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WALLIS ANNENBERG CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

PRESENTS

**ANTHONY MCGILL, CLARINET
& THE PACIFICA QUARTET**

Simin Ganatra, violin

Austin Hartman, violin

Mark Holloway, viola

Brandon Vamos, cello

**Program Features World Premiere of Ben Shirley's *High Sierra Sonata*
and Works by Dvořák and Brahms**

Thursday, February 23, 2023, 7:30 pm

Pre-Concert Conversation with the Artists, 6:30 pm

The Wallis' Bram Goldsmith Theater

(Beverly Hills, CA, January 30, 2023) – Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts presents **ANTHONY MCGILL, clarinet**, the 2020 Avery Fisher Prize recipient, and the Grammy Award-winning **PACIFICA QUARTET**, featuring Simin Ganatra and Austin Hartman (violin), Mark Holloway (viola), and Brandon Vamos (cello) on Thursday, February 23, 2023, 7:30 pm, in The Wallis' Bram Goldsmith Theater. Making their Wallis debuts, McGill, a leading soloist and the first African-American principal player of the New York Philharmonic, and the Pacifica Quartet, recognized for its virtuosity, exuberance, and daring repertory, choices perform a chamber music program of Dvořák's Quartet in F Major, "Americana," the **world premiere** of Ben Shirley's *High Sierra Sonata*, and Brahms' Clarinet Quintet in B Minor. **PRELUDES @ THE WALLIS**, a pre-concert conversation with the artists moderated by Classical California KUSC's Brian Lauritzen, takes place at 6:30 pm.

Ben Shirley's *High Sierra Sonata* (Clarinet Quintet) appears on McGill and the Pacifica Quartet's new Cedille album *American Stories*. In *High Sierra Sonata*, Shirley surveys the seasons of his life – from time on Los Angeles' Skid Row to his life as a sober and celebrated composer today – as he stands in the glory of the Sierra Nevadas.

Previously, McGill and the Pacifica Quartet recorded Brahms' Clarinet Quintet on their Cedille album, *Mozart & Brahms Clarinet Quartets*.

ANTHONY MCGILL (clarinet), hailed for his “trademark brilliance, penetrating sound and rich character” (*New York Times*), enjoys a dynamic international solo and chamber music career and is principal clarinet of the New York Philharmonic — the first African-American principal player in the organization's history. He is the recipient of the 2020 Avery Fisher Prize, one of classical music’s most significant awards. McGill appears as a soloist with top orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic, Metropolitan Opera, and the Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, and Detroit Symphony Orchestras. He performed alongside Itzhak Perlman, Yo-Yo Ma, and Gabriela Montero at the inauguration of President Barack Obama, premiering a piece by John Williams. As a chamber musician, McGill is a collaborator of the Brentano, Daedalus, Guarneri, JACK, Miró, Pacifica, Shanghai, Takács, and Tokyo Quartets, and performs with leading artists including Emanuel Ax, Inon Barnatan, Gloria Chien, Yefim Bronfman, Gil Shaham, Midori, Mitsuko Uchida, and Lang Lang. He serves on the faculty of The Juilliard School and is the Artistic Director for Juilliard’s Music Advancement Program. He holds the William R. and Hyunah Yu Brody Distinguished Chair at the Curtis Institute of Music. In 2020, McGill’s #TakeTwoKnees campaign protesting the death of George Floyd and historic racial injustice went viral. AnthonyMcGill.com

PACIFICA QUARTET, with a career spanning nearly three decades, the multiple Grammy Award-winning Quartet — **Simin Ganatra (violin), Austin Hartman (violin), Mark Holloway (violinist), Brandon Vamos (cello)** — has achieved international recognition as one of the finest chamber ensembles performing today. The Quartet is known for its virtuosity, exuberant performance style, and often-daring repertory choices. Having served as quartet-in-residence at Indiana University’s Jacobs School of Music for the past decade, the Quartet also leads the Center for Advanced Quartet Studies at the Aspen Music Festival and School, and was previously the quartet-in-residence at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. In 2021, the Pacifica Quartet received a second Grammy Award for *Contemporary Voices*, an exploration of music by three Pulitzer Prize-winning composers: Shulamit Ran, Jennifer Higdon, and Ellen Taaffe Zwilich. Formed in 1994, the Pacifica Quartet quickly won chamber music’s top competitions, including the 1998 Naumburg Chamber Music Award. In 2002 the ensemble was honored with Chamber Music America’s Cleveland Quartet Award and the appointment to Lincoln Center’s The Bowers Program (formerly CMS Two), and in 2006 was awarded a prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant. With its powerful energy and captivating, cohesive sound, The Quartet has established itself as the embodiment of the senior American quartet sound. The members of the Pacifica Quartet live in Bloomington, IN, where they serve as quartet-in-residence and full-time faculty members at Indiana University’s Jacobs School of Music. Prior to their appointment, the Quartet was on the faculty of the University of Illinois at Champaign Urbana from 2003 to 2012, and also served as resident performing artist at the University of Chicago for seventeen years.

