

JESSE MILLS, violin

Two-time Grammy nominated violinist **Jesse Mills** enjoys performing music of many genres, from classical to contemporary, as well as composed and improvised music of his own invention. In 2004, Mills made his concerto debut with the Chicago's Ravinia Festival Orchestra. He has performed throughout the U.S. and Canada, including concerts at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall, Carnegie Hall, the 92nd Street Y, the Metropolitan Museum, the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, Boston's Gardner Museum, and the Marlboro Music Festival. He has also appeared at prestigious venues in Europe, such as the Barbican Centre of London, La Cité de la Musique in Paris, Amsterdam's Royal Carré Theatre, Teatro Arcimboldi in Milan, and the Palais des Beaux Arts in Brussels.

Mills is highly regarded as a champion of contemporary music, a renowned improvisational artist, as well as a composer. He earned a Grammy nomination for his work on a CD of Arnold Schoenberg's music, released by NAXOS in 2005. He can also be heard on the Koch, Centaur, Tzadik, Max Jazz, and Verve labels for various compositions of Webern, Schoenberg, Zorn, Wuorinen, and others. As a member of the FLUX Quartet from 2001-2003, Mills performed music composed during the last 50 years (including the famous six-hour-long String Quartet No. 2 by Morton Feldman), in addition to frequent world premieres. Mills is co-founder of Duo Prism, a violin-piano duo with Rieko Aizawa, which earned 1st Prize at the Zinetti International Competition in Italy in 2006. With Ms. Aizawa, Mills became co-artistic director of the Alpenglow Chamber Music Festival in Colorado in 2010. As a composer and arranger, Mills has been commissioned by venues including Columbia University's Miller Theater and Chamber Music Northwest. Mills is a graduate of the Juilliard School, where he was a student of Dorothy DeLay, Robert Mann, and Itzhak Perlman.

OLE AKAHOSHI, cello

Born and raised in Berlin, Germany, **Ole Akahoshi** is known for the rare combination of musical sensitivity and technical mastery, which has earned the admiration of musicians and critics across the globe. As a soloist he has performed with the Orchestra of St. Luke's under the direction of Yehudi Menuhin, Symphonisches Orchester Berlin, and the Czechoslovakian Radio Orchestra, among others. The *Los Angeles Times* praised his performance of the Haydn Concerto for its "technical solidity, fluent passage work and perfect intonation," continuing, "Akahoshi made a large and edgeless tone of a buttered-rum quality, and conquered all the many hurdles of his assignment with panache."

He has collaborated with such esteemed musicians as Sarah Chang, Leon Fleisher, Ani Kavafian, Karl Leister, Yo-Yo Ma, Edgar Meyer, Garrick Ohlsson, Gil Shaham, David Shifrin, the Tokyo String Quartet, the Michelangelo Quartet, and the Keller Quartet. He has also performed and served on the faculties at numerous festivals including the Aspen Music Festival, Banff Centre for the Arts, and Norfolk Chamber Music Festival. He was the youngest cellist to be accepted as a student of the legendary Pierre Fournier at the age of eleven. Later, he continued his studies with Aldo Parisot at the Juilliard School and at the Yale School of Music, and with Janos Starker at Indiana University. Mr. Akahoshi performs on a Matteo Goffriller cello (Venice, c.1707), ex-Lorne Monroe, which is on loan to him through the Stradivari Society of Chicago and Sejong Soloists, of which he is the leader and concertmaster. He is the director of the Yale Cellos, a Grammy-nominated ensemble, and is Assistant Professor of Cello at the Yale School of Music.

RIEKO AIZAWA, piano

Praised by *The New York Times* for her "impressive musicality, a crisp touch and expressive phrasing," Japanese pianist **Rieko Aizawa** has performed in solo and orchestral engagements throughout the U.S., Canada, and Europe, including Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall, Boston's Symphony Hall, Chicago's Orchestra Hall, and Vienna's Konzerthaus. At the age of thirteen, Ms. Aizawa was brought to the attention of conductor Alexander Schneider on the recommendation of the pianist Mitsuko Uchida. Schneider engaged Ms. Aizawa as soloist with his Brandenburg Ensemble at the opening concerts of Tokyo's Casals Hall. Later that year, Schneider presented her in her United States debut concerts at the Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall with his New York String Orchestra. She has since established her own unique musical voice.

Ms. Aizawa is also an active chamber musician. The youngest-ever participant at the Marlboro Music Festival, she has also performed as a guest with string quartets including the Guarneri Quartet and the Orion Quartet. Ms. Aizawa is a founding member of Duo Prism with violinist Jesse Mills, which earned the 1st Prize at the Zinetti International Competition in Italy in 2006. With Mr. Mills, Ms. Aizawa became co-artistic director of the Alpenglow Chamber Music Festival in Colorado in 2010. March 2005 marked the release of Ms. Aizawa's first solo recording of Shostakovich's and Scriabin's "24 Preludes," on the Altus Music label. Her second album, of Messiaen's and Faure's preludes, came out in 2012. Rieko Aizawa was the last pupil of Mieczyslaw Horszowski at the Curtis Institute and she also studied with Seymour Lipkin and Peter Serkin at the Juilliard School.