

Cedille Records  
1205 W. Balmoral Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60640  
(773) 989-2515  
www.cedillerecords.org

Press contact: Nat Silverman  
1830 Sherman Ave., Suite 401  
Evanston, IL 60201-3774  
Phone (847) 328-4292  
Fax (847) 328-4317  
Email: natsilv@aol.com

# News

---

Digital release date: May 6, 2014

CD release date: May 27, 2014

## **Pacifica Quartet Partners with Met Opera's Anthony McGill for Mozart and Brahms Clarinet Quintets on Cedille Records**

The Grammy award-winning Pacifica Quartet and Anthony McGill, principal clarinet of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, who was just appointed to the same post with the New York Philharmonic starting next season, join forces on a new CD pairing two pinnacles of the clarinet quintet repertoire.

On *Mozart & Brahms Clarinet Quintets*, the artists perform Mozart's Quintet in A Major for Clarinet and Strings, K. 581, and Brahms's Quintet in B Minor for Clarinet and Strings, Op. 115 (Cedille Records CDR 90000 147).

The album will be released on CD May 27. It was released as a digital download on May 6.

*Mozart & Brahms Clarinet Quintets* is the Pacifica Quartet's ninth Cedille Records album and its first on any label with a guest artist in a principal role. The album is McGill's Cedille Records debut and his first commercially released recording as featured soloist.

McGill and the Pacific Quartet first performed together at the July 2012 Music@Menlo chamber music festival in California, where they played the Mozart Quintet. Cedille Records founder and President James Ginsburg heard them play the Mozart that fall at Chicago's Music in the Loft series and suggested they record it and the Brahms Quintet for Cedille.

### **'Amazing' Collaboration**

In an online video about the new recording, Pacifica Quartet first violinist Simin Ganatra says, "The most exciting aspect of this project is the collaborative aspect." Observing that the ensemble has been performing for two decades, she said, "We get into a Pacifica Quartet 'zone' when we're rehearsing. Bringing another person into that mix, especially somebody like Anthony, such a great musician, it really changes the whole dynamic of the group."

In the video, McGill says of the Pacifica Quartet, “They’re such good people. They’re such serious musicians. . . . It’s kind of amazing to come into their world for a moment and play these great pieces” (<http://youtu.be/SqxiGFOAAAnE>).

*Chicago Sun-Times* critic Andrew Patner praised the artists’ “rich, unadorned, seamless performances” of the two quintets at an April 2014 concert at the University of Chicago, where the quartet is the first Don Michael Randel Ensemble-in-Residence.

“McGill and Pacifica offered both pieces with deep understanding and period appropriateness. . . . McGill can blend in with strings in a way that there is no sense of ‘guest starring,’” Patner wrote.

### **Inspired by Clarinetists**

The Mozart and Brahms clarinet quintets are mature masterworks inspired by phenomenal clarinetists of the day.

“Both composers were geniuses at blending the sound of clarinet and strings,” McGill said in an interview with *ChicagoOnTheAisle.com*. “You get the feeling they naturally belong together.”

Mozart composed his 1789 clarinet quintet for Anton Paul Stadler, his friend and kindred spirit. The work “can be heard as a musical manifestation of friendship,” writes Andrea Lamoreaux, of WFMT radio, in the liner notes. “This is one of Mozart’s best-known chamber compositions and a special favorite for the sheer beauty of its themes and skillful interplay among the five instruments.”

Brahms had said he intended to retire from composing, until he heard the captivating artistry of German clarinetist Richard Mühlfeld. Brahms launched into a series of chamber works for the clarinetist, including the Clarinet Quintet of 1891. Though the piece is “flavored with melancholy,” Lamoreaux writes, “it’s certainly not a sad piece: vigorous and intense, it has a variety of moods and reveals a musical genius still reveling in showcasing his skills.”

### **The Artists**

The Pacifica Quartet was named quartet-in-residence at Indiana University’s Jacobs School of Music in March 2012 and also served as quartet-in-residence at the Metropolitan Museum of Art (2009–1012), a position previously held only by the Guarneri String Quartet.

Formed in 1994, Pacifica 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 CMS Two, and in 2006 was awarded a prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant, becoming only the second chamber ensemble so honored in the grant's long history. Also in 2006, the quartet was featured on the cover of *Gramophone* and heralded as one of "five new quartets you should know about," the only American quartet to make the list. And in 2009, the quartet was named "Ensemble of the Year" by *Musical America*. The Pacifica Quartet received the 2009 Grammy Award for Best Chamber Music Performance for its Naxos recording of Elliott Carter's String Quartets Nos. 1 and 5. Quartet members are Simin Ganatra and Sibbi Bernhardsson, violins; Masumi Per Rostad, viola; and Brandon Vamos, cello. The ensemble's website is <http://www.pacificaquartet.com>.

Scheduled to join the New York Philharmonic as principal clarinet for the 2014–15 season, Anthony McGill has been principal clarinet of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra since 2004. McGill is a native of Chicago's South Side. He is an alumnus of the Merit School of Music in Chicago and the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. As a chamber musician, he is a member of the Schumann Trio with Michael Tree and Anna Polonsky and has collaborated with Emanuel Ax, Yefim Bronfman, Gil Shaham, Midori, Mitsuko Uchida, and Lang Lang. In addition to his performances with the Pacifica Quartet, he has appeared with quartets including the Guarneri, Tokyo, Brentano, Shanghai, Miro, and Daedalus.

On January 20, 2009, McGill performed with Itzhak Perlman, Yo-Yo Ma, and Gabriela Montero at the inauguration of President Barack Obama.

McGill serves on the faculty of the Juilliard School, the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University, Bard College Conservatory of Music, and Manhattan School of Music. His website is [www.anthonymcgill.com](http://www.anthonymcgill.com).

### **Recording Information**

*Mozart & Brahms Clarinet Quintets* was recorded in August and September of 2013. The Brahms Quintet was recorded August 30 and 31 in Auer Hall, Jacobs School of Music, Indiana University, Bloomington. The Mozart Quintet was recorded September 9 and 10 at The Performing Arts Center, Purchase College, State University of New York. The album was produced and engineered by multiple Grammy award-winner Judith Sherman and edited by Cedille recording engineer Bill Maylone.

### **Cedille Records**

Approaching its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this fall, Grammy award-winning Cedille Records

(pronounced say-DEE) has been dedicated to showcasing the most noteworthy classical artists in and from the Chicago area since its debut in November 1989.

The audiophile-oriented label releases every new album in multiple formats: a physical CD; a 96 kHz, 24-bit, studio-quality FLAC download; and a 320 Kbps MP3 download.

Cedille Records is distributed in the Western Hemisphere by Naxos of America and its distribution partners, by Select Music in the U.K., and by other independent distributors in major international classical music markets.

An independent nonprofit enterprise, Cedille Records is the label of Cedille Chicago, NFP (formerly The Chicago Classical Recording Foundation). For a free catalog and the locations of local retail outlets, contact Cedille Records, 1205 W. Balmoral Ave., Chicago, IL 60640; call (773) 989-2515; e-mail: [info@cedillerecords.org](mailto:info@cedillerecords.org). Website: [cedillerecords.org](http://cedillerecords.org).

###

*Mozart & Brahms Clarinet Quintets*  
(Cedille Records CDR 90000 147)

**Mozart: Quintet in A Major for Clarinet and Strings, K. 581 (30:54)**  
**Brahms: Quintet in B Minor for Clarinet and Strings, Op. 115 (37:36)**

**Anthony McGill, clarinet**  
**Pacifica Quartet**