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***Violinist Gil Shaham and Flautist Emmanuel Pahud Shine Brightly  
among Spivey Hall's February Stars***

***Barbershop Quartet Champions Forefront Make Spivey Hall Debut  
with Atlanta Vocal Project***

**MORROW GA (January 24, 2018)** - Spivey Hall's February concerts feature celebrated stars as well as emerging talents, performing a wealth of music representing diverse musical styles and traditions.

"At Spivey Hall, we strive to offer a mix of performances to engage and serve audiences of all ages," said Executive and Artistic Director Sam Dixon. "We are honored and delighted to have the world-renowned violinist Gil Shaham with us again after a decade's absence, and proud to welcome the national champion barbershop quartet Forefront to our stage for its Atlanta and Spivey debut performance."

**Atlanta Vocal Project (February 3)** treats Spivey patrons to an evening of barbershop harmony, with special guests **Forefront**, gold-medal winners of the 2016 Barbershop Harmony Society's international quartet championship. (This performance is also Spivey's annual **Educator Appreciation Concert.**) The **Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions (February 11)** offers Spivey Hall patrons the opportunity to hear promising young opera singers and perhaps discover the next great star. Called by *The New York Times* "one of today's preeminent violinists," **Gil Shaham** returns to the Spivey stage (**February 17**) with long-time performing partner pianist **Akira Eguchi**, bringing elegance and incredible virtuosity to the **Spivey Strings Series**. "Flute King" **Emmanuel Pahud** (with a 14-karat gold flute) returns to Spivey with his performing partner pianist **Alessio Bax (February 18)**; *Bachtrack* has called Pahud's playing filled with "effortless, beguiling sound, beautiful legato and acute expressivity." Spivey's Organist-in-Residence **Alan Morrison** continues the **Spivey Organ Series** with a lively performance (**February 24**) showcasing both his supreme skill and the thunderous majesty of the Hall's Albert Schweitzer Memorial Organ; *The Diapason* called

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Morrison's playing "expansive, never rushed, and he revealed an excellent sense of timing and vocality." "Always meticulous, often sublime" (*The Independent*), London-based [Elias String Quartet](#) (February 21) returns in the **Spivey Strings Series**; "this immensely talented string quartet has the rare quality of unforced spontaneity." (*The Sunday Telegraph*)

**Spivey Hall Education** offers seven February programs in its [Young People's Concert \(YPC\) Series](#), providing affordable and educational opportunities for music lovers of any age. Spivey's YPCs introduce the youngest patrons to a diverse range of music styles, all adapted to enrapture and entertain children, including [Full Radius Dance](#) with **Dance Me A Story: Three Moving Tales (February 5)**, featuring professional dancers with physical disabilities.

For tickets or more information, call the Spivey Hall Box Office at (678) 466-4200, or visit [spiveyhall.org](http://spiveyhall.org). In addition to the standard ticket pricing indicated for each performance, there is a 50% discount available to students and a 20% discount to Georgia educators with ID. Discounted single tickets are available only through the box office, which is open Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; series subscriptions are now available online for purchase.

## SPIVEY SERIES

**Atlanta Vocal Project**  
**Clay Hine, director**  
**Forefront Barbershop Quartet**  
**Saturday, February 3, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.**

A traditional American style of singing, "barbershop" calls for four male soloists to sing without instrumental accompaniment, in which one voice carries a melody and the others follow it with rapid, fluid changes of harmony (called "close harmony"), all performed with plenty of theatricality, high spirits, and humor. **Atlanta Vocal Project**, led by director Clay Hine, is an Atlanta-area a cappella chorus specializing in the barbershop style; it has been recognized as one of the ten highest-scoring chapters in the Barbershop Harmony Society's Chapter Achievement program. AVP has enthralled audiences with its spirited, high-energy performances throughout Georgia as well as across the nation, and in 2013 competed in the Society's 2013 convention in Toronto, Canada.

