

The Knights & Masumi Per Rostad, viola

Tuesday, June 27

7:30pm



Colin & Eric Jacobsen, *Artistic Directors*

Eric Jacobsen, *Conductor*

Masumi Per Rostad, *Viola*

*In celebration of 118 years of Free Concerts for the people of New York City
The oldest continuous free outdoor concert series in the world.
Tonight's concert is being broadcast live on classical WQXR 105.9 FM
and via live stream at www.wqxr.org. WQXR Host: Elliott Forrest*

Colin Jacobsen, (b. 1978), *Bethesda Bliss/Celebratory Fanfare, World Premiere Work*, (2023)
Jessie Montgomery, (b. 1981), *L.E.S. Characters*, (2021), featuring Masumi Per Rostad, viola

NYC Premiere

1. The Can Man
2. The Poet
3. Mosaic Man
4. Garbage Art
5. The Can Man (Reprise)

*Commissioned by the Grant Park Music Festival, Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra,
CityMusic Cleveland, Interlochen Center for the Arts, the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra
and the Naumburg Orchestral Concerts, in partnership with The Knights*

INTERMISSION

Béla Bartók, (1881-1945), arr. Alex Fortes, *Romanian Folk Dances*, (1915-17)

Jessie Montgomery, (b. 1981), *Source Code for string orchestra*, (2013)

George Enescu, (1881-1955), arr. Ljova, *Romanian Rhapsody no. 1 in A major, Op.11*, (1901)

The performance of The Knights has been made possible by a generous grant from
The Arthur Loeb Foundation

The Knights Program Notes

The Knights are honored to perform in this 100th anniversary season of the Naumburg Orchestral Concerts at Central Park's Naumburg Bandshell, which has been a New York summer home for us since 2009, fourteen seasons now. With each performance at the Bandshell, we find ourselves wishing it possible to bottle and forever preserve the energy of these concerts, held in the heart of our pulsing city, with the unique mix of planned concertgoers and curious passersby who get drawn in by the music, coming from all ages and backgrounds.

To celebrate with you, we have three premieres by three New York-based composers - Jessie Montgomery, Ljova and myself - in a program featuring music that traces back to the rich wellspring of oral traditions and folk music from different cultures. With *Source Code*, Jessie Montgomery brings us along on her creative journey to examine the work of prominent African-American artists of the Civil Rights era, then brings us even further back in time to the Black spiritual, the DNA of this stunningly beautiful, hypnotic work. *Source Code* sits next to Enescu, as arranged by Ljova, and Bartok, three composers whose own deep dives into the folk music of Romania (particularly the Transylvania region) form the root of much of their work. Today marks the world premiere of Ljova's arrangement of Enescu's beloved Romanian Rhapsody No. 1. Jessie's *L.E.S Characters*, a viola concerto written for Masumi Per Rostad, takes the colorful and artistic atmosphere of the Lower East Side of the 80's and 90's, where she and Masumi grew up, as inspiration for a series of vignettes depicting some of the street performance artists and other memorable characters from their childhoods. And at the top of the concert, as a salute to the resilience of the Bandshell, I've written a celebratory fanfare. Here's to another 100 years of great music to be shared with New Yorkers at the Naumburg Bandshell!

- Colin Jacobsen

The Knights

The Knights are a collective of adventurous musicians dedicated to transforming the orchestral experience and eliminating barriers between audiences and music. Driven by an open-minded spirit of camaraderie and exploration, they inspire listeners with vibrant programs rooted in the classical tradition and passion for artistic discovery. The Knights evolved from late-night chamber music reading parties with friends at the home of violinist Colin Jacobsen and cellist Eric Jacobsen. The Jacobsen brothers together serve as artistic directors of The Knights, with Eric Jacobsen as conductor.

Proud to be known as "one of Brooklyn's sterling cultural products... known far beyond the borough for their relaxed virtuosity and expansive repertory" (*The New Yorker*), the orchestra has toured extensively across the United States and Europe since their founding in 2007. The Knights are celebrated globally, appearing across the world's most prestigious stages, including those at Tanglewood Music Center, Ravinia Music Festival, the Kennedy Center, the Vienna Musikverein, and Hamburg's Elbphilharmonie. The orchestra has collaborated with many renowned soloists including Yo-Yo Ma, Dawn Upshaw, Béla Fleck, and Gil Shaham.

