



*The Art of the Piano Quintet*

*Borislava Iltcheva, violin*

*Alexander Ilchev, violin*

*Hsiaopei Lee, viola*

*Alexander Russakovsky, cello*

*Theresa Sanchez, piano*

Quintet in E-flat Major, Op. 44

Robert Schumann

Allegro brillante

(1810-1856)

In modo d'una marcia: Un poco largamente

Scherzo: Molto vivace

Allegro ma non troppo

Intermission

Quintet in F Minor, Op. 34

Johannes Brahms

Allegro non troppo

(1833-1897)

Andante, un poco adagio

Scherzo: Allegro

Finale: Poco sostenuto –Allegro non troppo –Presto, non troppo

**Borislava Iltcheva** holds a bachelor's degree from the Bulgarian National Academy, and Masters and Doctorate Degrees in violin performance from Louisiana State University. Her principal teachers include Alexander Ilchev, Evgenia Maria Popova, Kevork Mardirossian and Mauricio Fuks. Borislava holds prizes from several national and international competitions and has an active schedule as a soloist and chamber musician. She has been a featured soloist with the Louisiana Sinfonietta, Baton Rouge Symphony and Acadiana Symphony, Thessalonica Camerata, Chengdu Symphony Orchestra, and others. She has performed recitals throughout Europe, Asia, Latin America and the United States. Ms Iltcheva is the Concertmaster of the Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra and is the assistant to Professor Mauricio Fuks at Indiana University where she worked on a Post Doctorate Degree. As a member of the Donatello String quartet, she was selected to participate in the Sandor Vegh International Competition and the Coleman Chamber Music competition. The quartet performed their debut Carnegie Recital in 2012. Dr. Iltcheva joined the faculty at the University at Southern Mississippi as an Adjunct Faculty in 2021 where she taught violin to graduate and undergraduate students, and she continues there as Assistant Professor of Violin.

**Alexander Alexandrov Ilchev** began learning the violin at the age of 7 with Ekaterina Dramalieva as his teacher. Later he continued his studies with his father professor Alexander Petrov Ilchev. In 2021 together with his parents he recorded Trio Concertante by Vassil Kazandjiev for the Bulgarian National Radio. As

a soloist, he performed multiple times with the Academy Symphony Orchestra. Solo performances include: Bach Double Concerto for Two Violins and violin concertos by Beethoven, Mendelssohn, and Brahms. Alexander has attended violin master classes lead by Gil Shaham, Shlomo Mintz, Vadim Repin, Kevork Mardirossian, Albena Danailova, Liliana Bernardi and Svetlin Roussev. He graduated from the National Academy of Music “Prof. Pancho Vladigerov” with a master’s degree. He is currently studying with Dr. Borislava Ilcheva at the University of Southern Mississippi.

A graduate of Columbia University and University of Cincinnati, violist **Hsiaopei Lee** has performed in numerous venues as a soloist, recitalist and orchestra player throughout the US, Europe, and Asia. Dr. Lee is Professor of Viola at the University of Southern Mississippi, where her excellence in teaching has been recognized by several awards. She is also a recipient of Artist Fellowship awarded by Mississippi Arts Commission in 2011 and 2017. A passionate chamber musician, Hsiaopei collaborates extensively in various chamber music settings. Her album, *ODYSSEY: Viola Music Written by American Female Composers*, is available on the Centaur label.

A graduate of the Yale University and the University of Santa Barbara, **Alexander Russakovsky** has appeared in numerous solo and chamber music performances in Russia, Israel, Europe and the United States. A founding member of the Jerusalem Academy String Quartet, he also performed in the Chamber Music Series of the Spoleto Festival in Italy, the Barge Music in New York City, and the Western Slope Music Festival in Colorado. In the fall of 2001 Dr. Russakovsky joined the music faculty of the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg. He also has served on the faculties of the Adriatic Chamber Music Festival in Bonefro, the IV Violoncello Biennial in Peru, and the CICA Chamber Music Festival. Most recently, Dr. Russakovsky has given master classes and recitals in Taiwan, Israel, and Latin America. Compact discs featuring Russakovsky and pianist Amber Shay Nicholson have been released by Centaur and Brilliant Classics record labels.

Pianist **Theresa Sanchez** pursues a varied performing career as a soloist and collaborative musician. She has performed as soloist with the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra, the University of Southern Mississippi Symphony Orchestra (including the *Southern Nights* CD) and The Wind Ensemble. With the Meridian Symphony Orchestra, she premiered and recorded Carey Smith’s *Piano Concerto No. 1*. Dr. Sanchez was the founding Artistic Administrator for the Vicksburg Chamber Music Festival and performed in each series with various outstanding artists. She has been a faculty member at Jones College since 1995, where she has won HEADWAE and Humanities Teacher awards, and is a past president of the Mississippi Music Teachers Association. She has served as Classical and Chamber Music Coordinator for the Hattiesburg Concert Association and FestivalSouth since its inception in 2010, and is listed on the Mississippi Arts Commission’s Touring Artist Roster. In 2024 she was honored with an MTNA Fellow Award.