The gold-medal winners of the Society's 2016 competition make a special appearance with AVP. The outstanding singers of **Forefront** – Kevin Hughes (lead), Drew Wheaton (tenor), Brian O'Dell (bass), and Aaron Hughes (baritone) – mix American songbook classics and intricate jazz charts in a presentation sure to captivate and entertain the audience.

Tickets are priced at \$40 (with discounts for subscribers, groups, students and Georgia educators), and are available for purchase now.

**The Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions – Southeast Region  
Sunday, February 11, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.**

The finest young opera vocalists from North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Georgia compete at Spivey Hall to advance to the National Council Audition finals at the **Metropolitan Opera** in New York. Their afternoon performances are a wonderful opportunity for any opera fan to catch the next rising star. Winners of the Southeast Auditions will be announced following deliberations by a distinguished panel of judges: **Gayletha Nichols**, executive director of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and director designate, Santa Fe Opera Apprentice Program for Singers; opera and voice coach **Mikael Eliassen**, artistic director and Hirsig Family Chair of Vocal Studies, Curtis Institute of Music; and **Christopher McBeth**, artistic director of Utah Opera. **Brian Vu**, North Carolina's state winner from 2016 and National Finalist, will be the guest performer.

Tickets are priced at \$40 (with discounts for subscribers, groups, students and Georgia educators), and are available for purchase now.

**Gil Shaham, violin  
Akira Eguchi, piano  
Saturday, February 17, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.**

Virtuoso violinist **Gil Shaham** and his “superlative partner” pianist **Akira Eguchi** return to Spivey Hall for an energetic recital program in Spivey’s **Strings Series**, featuring César Franck’s towering Sonata in A major, imaginative sonatas by Israeli composer Anver Dorman and American composer Scott Wheeler, and, for solo violin, Bach’s Partita No. 3 in E major.

Critics and audiences alike have praised Shaham’s astounding musicianship; “his phrasing was beautifully shaped, his dynamic control was extraordinary (his softest notes were a silky whisper), and his tone was incandescent.” (*Nashville Scene*) Shaham has called his playing partner of thirty years “a good friend and an inspiring artist.” (*Telegram & Gazette*) *The Boston Globe* called Eguchi “an excellent partner, with scrupulous touch, responsive phrasing, and a long, flexible line to match Shaham’s poised bowing.” The two’s obvious love of music and their easy and entertaining on-stage camaraderie delight audiences as well.

Shaham’s program includes Bach’s demanding and emotionally penetrating Partita No. 3 in E major for solo violin. Shaham has lived with, read about, listened to and played Bach’s seminal works for over 30 years, a life experience that *Financial Times* feels has “led Shaham to a personal and free way of playing.”

The program’s first half features music new to Atlanta, certain to be given compelling performances by Shaham and Eguchi. *The Singing Turk*, inspired by Larry Wolff’s 2016 eponymous book that examines the popularity of Turkish characters in European opera, led award-winning composer Scott Wheeler to write his Sonata No. 2 for Violin and Piano,

commissioned and premiered by Gil Shaham, which focuses on three such characters appearing in operas by George Frederic Handel, Charles Simon Favart, and Gioacchino Rossini. *Nigunim*, by Israeli composer Avner Dorman, draws on Jewish traditions from a wide swath of the globe, including religious cantillation; the work's title means melodic improvisation, and the composition suggests this in multiple ways. Subtitled Sonata No. 3, *Nigunim* was commissioned by Shaham and his sister, the pianist Orli Shaham, and celebrates their Jewish heritage. The program closes with César Franck's major masterwork, his passionate, popular Sonata in A major.

Tickets are priced at \$75 (with discounts for subscribers, groups, students and Georgia educators), and are available for purchase now.

Gil Shaham and Akira Eguchi's performance is made possible through the generosity of Spivey Hall Friends Concert Sponsors Jeffrey Adams and Susan Hunter.