After a whirlwind eleven-stop European tour with violinist Ray Chen, The Knights look forward to making music closer to home this summer. Artistic collaborators in the 2022-23 season include 2022 GRAMMY-winning countertenor Anthony Roth Costanzo, violinist Ray Chen, and genre-shattering pianist/composer Aaron Diehl, with whom The Knights will release an album of Mary Lou Williams' Zodiac Suite in 2023. For the latest on our season and a complete list of artistic partners and collaborative projects, please visit our website: www.theknightsnyc.com.

The Knights are proud to share a three-concert series presented by Carnegie Hall for the upcoming 2023-24 season. Programs include new works commissioned as part of the *Rhapsody* project, a multi-year initiative inspired by the 2024 centennial of George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*. The Knights' Carnegie Hall concerts in 2023-24 will feature Chris Thile, Wu Man, Magos Herrera, and Jeffrey Kahane, among other esteemed collaborators.



Eric Jacobsen *Artistic Director and Conductor*
jacobseneric.com

Conductor and cellist Eric Jacobsen has built a reputation for engaging audiences with innovative and collaborative projects. As conductor of The Knights, he has led the ensemble at New York venues ranging from Carnegie Hall to Central Park, and at such renowned international halls as the Vienna Musikverein, Cologne Philharmonie, and Hamburg Elbphilharmonie. Jacobsen, who also serves as the Music Director for the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra, is the newly-named Music Director of the Virginia Symphony, and is much in demand as a guest conductor, recently leading the Camerata Bern, Detroit Symphony, Alabama Symphony, ProMusica Chamber Orchestra, Deutsche Philharmonie Merck, and the Silkroad Ensemble, founded by Yo-Yo Ma.



Colin Jacobsen *Artistic Director*
colinjacobsen.com

Violinist and composer Colin Jacobsen is “one of the most interesting figures on the classical music scene” (The Washington Post). An eclectic composer who draws on a range of influences, he was named one of the top 100 Composers Under 40 by NPR listeners. He is also active as an Avery Fisher Career Grant winning soloist and has toured with the Silkroad Ensemble since its inception in 2000. For his work as a founding member of two game changing, audience-expanding ensembles – The Knights and the string quartet Brooklyn Rider – Jacobsen was selected from among the nation’s top visual, performing, media, and literary artists to receive a prestigious and substantial United States Artists Fellowship.



Masumi Per Rostad, *viola*; masumirostad.com

Grammy Award-winning Japanese-Norwegian violist Masumi Rostad is in demand as a soloist, chamber musician, and teacher. In 2017 he was appointed to the faculty of the Eastman School of Music.

2023-4 highlights include concerto appearances with the Virginia Symphony, The Knights, Grant Park Symphony Orchestra and numerous festivals including La Jolla Summerfest, Bridgehampton Festival, Music In The Vineyards (Napa), SpoletoUSA, and Beare’s Premiere Music Festival (Hong Kong).

As a former member of the Pacifica Quartet 2001-2017 Masumi recorded prolifically and concertized extensively. He studied with legendary violist and pedagogue Karen Tuttle at The Juilliard School and was her teaching assistant. While a student, he performed the world premiere of Michael White’s Viola Concerto in Lincoln Center’s Avery Fisher Hall and also gave the New York premiere of Paul Schoenfield’s Viola Concerto.

Masumi actively maintains a YouTube channel and produces videos about music and musicians. His Amati viola was crafted in Cremona, Italy in 1619.

The Knights

Eric Jacobsen

Artistic Director & Conductor

Colin Jacobsen, *Artistic Director*

Masumi Per Rostad, *viola*

Violin

Rebecca Anderson*

Monica Davis

Abi Fayette*

Alex Fortes

Laura Frautschi*

Kristi Helberg*

Nanae Iwata*

Ariana Kim

Yaira Matyakubova

Amie Weiss

Viola

Kyle Armbrust

Colin Brookes

William Frampton

Mario Gotoh

**concertmaster*

Cello

Gabriel Cabezas

Alex Greenbaum

Karen Ouzounian

Bass

Lizzie Burns

Shawn Conley

Flute

Alex Sopp

Anna Urrey

Oboe

Erin Gustafson

Gustav Highstein

Clarinet

Sam Boutris

Paul Cho

Bassoon

Martin Garcia

Erik Höltje

Horn

David Byrd-Marrow

Priscilla Rinehart

Trumpet

C.J. Camerieri

Jonathan Heim

Trombone

Nate Mayland

Tuba

Deandre Desir

Saxophone

Todd Groves

Percussion

Samuel Budish

Sean Ritenaur

David Stevens

Ian Sullivan

Harp

Megan Conley



The Knights, 2022. Michael Russ