

Friday, July 9, 2021 5:00 pm
Live streamed from The Church of the Transfiguration in New York City

Desdemona Quartet

Momentum and Stasis

Adrienne Munden-Dixon, *violin*
Caroline Drexler, *violin*
Carrie Frey, *viola*
Julia Henderson, *cello*

- jaune doré (2016) Maria Kaoutzani (1993–)
- String Quartet No. 7 in F Major, Op 59 No. 1 "Razumovsky" Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827)
I. Allegretto vivace e sempre scherzando
- Fantazia in F Major, Z. 737 (June 14, 1680) Henry Purcell (1659–1695)
- Past, Present, in Future (2021)* Margaret Kogos (1995–)
- Fantazia in A Minor, Z. 740 (June 23, 1680) Henry Purcell
- Tattooed in Snow (2014) Du Yun (1977–)
- Fantazia in C minor, Z. 738 (June 19, 1680) Henry Purcell

**Premiere*

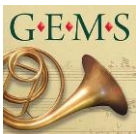
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Gotham Early Music Scene, 340 Riverside Drive, Suite 1A, New York, NY 10025 (212) 866-0468

Joyce Bodig, Concerts Manager Toby Tadman-Little, Program Editor

Live stream staff: Dennis Cembalo, Howard Heller Christina Britton Conroy, Announcer and Make-up Artist

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About the Composer

Margaret Kogos (1993–) is a composer and multi-instrumentalist originally from New Orleans, Louisiana. She seeks to immerse the listener in her stories through the use of unique textures, often a mix of acoustic instruments, field recordings, electronics or text excerpts. As a composer, Margaret has attended numerous festivals including the Yarn/Wire festival, the Line Upon Line Winter Composer festival, SPLICE festival, and the So Percussion Summer Institute at Princeton University, where she attended as an ASCAP Composer's Fellow. Margaret holds a B.M. from New York University, where she studied composition under Marc-Antonio Consoli, and is currently pursuing an M.A. in Media Arts at the University of Michigan. Her works have been performed throughout the United States and the Czech Republic.

About the Artists

Desdemona is a New York City-based ensemble devoted to creating unique and inventive performances of repertoire spanning from the Renaissance to world premieres. They have been described by *The New Yorker* as an “excellent young quartet,” in *OperaWire* as “fantastic,” and by *The Wall Street Journal* as “behind a scrim”. Fusing conservatory training with immersion in the New York experimental scene, Desdemona is known for expanding the sonic possibilities of traditional instrumentation with vocalization, improvisation, and mixed media.

Desdemona has appeared at venues including the Ukrainian Museum, Spectrum, Areté Gallery, 1 Rivington, Princeton University's Unruly Sounds Festival, Savannah Philharmonic's Larsen Spotlight Series, the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, and at numerous home gatherings through Groupmuse. In early 2020, they premiered “Magdalene,” an opera by 14 composers for soprano, quartet, and harp, as part of PROTOTYPE Festival. The quartet's 2021 season includes features on the Ukrainian Contemporary Music Festival and Re:Sound, Cleveland Uncommon Sound Project's streaming festival. Desdemona was selected as one of Chamber Music America's Ensemble Forward 2021 grantees, and its upcoming portrait album of Finola Merivale's work is supported by the Irish National Concert Hall Music Recording Award. The group regularly performs in Savannah, Georgia, on the Live Oak Concert Series, bringing “sampler pack” programs of classical and new music to a broader audience in venues from art galleries to kayak shops.

Taking advantage of the string quartet's chameleon-like nature, Desdemona collaborates with a wide range of talents in New York City and beyond, including percussionist Adam Holmes, harpist Sonia Bize, mezzo-soprano Mikki Sodergren, and the Classical Saxophone Project. They have worked closely with living composers including Anthony R. Green, Peter Kramer, David Bird, Robinson McClellan, and Kinds of Kings collective, whose six string quartets they gave the New York premiere.

As educators, they have given masterclasses at the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities, Garrison School for the Arts in Savannah, and workshopped new pieces of the students at the Kaufman Center in spring of 2020. All of Desdemona's members maintain private studios in New York and are passionate about instilling creativity in musicians of all ages.

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