**Emmanuel Pahud, flute**  
**Alessio Bax, piano**  
**Sunday, February 18, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.**

Principal flute of the Berlin Philharmonic, **Emmanuel Pahud** enralls "with an astonishing array of subtly molded sounds, superb breath control, flawless articulation and, above all, consistently eloquent phrasing." (*The Baltimore Sun*) His performing partner for this **Spivey Special Event** is pianist **Alessio Bax**, whom *Gramophone* has called one of "the most remarkable young pianists now before the public."

Born in Switzerland and now based in Berlin, Pahud, a charismatic performer, commands a stylistic versatility that encompasses the Baroque, Classical, Modern and Contemporary eras, demonstrated in his critically-acclaimed orchestral, solo, concerto, jazz and chamber music concerts and recordings. At Spivey Hall, he performs his own adaptations of Franz Schubert's Sonata in A minor for arpeggione and piano, D. 821; Robert Schumann's *Fantasiestücke*, Op. 73 (originally for clarinet, violin or cello); and Felix Mendelssohn's Sonata in F Major (1838) (originally for violin). His program opens with Francis Poulenc's lively Sonata for Flute and Piano, written in 1957 and dedicated to the memory of Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge, an American patron of chamber music.

Emmanuel Pahud and Alessio Bax's performance is made possible through the generosity of Spivey Hall Friends Concert Sponsors Debra and Gregory Durden and Joanne and Tom Maples.

**Alan Morrison, organ**  
**Saturday, February 24, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.**

Spivey Hall's Organist-in-Residence **Alan Morrison** is widely recognized as a premier concert organist, performing in prestigious organ venues across the United States and Canada, as well

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as in international festivals. He is an avid advocate of 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century composers, regularly introducing their works to audiences in recitals and concerts, and enjoys collaborating with vocalists and other instrumentalists in chamber programs. "His performances were expansive, never rushed, and he revealed an excellent sense of timing and vocality." (*The Diapason*)

In his second Season 28 recital, Morrison combines original works for organ including preludes and fugues in B major and G minor by Marcel Dupré, *The Dancing Pipes* by Jonathan Dove, and César Franck's *Fantaisie* in A minor with transcriptions of well-known orchestral works such as J. S. Bach's Concerto in A minor, Saint-Saëns' *Marche héroïque*, Debussy's *Nuages* (Clouds), and from *The Planets* by Gustav Holst, lovely "Venus" and majestic "Jupiter."

Morrison holds the Haas Charitable Trust Chair in Organ Studies at Philadelphia's prestigious Curtis Institute of Music, joined the faculty of Westminster Choir College of Rider University in 2006, and serves as College Organist at Ursinus College in Collegeville, Pennsylvania. He also holds The McGehee Family Organist Residency at Spivey Hall, through the 2020-2021 season.

Tickets are priced at \$40 (with discounts for subscribers, groups, students and Georgia educators), and are available for purchase now.

**Elias String Quartet**  
**Sunday, February 25, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.**  
**Pre-concert talk at 2:00 p.m.**

The **Elias String Quartet**, praised by *Classic FM Magazine* for its "imaginative, full-blooded playing," and by *The Sunday Telegraph* for its "rare quality of unforced spontaneity" returns to the Spivey stage to continue the **Spivey String Series**. The Quartet was formed at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, taking its name from Mendelssohn's oratorio, *Elijah*, of which Elias is the German form. The ensemble's mix is fairly unusual - French/Catalan sisters Sara (violin) and Marie (cello) Bittloch, Swedish violist Simone van der Giessen, and Scottish violinist Donald Grant.

The program will feature Mozart's Quartet in B-flat major, K. 458 ("The Hunt"); György Kurtág's 6 Moments musicaux; and Beethoven's rousing, robust Quartet in E-flat major, Op. 127.

Tickets are priced at \$50 (with discounts for subscribers, groups, students and Georgia educators), and are available for purchase now. A pre-concert talk with Clayton State music faculty member Dr. Kurt-Alexander Zeller begins at 2:00 p.m. and is included in the ticket price.

