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OUACHITA
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NEWS

For Immediate Release

Ouachita to host New York Classical Players in concert Oct. 4

By Bethany Lenards

September 22, 2017

For more information, contact OBU's news bureau at newsbureau@obu.edu or (870) 245-5208



ARKADELPHIA, Ark.—Ouachita Baptist University's Division of Music will host the New York Classical Players (NYCP) on Wednesday, Oct. 4, at 3 p.m. as part of its first-ever Arkansas tour. The chamber music concert, which will feature the string quartet from the NYCP, is free and open to the public and will be held in Mabee Fine Arts Center's McBeth Recital Hall.

A non-profit organization, NYCP is the only professional orchestra in the New York region sharing exclusively free performances. It is dedicated to expanding the chamber orchestra repertoire as well as championing the works of the next generation of composers and, according to a press release, "was founded on the belief that access to excellence in music is an essential human right." NYCP features young musicians sharing familiar masterpieces as well as new commissions. The group seeks to provide concertgoers "both the dynamic power of the orchestral repertoire and the versatile intimacy of chamber performance."

"This group of highly-talented, professionally-trained classical musicians will bring us great music performed at a high level," said Dr. Lei Cai, Ouachita professor of music. "We are fortunate to be one of the schools they are visiting."

NYCP's 2017-2018 season builds on the ensemble's noted versatility, showcasing virtuosic performance, artistry and the joy of musicmaking. The Arkansas tour partners with local universities, blending the ensemble's model of free performance with community outreach and educational programming for student musicians.

The program will include Eric Nathan's "Omaggio a Gesualdo for String Orchestra," followed by a new chamber arrangement of Beethoven's "Piano Concerto No. 4" by Yoomi Paick. The concert will close with Bach's "Concerto for Two Violins in D minor, BWV 1043" and Shostakovich's "Prelude and Scherzo, Op. 11."

Conductor Dongmin Kim is the NYCP founder and music director. He has been a recipient of the Herbert von Karajan Fellowship, which resulted in a residency with the Wien Philharmonic Orchestra at the Salzburg Music Festival and has been the Schmidt Conducting Fellow at the Indianapolis Symphony. He also has served as guest conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra. Also a noted violist, Kim has performed throughout the U.S. and Asia. He completed his graduate studies at Indiana University and undergraduate studies at Yonsei University.

For more information, contact Ouachita's School of Fine Arts at (870) 245-5129.

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