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# News Release

## MERCURY LOOKING FORWARD TO 2021-2022 SEASON

Season to feature both in-person and live-streamed concerts

**(Houston, TX) March 15, 2021:** Mercury Chamber Orchestra is thrilled to unveil its 2021-2022 Season. Artistic Director **Antoine Plante** has created an inviting array of concerts with engaging musical highlights from the Baroque to the Romantic that will be performed for live audiences as well as streamed to at-home audiences. Each concert—performed on period instruments—is a dynamic and fresh experience, revealing new ways for audiences to engage with the arts.

“We have had an incredible response from our subscribers and supporters this past year as everyone has been navigating the pandemic. We are grateful to those who have come to our in-person concerts at the Wortham Center and those who have streamed concerts from the comfort of their homes,” says Executive Director Brian Ritter.

As with last season, all concerts will be broadcast live online and available for streaming for one week after each premiere, increasing arts accessibility for listeners everywhere. “We are thrilled that people from Houston and across the world have now been able to hear our wonderful musicians,” says Artistic Director Antoine Plante. “We are eager to gather together again in the Cullen Theater and to be back with our Mercury family and extended group of friends for this exciting new series of concerts.”

Mercury kicks off the new season with the annual **Free Community Concert** at Miller Outdoor Theatre in September. Experienced by thousands of people each year at Houston’s premier outdoor concert venue in Hermann Park, this season’s concert, “Vivaldi’s Four Seasons,” will be a multi-media jubilee of one of the classical world’s most popular pieces and a perennial Mercury audience favorite. This concert is made possible in part by the Miller Outdoor Theatre Advisory Board.

Mercury’s **Downtown Series**, at the Wortham Center’s Cullen Theater, is comprised of seven distinctive concerts running from October through May. Mercury opens the series with a concert of Bach & Telemann concertos in October, followed in November with music of Mozart & Brahms including the latter’s lush string sextet arranged for small ensemble.

In December, Mercury presents the music of Sibelius, Grieg and Pärt in a concert of Nordic melodies. In January’s concert, Haydn & Mozart, principal cellist Beiliang Zhu performs Haydn’s splendid Cello

**For Immediate Release**

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Concerto in C major. In February, a mix of sacred and secular works by Handel & Vivaldi is featured including Vivaldi's motet, "O qui coeli terraeque serenitas," and Handel's cantata "Delirio Amosoro."

Moving to the Romantic in March, the ensemble performs Beethoven's expressive String Quartet 130 and Ravel's colorful String Quartet, arranged for string orchestra. Mercury concludes the season with vocal works from Bach & Vivaldi including Bach's cantata "Ich habe genug" and Vivaldi's Magnificat.

Now in its tenth year, Mercury's **Neighborhood Series** offers intimate, hour-long concerts in four exceptional locations across Houston - Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church, Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Midtown's MATCH, and the Dosey Doe Big Barn in The Woodlands. Designed to inspire and energize all who attend, these concerts are highly accessible and intimate. These concerts, kicking off in January 2022, range from the Baroque music of Purcell and Couperin to the tango music of Argentinean composer Astor Piazzolla.

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### FULL 2021-2022 SEASON DETAILS BELOW:

#### **FREE COMMUNITY CONCERT**

##### **Vivaldi's Four Seasons**

Saturday, September 4, 2021, 8 PM  
Miller Outdoor Theatre

#### **DOWNTOWN SERIES**

*All concerts at the Wortham Center, Cullen Theater, 8 PM*

##### **CONCERT 1**

##### **BACH & TELEMANN**

Saturday, Oct 9, 2021

Vivaldi:	Concerto for Two Violins, Two Cellos, and Strings
Telemann:	Suite for Strings in C minor
J.S. Bach:	Concerto for Harpsichord in D minor

##### **CONCERT 2**

##### **MOZART & BRAHMS**

Saturday, Nov 13, 2021

Mozart:	String Quintet in D major, K. 593 (arr. for string orchestra)
Brahms:	Sextet No. 1 (arr. for string orchestra)

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**CONCERT 3**  
**NORDIC MELODIES**

Saturday, Dec 4, 2021

Sibelius: Romance in C major, Op. 52  
Pärt: Fratres  
Grieg: String Quartet No. 1 (arr. for string orchestra)  
Nordic Melodies

**CONCERT 4**  
**HAYDN & MOZART**

Saturday, Jan 8, 2022

*Beiliang Zhu, Cello*

Haydn: Symphony No. 52 in C minor  
Cello Concerto in C major  
Mozart: Symphony No. 29, K. 201

**CONCERT 5**  
**HANDEL & VIVALDI**

Saturday, Feb 12, 2022

Handel: Concerto Grosso Op. 6, No. 4  
Cantata "Delirio Amosoro"  
Vivaldi: Motet "O qui coeli terraeque serenitas"  
Violin Concerto Op. 8 #7