Elias String Quartet's performance is made possible through the generosity of anonymous Spivey Hall Friends Concert Sponsors and dedicated to the memory of Spivey Hall Friend Janou Celler.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

Clayton State University  
Department of Visual and Performing Arts Division of Music

**CSU High School Choral Festival**  
*A Legacy of Hope: Remembering Martin Luther King, Jr.*  
Thursday, February 8, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

The annual **Clayton State University High School Choral Festival** provides area high schools with the opportunity to rehearse and perform great choral music with the [Clayton State University Chorale](#) (**Michael Fuchs, director**) in the acoustically superb Spivey Hall. This is an all-day event culminating in a public performance at 7:00 p.m. High school choruses participating this year include **Jonesboro High School Cardinal Ensemble (Alvin Miller, director)**; **Sandy Creek High School Chorus (Velma Jenkins, director)**; and **Stillwell School of the Arts Advanced Mixed Chorus (Kay Pace, director)**. The **Atlanta Music Project's AMPLify Choir, Verena Anders-Lucia, director**, will also participate. At the concert, the groups will perform individually and all together as a festival chorus.

In the past, these choral festivals have not had a theme. However, 2018 is the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., and this year's program will be centered around King's legacy of civil rights and social justice. The Clayton State University Chorale will perform "Down Deep," written by American composer Dominick DiOrio and dedicated to the legacy of the Little Rock Nine.

Admission to the High School Choral Festival performance is free, with no tickets required.

**Southern Crescent Symphony Orchestra**  
**Dr. Richard Bell, conductor**  
Friday, February 16, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.

Atlanta-based [Southern Crescent Symphony Orchestra](#) is devoted to meeting the cultural needs of audiences and performers in the Southern Crescent area of the city. Members of the orchestra include professional musicians, music educators, amateur musicians and students, all of whom strive to utilize their full potential in presenting a quality musical product.

Tickets for this family concert are available now, priced at \$15 for adults and \$5.00 for students and children, and free for CSU students, faculty & staff with Laker Card.

## SPIVEY HALL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Spivey Hall's **Young People's Concerts (YPCs)** are an integral part of its education program; the concerts are 45-50 minutes in length and designed for audience interaction. Educators and

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parents are asked to note carefully the performance times and recommended grade levels for each program. There will be study guides correlated to the curriculum (GPS and CCGPS) with a concentration on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics).

While the concerts are intended for children and youth in pre-K to grade 12, Spivey Hall welcomes community members of all ages to the performances. Concerts cost just \$2 in advance, \$4 online and \$5 at the door the day of the concert, and are available for purchase now.

Complete information on YPCs and Spivey Hall's education program is available at [clayton.edu/spiveyhall](http://clayton.edu/spiveyhall).

**Forefront Barbershop Quartet**  
**Friday, February 2, 2018 at 11:15 a.m.**

Students will learn about the exciting genre of a cappella singing called barbershop quartet, which uses four-part harmony without accompaniment by any instruments such as piano. **Forefront** Barbershop Quartet is the 2016 International Barbershop champions. They are one of Barbershop Harmony Society's most sought-after quartets, and pride themselves in providing their audiences with real emotional experiences through a musical journey.

**Full Radius Dance**  
***Dance Me a Story***  
**Monday, February 5, 2018 at 11:15 a.m.**

In 1993, through a partnership with VSA Arts of Georgia, Shepherd Center and Special Audiences, Douglas Scott began teaching dance classes for persons with physical disabilities and the course of his career was changed. Through **Full Radius Dance**, he has created a modern dance technique that is inclusive and challenging for all physical abilities; one firmly arts-based and not designed to be "therapeutic." Through hard work, trial and error, and learning from his students, Douglas has developed a distinct style and technique, now celebrated for its artistry and inclusiveness.

***Dance Me a Story: Three Moving Tales*** brings to life *The Ugly Duckling*, *Dr. Seuss's The Sneetches* and a story created on the spot with the audience's help. The segments address diversity and acceptance.

