirement as a violinist to play one of my favorite pieces, together with our concertmaster.

Enjoy!

CONDUCTOR, VIOLIN & FGO
FOUNDER

Daniel Zinn

Daniel Zinn is an Israeli conductor and impresario based in Brooklyn, and the founder and Artistic Director of the Fort Greene Orchestra. Raised in Jerusalem in a house that was always full of guests, he learned early that how you receive people matters as much as what you offer them. He has run his concerts on that principle ever since.

He founded the Fort Greene Orchestra in 2023 and made its home at the Co-Cathedral of St. Joseph, where it has sold more than 50,000 tickets in its first three seasons. The concerts are short, plainly spoken, and exactingly staged, from the light design to the program notes to the greeting at the door — the details attended to so that the music can be heard the way it deserves.

Together with Steinway Artist Vladimir Rumyantsev, Zinn brought one of his signature concerts to Carnegie Hall's Stern Auditorium, filling the hall to more than 2,700 people and a standing ovation.

He also runs New Audience Company, the in-house advertising operation that built the orchestra's audience and is now available to other classical organizations, and writes a weekly Substack recommending New York classical concerts to more than 10,000 subscribers.

Tonight he leads the Fort Greene Orchestra in Beethoven's Fifth, and joins concertmaster Doorri Na as co-soloist in Bach's Double Concerto.

VIOLIN SOLOIST & CONCERTMASTER

Doori Na

Doori Na is a violinist praised for his captivating performances and expressive artistry, having appeared on the stages of Carnegie Hall, the Berlin Philharmonie, and beyond. In 2018 he made his San Francisco Symphony debut performing Bach's Double Violin Concerto alongside Itzhak Perlman under Michael Tilson Thomas — the very piece he performs with Daniel tonight.

A San Francisco native, he began the violin at age four and went on to study with Itzhak Perlman, Catherine Cho, and Donald Weilerstein at the Juilliard School, where he earned the concertmaster position as a second-year student. That early leadership carried into his professional life: he now serves as concertmaster of the Fort Greene Orchestra and the Central Chamber Orchestra, and has collaborated with Perlman, members of the Juilliard String Quartet, and the New York Philharmonic.

Beyond the concert hall, Doorì is a longtime member of the Argento New Music Project and New Chamber Ballet, is featured on Chick Corea's album *The Continents*, and has toured Europe with Brad Mehldau and the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra — a versatility that also drives his ongoing work reviving neglected American composers overlooked because of race and class.

His path to the concert stage began early: he first performed with orchestra at age seven, as first-prize winner of the Peninsula Youth Symphony's concerto competition, and went on to win top prizes at the Sound of Music Festival, the Junior Bach Festival, and the Menuhin Dowling Young Artist Competition, among others — a run of early recognition that set the course for everything that followed.

LOOKING AHEAD

***Join Us for the
Rest of the Season***

U P N E X T

Clair de Lune

October 2 & 3 · 8 PM

The Theater at City Tech, Brooklyn

A piano concert dedicated to the moon, featuring Steinway Artist Vladimir Remyantsev. Generations of composers, moved by the night light, wrote masterpieces in the dark while the rest of the world was dreaming — Remyantsev plays them, with the host asking the questions the program notes never do. Featuring the Moonlight Sonata, Chopin's Nocturne in D-flat, Debussy's Clair de Lune, and more.

MORE INFORMATION AND
TICKETS

COMING SOON

Mozart's Requiem

October 17 · 6:30 & 8 PM

Co-Cathedral of St. Joseph, Brooklyn

An All Hallows' Eve special — Mozart's final masterpiece. Daniel Zinn conducts the Fort Greene Orchestra, the MACC Ensemble choir, and an international cast of soloists in the mystical turn of the season, as the abundance of summer gives way to the dark.

MORE INFORMATION AND
TICKETS

COMING SOON

Vivaldi's Four Seasons

October 29 & 31 · 8 PM

Co-Cathedral of St. Joseph, Brooklyn

Returning due to popular demand — a luminous evening featuring one of music's most beloved masterpieces. The Fort Greene Orchestra, led by acclaimed violin soloist Giora Schmidt, brings Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons* to life amid our signature musical light design.

MORE INFORMATION AND
TICKETS

COMING SOON

Mahler's Fifth Symphony

November 12 & 14 · 8 PM

Co-Cathedral of St. Joseph, Brooklyn

A lone trumpet opens the piece with a funeral march, launching a symphony that moves in five movements across three great arcs: tragedy, a stormy struggle, and finally the hard-won triumph of the finale. At its center sits the Adagietto, scored for strings and harp alone — the most intimate music Mahler ever wrote, later made famous on film, and reportedly composed as a love letter to his wife Alma. Come for the trumpet call and the Adagietto; stay for the full, blazing arc between them.

MORE INFORMATION AND
TICKETS

COMING SOON

Handel's Messiah

December 3 & 5 · 8 PM

Co-Cathedral of St. Joseph, Brooklyn

Handel's beloved seasonal masterpiece comes to Brooklyn. Daniel Zinn conducts the Fort Greene Orchestra, the MACC Ensemble choir, and an international cast of soloists in selections from Handel's Messiah.

MORE INFORMATION AND
TICKETS

FORT GREENE ORCHESTRA

THE ORCHESTRA

** Principal • ** Concertmaster for the Bach Double Concerto*

VIOLIN I

*Doori Na **

*Yezu Woo ***

Valerie Choi

Sam Weiser

Sara Salomon

Greta Myatieva

Laura Giannini

Raina Arnett

VIOLIN II

*Sam Parrini **

Russell Kotcher

Leah Asher

Amelia Bailey

Sumin Lee

Marina Alba Lopez

Lucy Voin

VIOLA

*Greg Luce **

Rachel Hauser

Jameel Martin

Edwin Kaplan

Owne Xayboury

Nick Pauly

CELLO

*Laura Metcalf **

Oliver Weston

Matthew Armbruster

Sarah Song

Sam Chung

BASS

*Catherine Deskur **

Pat Swoboda

Michael Stratford

THE ORCHESTRA

** Principal*

FLUTE

*Ginevra Petrucci **

Michael Alampi

Hilary Jones, piccolo

OBOE

*Rita Mitsel **

Jacob Slattery

CLARINET

*Gleb Kanasevich **

Kai Hirayama

BASSOON

*Steven Palacio **

Joshua Butcher

Yuki Higashi, contra

TRUMPET

*Grace O'Connell **

Atse Theodros

TROMBONE

*Zander Theiss **

Colin Babcock

Andrew Danforth

TIMPANI

*Dan Pate **

Thank You for Spending This Evening With Us

FORTGREENE.LIVE

The orchestra's official website.

SUBSTACK

*Free weekly newsletter recommending the best classical
concerts around the city.*

CHECK OUT THE REST OF THE SEASON

The official FGO ticketing page.

Looking forward to seeing you again soon!

*Daniel Zinn
Conductor, Fort Greene Orchestra*