

## **Aviv String Quartet**

The winner of the Grand Prix and 4 special prizes at the 3rd Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition (1999, Australia), 1st Prize "Amadeus Prize" at Charles Hennen Competition (Holland 1999), Schubert Prize at Schubert Competition (2003, Graz, Austria), 2nd Prize (no 1st Prize awarded) and the International Critics Prize at Bordeaux String Quartet Competition (2003, France) , 2nd Prize at Prague Spring Competition (1998 Czech Republic).

The Aviv Quartet has performed at leading venues throughout the world, including Carnegie Hall and Alice Tully Hall (New York), Kennedy Center and The Library of Congress (Washington), Sydney Opera House, Cologne Philharmonie, Vienna Konzerthaus, Wigmore Hall and Royal Festival Hall (London), Louvre Auditorium, Theatre du Chatelet and Theatre de la Ville (Paris), Beethovenhaus (Bohn). As well, The Aviv Quartet performed in Brazil, China, Australia, Ireland, Netherlands, Italy, Sweden, Croatia, Portugal, Spain, South Africa, Canada, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Belgium and Switzerland.

In 1999-2003 The Aviv Quartet was awarded several government prizes, such as Israeli Ministry of Culture Prize (2001), German Ministry of Education Award (1999), Prize of Israeli Lottery Foundation - Mif'al ha Pais (2003)

The Aviv Quartet studied with Gad Kogan, Irina Svetlova and Chaim Taub, than continued its studies with the members of the Alban Berg Quartet at Cologne Hochschule (1998-2000), and Daniel Quartet at Rotterdam Conservatory. During 2002-2003 they collaborated with the Ysaye Quartet at CNR de Paris.

In addition, the Aviv Quartet participated in courses and master-classes with members of Amadeus Quartet, Emerson Quartet, Julliard Quartet, Isaac Stern, Walter Levin, Henry Mayer, Leon Fleisher, Joseph Kalichshtein, Wu Han, Ivry Gitlis, Arnold Steinhard and Paul Katz.

Aviv, meaning 'spring' in Hebrew, a signifier of new beginnings and the season of birth and fresh thinking encompasses the Aviv Quartet's artistic philosophy of stripping away artificial coverings "to reveal true nature, sharper definition and heightened awareness".

Its recordings for Naxos, including works by Franz Anton Hoffmeister, Erwin Schulhoff and Erno Dohnanyi, have been highly acclaimed for their freshness of spirit vivacity, and top class quality of string quartet performing.

### **SERGEY OSTROVSKY, violin**

**Sergey Ostrovsky** has been described by Isaac Stern as "...one of the most outstanding Israeli violinists". Sergey was born in 1975 in Russia to a family of musicians, and has built an active and successful career as the First Violinist of the Aviv Quartet, as a soloist and as First Concertmaster of Orchestre de la Suisse Romande de Genève, Orchestre Comunidad, Valenciana of Palau Des le Arts in Valencia, Spain and Violin Professor of HEM de Geneve Neuchatel branch).

Sergey began playing at the age of 6, inspired by the great talent and extraordinary musicianship of his father Valery Ostrovsky, a concert pianist and professor whose pedagogical touch and knowledge

assisted him throughout his studies. as well as coaching Sergey, his father was his accompanist from 1990 - 2002. Sergey first studied with David Lapidus in the Music School for 8 years, during which time he made his first public concert appearance at the age of 8 and performed for the first time with a symphony orchestra at the age of 13.

In the Music College of Gorky Conservatory, Sergey continued his studies with Lazar Gantman and Yury Gluchovsky. In 1991 the Ostrovsky family emigrated to Israel, where he pursued his studies with Prof. Yair Kless and Irina Svetlova at the Rubin Academy Tel Aviv (from 2005-Buchmann-Mehta High School of Music). He completed his Bachelor Degree Diploma with Natalia Morozova in 2000 and his Master Degree Diploma in Amsterdam Conservatory with Alexander Kerr in 2002.

As a soloist, he has performed with the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, Cape Town Philharmonic, Johannesburg Philharmonic, Brooklyn Philharmonic, Jerusalem Symphony, Israel Chamber Orchestra, Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra and many others, with conductors such as Zubin Mehta, Yoel Levi, Hugh Wolff, Bernard Guller, Uriel Segal and Maxim Vengerov.

Sergey has recorded the Mozart Concertone for two violins with Maxim Vengerov and the Verbier Festival Chamber Orchestra for EMI Classics. In 2010, he recorded less known Russian concertos by Anton Arensky, Jules Conus and a world premiere recording of a Concertino op. 42 by Mieczysław Weinberg, for Naxos.

Sergey Ostrovsky teaches Chamber Music and is actively involved in conducting youth and professional orchestras. He plays a 1716 violin made by Giovanni Grancinno, purchased with the generous support of Mr. James Mayer and "Tzfonot Tarbut", a non-profit organization for supporting arts in Israel.