Tickets for this performance (\$39-\$99) are on sale now, as are single tickets and subscriptions to all performances in The Wallis' 2022/2023 Season. TheWallis.org/McGill

Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is located at 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd, Beverly Hills. To purchase single tickets, subscriptions and for more information, please call 310-746-4000 (Monday – Friday, 10 am to 6 pm) or visit TheWallis.org.

The Wallis is closely monitoring the ever-changing local health and safety environment carefully and addressing known health factors at the moment. Should plans change and any performance be required to be postponed or cancelled or if venue capacity limitations are instituted, ticket holders will be notified immediately with options for their purchased tickets per The Wallis' ticketing policies.

The health and safety of patrons, staff, and artists inside and outside the venue are a top priority for The Wallis. Facial masks are no longer required but are strongly encouraged and recommended. The Wallis' health and safety protocols are also subject to change at the venue's sole discretion or in accordance with LA County and City of Beverly Hills regulations. Current Health & Safety Protocols and updates may also be accessed at TheWallis.org/Safety. Policies are subject to change.

About Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts:

Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is a dynamic cultural hub and community resource where local, national, and international artists share their artistry with ever-expanding audiences. The campus, located in the heart of Beverly Hills, CA, is committed to robust and distinctive presentations and education programs curated with both creativity and social impact in mind. Distinguished by its eclectic programming that mirrors the diverse landscape of Los Angeles and its location in the entertainment capital of the world, The Wallis has produced and presented more than 350 theater, dance, music, film, cabaret, conversation, and family entertainment programs since its doors opened in October 2013. Hailed as “au courant” (*LaLa Magazine*), The Wallis was lauded by *Culture Vulture*, which proclaims, “If you love expecting the unexpected in the performing arts, you have to love The Wallis.” Its programming has been nominated for 79 Ovation Awards and nine L.A. Drama Critic's Circle Awards. The campus itself, a breathtaking 70,000-square-foot facility, celebrating the classic and the modern, has garnered six architectural awards. Designed by acclaimed architect Zoltan E. Pali (SPF:architects), the restored building features the original 1933 Beverly Hills Post Office (on the National Register of Historic Places), which serves as the theater's dramatic yet welcoming lobby, and includes the contemporary 500-seat, state-of-the-art Bram Goldsmith Theater; the 150-seat Lovelace Studio Theater; an inviting open-air plaza for family, community and other performances; and GRoW @ The Wallis: A Space for Arts Education, where learning opportunities for all ages and backgrounds abound. Together, these elements embrace the city's history and its future, creating a performing arts destination for L.A.-area visitors and residents alike. Michael Nemeroff is Chairman of The Wallis' Board of Directors.

For more information about The Wallis, please visit: TheWallis.org.

For downloadable photos, please visit: TheWallis.org/Press.

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EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

WHAT:

WALLIS ANNEBERG CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS PRESENTS ANTHONY MCGILL, CLARINET, & THE PACIFICA QUARTET

Anthony McGill, clarinet

Simin Ganatra, violin

Austin Hartman, violin

Mark Holloway, viola

Brandon Vamos, cello

WHEN:

Thursday, February 23, 2023, 7:30 pm

Pre-Concert Conversation with the Artists, 6:30 pm

PROGRAM

Dvořák String Quartet No. 12 in F Major, Op. 96, “American”

Allegro ma non troppo

Lento

Molto vivace

Finale: vivace ma non troppo

Ben Shirley *High Sierra Sonata*

Buttermilk Morning

Angry Secrets

Reflections on a Day

WORLD PREMIERE

Brahms Clarinet Quintet in B Minor, Op. 115

Allegro
Adagio
Andantino – Presto non assai, ma con sentimento
Con moto – Un poco meno mosso

RUNNING TIME:

One hour and 40 minutes, including a 15-minute intermission

TICKET PRICES AND INFORMATION:

Tickets for this performance (\$39-\$99) are on sale now, as are single tickets and subscriptions to all performances in The Wallis' 2022/2023 Season. TheWallis.org/McGill

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PLEASE NOTE:

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