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Classical Music Inside Out Series kicks off with Pianist Awadagin Pratt

Mesa Arts Center, Awadagin Pratt, Thursday, November 15

For immediate release

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Mesa, AZ – Mesa Arts Center’s 2018-19 Classical Music Inside Out series begins the week of Nov. 12 with community performances and the first ticketed concert of the season. Artists performing in the series include Awadagin Pratt, piano (Nov. 15), Emerson String Quartet (Nov. 28), Marc-André Hamelin, piano (Jan. 17), Break of Reality (March 14), Jason Vieaux, guitar, and Yolanda Kondonassis, harp (April 11). Together with the artistic director of the series, GRAMMY-award winning cellist Zuill Bailey, the concert artists will endeavor to offer audiences insights that ignite the passion that music inspires, turning classical music “inside out.” Tickets are on sale now and are available at mesaartscenter.com or by calling 480-644-6500.

"It is my privilege to continue to build on the cultural landscape of the Valley through arts, education and community engagement," said Zuill Bailey, Artistic Director of the series. "Classical Music Inside Out strives to make music accessible to all by creating unforgettable presentations from the classroom to the concert hall. Join me in this exciting fifth season; let the performances of these incredible musicians fill your soul."

Mesa Arts Center’s Classical Music Inside Out series aims to broaden access to and appreciation for classical music with all ages through a diverse range of community engagements in schools, community groups, hospitals and more to Mesa and throughout the Valley. Ticketed concerts listed below. Free engagements can be found at www.mesaartscenter.com/bachinthecommunity.

Awadagin Pratt

November 15, 2018, 7:30 p.m.

Piper Theater | \$20

Among his generation, pianist Awadagin Pratt is acclaimed for his musical insight and intensely involving performances in recital and with symphony orchestras. His recent recordings are the *Brahms Sonatas* for Cello and Piano with Zuill Bailey and the music of Judith Lang Zaimont with the Harlem Quartet. He is also the Artistic Director of the World Piano Competition in Cincinnati as well as the Artistic Director of the Art of the Piano Festival.

Emerson String Quartet

November 28, 2018, 7:30 p.m.

Piper Theater | \$38 - \$46

The Emerson String Quartet has amassed an unparalleled list of achievements over four decades: more than thirty acclaimed recordings, nine Grammys®, three Gramophone Awards, the Avery Fisher Prize, Musical America's "Ensemble of the Year" and collaborations with many of the greatest artists of our time. The ground-breaking ensemble has earned its place in the classical chamber music world.

Marc-André Hamelin, Piano

January 17, 2019, 7:30 p.m.

Piper Theater | \$38 - \$46

Pianist Marc-André Hamelin is known worldwide for his unrivaled blend of consummate musicianship and brilliant technique in the great works of the established repertoire, as well as for his intrepid exploration of the rarities of the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries – in concert and on disc.

Break of Reality

March 14, 2019, 7:30 p.m.

Piper Theater | \$30

Formed in 2003, Break of Reality has gone on to reach millions of listeners via platforms like Spotify and Pandora Radio, and their rendition of the *Game of Thrones* theme has over 16 million views on YouTube. The band has released four full length albums and their music has been featured on a variety of radio, television and internet outlets, including NPR, PBS, Dateline NBC, Yahoo Music and *Huffington Post*.

**Jason Vieaux, Guitar,
and Yolanda Kondonassis, Harp**

April 11, 2019, 7:30 p.m.

Piper Theater | \$38 - \$46

Yolanda Kondonassis is celebrated as one of the world's premier solo harpists and is widely regarded as today's most recorded classical harpist. NPR describes Vieaux as, "perhaps the most precise and soulful classical guitarist of his generation." His album, *Play*, won the 2015 Grammy® Award for Best Classical Instrumental Solo and earned a place on NPR's "50 Favorite Songs of 2014 (So Far)" for Vieaux's recording of "Zapateado."

Sponsors of the Classical Music Inside Out series include the Gloria Miner Charitable Foundation, and Bill Passey and Maria Silva.

Mesa Arts Center is located at One East Main Street in downtown Mesa.

Editor's Note: Images are available for download via Mesa Arts Center's online Press Room at <http://www.mesaartscenter.com/index.php/misc/about/press-room/login>. Password is macmedia.

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ABOUT MESA ARTS CENTER

The Mesa Arts Center mission is to inspire people through engaging arts experiences that are diverse, accessible, and relevant. Owned and operated by the City of Mesa, Arizona's largest arts center is recognized as an international award-winning venue. The unique and architecturally stunning facility is home to four theaters, five art galleries, and 14 art studios and an artist cooperative gallery. For more information, visit [mesaartscenter.com](https://www.mesaartscenter.com).