### **PHILIPPE VILLAFRANCA, violin**

Philippe studied at Lyon's Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique, in London Guildhall School of Music and in Basel, in the classes of Roland Daugareil, Boris Garlitzky and Krzyztof Smietana. He also worked with Igor Ozim, Tibor Varga, Matis Vaystner and Marie-Annick Nicolas.

Prize winner of several international competitions such as Concours International d'Avignon, Andrea Postacchini in Fermo and Romano Romanini in Brescia, he received the 1st prize of the Fondation Internationale Nadia et Lili Boulanger in Paris.

At the age of 21, Philippe won his first position as associate concertmaster at the Orchestre National de Lorraine and was appointed later first concertmaster at the Orchestre de Chambre de Genève. Since 2015 he is leading the Orchestre de Chambre de Luxembourg and receives regular invitations by international orchestras like the Orchestre Philharmonique du Luxembourg, La Chambre Philharmonique, Opéra de Marseille or the Orquesta Sinfonica de Tenerife. Philippe is also member of the French ensemble Les Dissonances led by violinist David Grimal.

As a passionate chamber music partner Philippe plays second violin in the renowned Aviv Quartet and performs regularly with harpist Manon Louis, pianist David Violi or flutist Loïc Schneider. Together with

the soprano Polina Pasztircsák he recorded Shostakovich' Romances for the label Ysaye Records. Since 2015 he is a member of the Kammer Ensemble de Paris.

As a soloist Philippe has been invited by numerous orchestras including Orchestre de Chambre de Genève, Opera d'Avignon, Orchestre National de Lyon. Together with the Orchestre de Chambre de Luxembourg conducted by David Reiland, Philippe has recorded Beethoven's Konzertsatz, Kurt Weill's concerto, and Alexander Müllenbach's concerto written in 2015 for the orchestra and Philippe.

### **NOEMIE BIALOBRODA, viola**

Born in Paris in 1988, Noémie Bialobroda studied with Nobuko Imai and Miguel Da Silva at the Haute Ecole de Musique de Genève and with Jean Sulem in the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris.

Noemie has won prizes in numerous competitions and scholarship including the Beethoven International Viola Competition 2010, the Fondation Hirschmann (Switzerland) and the Fondation Meyer (France).

As a passionate chamber musician, she has played with Luis Claret, Boris Garlitsky, Francois Guye, Philippe Müller, Tedi Papavrami, Jean Sulem, Jean-Pierre Wallez, the Rosamonde String Quartet for concerts in France, Germany, Spain, China, Switzerland, Austria, USA and Israël.

She joins the Aviv Quartet in 2014.

Very active in contemporary music, she works regularly with the Ensemble Modern in Francfort and the IRCAM in Paris. Two new pieces for viola and electronics have been written for her and premiered at the IRCAM.

She has recorded her first CD for the label « jeunes solistes » of the Fondation Meyer which includes Sequenza VI by L.Berio, Sonate by B.A.Zimmermann, Notturmi Brillanti by S.Sciarrino, Prologie by G.Grisey and Sonate op 25 n°1 de P.Hindemith.

She is a Viola Professeur at the Conservatoire de Musique de Genève since 2010 and at the Conservatoire de Lausanne for pre-College students since 2014.

### **DANIEL MITNITSKY, cello**

**Daniel Mitnitsky** began his cello studies with Zvi Harell in Tel Aviv. Daniel was a member of the David Goldman Outstanding Young Musicians Program of the Jerusalem Music Centre and has been a recipient of scholarships for cello and chamber music from the America-Israel Cultural Foundation since 2001. Daniel received a Bachelor of Music degree from the Buchmann-Mehta School of Music (Tel Aviv University), as student of Zvi Harell, graduating with honors, winning the school's concerto competition and first prize in the chamber music competition. Daniel has recently graduated with a Masters degree and a Graduate diploma from the New England Conservatory as student of Natasha Brofsky and Paul Katz. At NEC, Daniel has been a member of the Honors Ensemble program and a recipient of the Edward

Hyde Cox Presidential Scholarship. Winner of the Rachel and Dov Gottesman cello prize in the 2012 Aviv Competition in Tel Aviv. Participated in master classes with David Geringas, Phillippe Muller, Heinrich Schiff, Natalia Gutman and Frans Helmerson, and was invited to study with Bernard Greenhouse in 2008. Over the years, Daniel has collaborated with such artists as Itzhak Perlman, Roger Tapping, of the Juilliard string quartet, Talich string quartet, Jacques Thibaud string trio and composers Steven Stucky, John Corigliano and John Heiss. Daniel also performed in the Keshet Eilon Mastercourse, Aspen Music Festival, Orford Music Academy and the Perlman Music Program.