**116<sup>th</sup> Army Band**  
**Tuesday, February 6, 2018 at 11:15 a.m.**

The [116th Army Band](#) was founded in 1859 in Atlanta's "Gate City Guard" Georgia Volunteers, Company F. It is the oldest Military National Guard or Reserve Band with service in the Civil War, Mexican Border Campaign, WWI and WWII. In 1968, the band became an independent organization, known as the 116th Army Band, and is now stationed in Marietta, Georgia.

The program will include rousing renditions of fanfares, marches, and tunes recognized for country and service, featuring woodwinds, brass, percussion, electric bass and guitar. This is a great concert to familiarize students with the families of instruments.

**Mr. Greg's Musical Madness: *Teamwork***  
**Friday, February 9, 2018 at 11:15 a.m.**

***Teamwork***, who needs it? EVERYONE, that's who! [Mr. Greg's Musical Madness](#) incorporates undeniably catchy songs, music, and his silly brand of infectious humor in this interactive educational show. It's an unforgettable way for students to connect the dots as to why "teamwork helps makes the dream work"!

In the world of children's education, music, and entertainment, **Greg Roth**, aka "Mr. Greg's Musical Madness", has quickly landed on the national stage. Roth's fun-filled educational music videos are aired daily in millions of homes on "PBA-30, Atlanta's PBS TV Station," as well as several other PBS affiliates throughout the country. His videos are also featured alongside Emmy-winning shows, such as Curious George and Dinosaur Train, and on the GA PBS KIDS! website.

**Clayton State University Chorale**  
***Infinite Hope: The Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.***  
**Dr. Michael Fuchs, director**  
**Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at 11:15 a.m.**

As a part of Clayton State University's celebration of Black History month, the [CSU Chorale](#), under the direction of Dr. Michael Fuchs, CSU director of choral activities, will explore the large role that music plays in black history. Come hear the soulful sounds and rich rhythms of this dynamic musical genre.

As the premier vocal ensemble at Clayton State, the Chorale is an auditioned ensemble comprised primarily of Performing Arts Majors with concentrations in music and music education. This ensemble provides intensive and thorough per-professional training for the next generation of vocal performers, music educators, and choral enthusiasts.

**Atlanta Celli**  
**Wednesday, February 14, 2018 at 9:45 and 11:15 a.m.**

[Atlanta Celli](#) is four classically-trained cellists (**Nan Kemberling, Mary Beth Bryant, Erin Cassel** and **Jessica Messere**) who push the boundaries of traditional cello music. They enjoy performing the intricacies of classical music but are just as likely to be found playing eclectic arrangements of rock and pop songs as well as their own original works. Whether on stage in a traditional concert hall or in a late-night rock club, Celli shatters any preconceived notions of what it means to be a cellist.

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## About Spivey Hall

Now celebrating its 27<sup>th</sup> season, [Spivey Hall](#) is the South's most acoustically superior recital hall, presenting the best in classical, jazz and world music. Located on the picturesque campus of Clayton State University in Morrow, Georgia, just fifteen miles southeast of Atlanta, the hall has been praised by artists, patrons and journalists alike.

An intimate venue with just 392 seats, Spivey Hall promotes for the concert-goer a personal connection with the artist both during and after the performance. Spivey's extraordinary acoustics and reputation for distinguished programming attract outstanding international musicians who regularly perform at the nation's major concert venues such as Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall. For more information, visit [spiveyhall.org](http://spiveyhall.org).

Clayton State University's Spivey Hall gratefully acknowledges the support of [The Walter and Emilie Spivey Foundation](#) and the [Spivey Hall Friends](#).

THE WALTER AND EMILIE  
SPIVEY FOUNDATION



Alan Morrison holds the McGehee Family Organist Residency at Spivey Hall.



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## About Clayton State University

A unit of the University System of Georgia, **Clayton State University** is an outstanding comprehensive metropolitan university located 15 miles southeast of downtown Atlanta. For more information, visit [clayton.edu](http://clayton.edu).

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