

Gotham Early Music Scene (GEMS) presents



MIDTOWN CONCERTS

Thursday September 26, 2024 1:15 pm
St Malachy's Church – The Actors' Chapel in New York City
Live Streamed to [midtownconcerts.org](https://www.midtownconcerts.org) and [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com)

NEMA a4

Death and the Maiden

Manami Mizumoto & Edson Scheid ~ violins
Andrew Gonzalez ~ viola Nathan Whittaker ~ violoncello

Quartet No. 14 in D minor, D. 810
“Death and the Maiden”

Franz Schubert (1797–1828)

Allegro
Andante con moto
Scherzo: Allegro molto
Presto

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Gotham Early Music Scene, 340 Riverside Drive, Suite 1A, New York, NY 10025 (212) 866-0468
Robby Meese, Midtown Concerts Manager Kevin Devine, Midtown Concerts Assistant Manager

Toby Tadman-Little, Program Editor Paul Arents, House Manager

Live stream crew: Gene Murrow, Murat Eyuboglu, Dennis Cembalo and Christina Britton Conroy & Make-up Artist
Naomi Morse, Director of Marketing John Thiessen, Executive Director



www.gemsny.org

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Franz Schubert's *String Quartet No. 14 in D minor*, known as "Death and the Maiden", is one of the most profound works of the chamber music repertoire. Composed in 1824, during a period of personal struggle and illness, the quartet reflects Schubert's preoccupation with mortality. The title refers to the second movement, which is a set of variations on his earlier song "Der Tod und das Mädchen" (Death and the Maiden), where Death comforts a terrified young girl.

The work's dramatic intensity and emotional depth are palpable from the opening movement's urgent, stormy character. The second movement is hauntingly lyrical, featuring the melody from the song, unfolding with somber variations. The third movement's relentless scherzo adds tension, while the final tarantella rushes forward with a wild, almost manic energy. Together, these movements create a masterful exploration of life, death, and the human condition.

ABOUT THE ENSEMBLE

Four of New York's most beloved historical string specialists, Manami Mizumoto, Edson Scheid, Andrew Gonzalez, and Nathan Whittaker have collectively performed on some of North America and Europe's most prestigious stages. They are excited to join forces to present this pillar of the early Romantic chamber music repertoire on gut strings with period bows – the way Schubert himself might have envisioned it.

Next Week: Arrow Quartet
Music of the Melting Pot