

# PHILADELPHIA CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

a life more beautiful

PREVIEW  
NOTES

**Ritz Chamber Players**  
**Sunday, February 9 – 3 PM**  
*Perelman Theater, Kimmel Center*

## **PROGRAM** (selection of program notes)

### **String Trio**

#### **Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson**

*Born: June 14, 1932, in Manhattan, USA*

*Died: March 9, 2004, in Chicago, USA*

*Composed: 2004*

*Duration: 4 minutes*

The string trio movement is Perkinson's final composition, written quite literally on his deathbed in February and March of 2004. This movement's utter simplicity stands apart from the complex musical designs of other Perkinson works. The cello presents a repeated chromatic descent characteristic of operatic lament basses, while the violin and viola trade and embellish a minor-mode theme. Even here, in this most poignant movement, Perkinson's rhythmic games are afoot as he occasionally adds and subtracts a single sixteenth note from a measure. It seems appropriate that Perkinson would, at his end, compose a work whose deliberate counterpoint so clearly evokes Bach, one of the earliest and most enduring influences on his unique compositional style.

### ***Poem for a Lost King***

#### **Jeff Scott**

*Born: September 1, 1967, in Queens, New York*

*Composed: 2012*

*Duration: 13 minutes*

"Poem For A Lost King pays homage to the many African Kings (particularly West African), elders and tribal chiefs abducted from their land during the 'Middle Passage' era. This programmatic work is informed by their uncertainty of freedom through generations and the hope that there can one day be a sense of reconciliation and true peace or Hálá (from the West African language of Mawu). Hálá describes a society or relationship that is operating harmoniously and without violent conflict, healthy or newly healed interpersonal or international relationships, safety in matters

of social or economic welfare and the acknowledgement of equality and fairness in political relationships."

- Jeff Scott

### ***Night Visions of Kippur***

#### **James Lee, III**

*Born: 1975 in St. Joseph, Michigan*

*Composed: 2011*

*Duration: 15 minutes*

Night Visions of Kippur is a musical commentary largely based on the seventh chapter of the biblical book of Daniel. It is in this particular chapter that Daniel had a vision of a lion with eagle's wings, a bear with three ribs in his mouth, a four-headed leopard with wings, and a terrible beast with iron teeth and ten horns on its head. Night Visions of Kippur is cast into three movements: Flying Lions, Thrones, Opened Books; A Narrow Pathway Traveled; and Iron Teeth, Pompous Words! The name Daniel means "God is my judge," and "Kippur" is the Hebrew term for the "day of atonement," which was also a day of judgment; hence the thrones put into place, and the books were open.

### **Piano Quartet in G Minor, Op. 25**

#### **Johannes Brahms**

*Born: May 7, 1833, in Hamburg, Germany*

*Died: April 3, 1897, in Vienna, Austria*

*Composed: 1861*

*Duration: 40 minutes*

Johannes Brahms completed his Piano Quartet No. 1 in G minor in 1861. Throughout the 20th century, its popularity continued to grow as the listening public came to recognize Brahms as perhaps the quintessential master of Romantic chamber music. Many generations after the work's inception, it has withstood the public's initial reservations. One great violinist regarded it as proof that Brahms was Beethoven's musical heir.