**CONCERT 6**  
**BEETHOVEN & RAVEL**

Saturday, Mar 26, 2022

Beethoven: String Quartet Op. 130 (arr. for string orchestra)  
Ravel: String Quartet (arr. for string orchestra)

**CONCERT 7**  
**BACH & VIVALDI**

Saturday, May 14, 2022

J.S. Bach: Cantata *Ich habe genug*, BWV 82  
"Wenn Sorgen auf mich dringen" from Cantata BWV 3  
Concerto for Oboe & Violin, BWV 1060  
Vivaldi: Concerto for Strings  
Magnificat

**NEIGHBORHOOD SERIES**

**VENUES:**

MFAH, where Mercury's music sets the mood for contemplating the lush paintings of the Baroque gallery in the Beck Building, home to Mercury since 2006. Located in one of Houston's largest arts and culture hubs, the Historic District between Midtown, Rice University and the Med Center;

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MATCH, the newest venue in Mercury's Neighborhood lineup, located in the thriving hotbed of culture, creativity and foodie favorites that is known as Midtown;

MDPC, a multi-sensory experience of sight and sound set in a simply gorgeous location in the west side of Houston. The stunning stained glass of the chapel at Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church is a vibrant backdrop, adding to the concert experience;

Dosey Doe in The Woodlands, where music lovers get the complete Texas treatment at the Big Barn - a 165-year-old tobacco barn approximately thirty miles north of Downtown Houston. The space features incredible acoustics and delicious southern-style meals.

### **CONCERT 1 PURCELL & COUPERIN** January/February 2022

Purcell: Trio Sonata  
Couperin: Concerts des nations  
Marais: Sonnerie de Ste. Geneviève

### **CONCERT 2 MOZART CAMERATA** April 2022

Mozart: String Quartet No. 15, K. 421  
Mozart: Clarinet Quintet, K. 581

### **CONCERT 3 TANGO QUARTET** June 2022

Tango music of Astor Piazzolla and more, featuring bandoneonist Denis Plante.

***All programs, artists, dates, venues, and prices subject to change.***

## **SUBSCRIPTION AND TICKET INFORMATION**

Subscription sales for Mercury's 2021-2022 season are available immediately, offering savings up 20% off single tickets. Subscribers receive the best seats at the best prices, free ticket exchange privileges, additional discounts on single tickets, and, new this year, streaming access to Mercury's 2021-2022 concerts.

Single tickets will be available August 18, 2021.

For more information or to order a subscription, please call 713-533-0080 or visit Mercury's website at [mercuryhouston.org](http://mercuryhouston.org).

### **ABOUT MERCURY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**

Mercury Chamber Orchestra's mission is to serve the community by celebrating the power of music, teaching, sharing and performing with passion, intimacy and excellence. Mercury is committed to making classical music accessible and the concert experience inclusive for all audience members.

Mercury was founded in 2000 as a vehicle for performing classical music on period instruments. Fidelity to period instruments and performance technique gives Mercury its rich signature sound, while a commitment to sharing the repertoire to new audiences gives Mercury a unique place in the Houston arts ecosystem. We have grown from a small period orchestra with a passion for historically informed playing into a mature and vibrant arts institution that has been critically acclaimed for its fresh, inclusive and approachable performances.

Mercury reaches Houston area audiences through concerts at a variety of venues. Our season begins each year with a community performance at Miller Outdoor Theatre drawing thousands of Houstonians to Hermann Park. The Downtown Series, held in the Wortham Center's Cullen Theater, features a larger Mercury ensemble with woodwinds, brass and strings, and frequently includes performances with renowned early music guests like Conductor Harry Bicket and Mezzo-Soprano Susan Graham.

Extending its reach beyond the traditional concert hall, Mercury performs intimate, hour-long concerts in its Neighborhood Series. This 15-concert series is held at four unique venues in Houston-area neighborhoods, including Museum of Fine Arts Houston, MATCH in Midtown, Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church, and Dosey Doe in The Woodlands. The extended outreach into these communities has garnered a loyal audience that includes a wide cross-section of the Houston community. During the 2020-2021 Season, in response to the realities of COVID-19, Mercury began streaming all of its performances live, allowing the organization to reach audiences far beyond Houston.

Beyond the concert hall, Mercury is committed to nurturing a new generation of musicians and music lovers by ensuring equitable access to classical music through educational outreach and programs in Houston area public schools. Mercury also hosts the Mercury-Juilliard Fellowship Program which brings post-graduate instrumentalists from the Juilliard Historical Performance Program to Houston, to practice their trade alongside the professional musicians of Mercury.

Mercury gratefully acknowledges the following organizations and corporations for their ongoing support: The City of Houston through Houston Arts Alliance, Houston Endowment Inc., Texas Commission on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Wyatt Foundation, The Brown Foundation and The Cullen Trust for the Performing Arts.

Additional information on Mercury, its events and concerts, directions to the venues, and to learn more about its recordings, please visit [www.mercuryhouston.org](http://www.mercuryhouston.org)

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