

Saturday, November 4, 2018 at 1:00pm
Richardson Auditorium in Alexander Hall

Meet The Music:
FOUR
HARMONIOUS
FRIENDS

with musicians from
The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center

BRUCE ADOLPHE (b. 1955)

Four Harmonious Friends for Narrator and Ensemble (2017)

BRUCE ADOLPHE, *Piano/Narrator*

KAORU WATANABE, *Shinobue Flute*

MIKE BLOCK, *Cello*

STEVE WILSON, *Bass Trombone*

SHANE SHANAHAN, *Percussion*



**BRUCE
ADOLPHE**

When he was a child **Bruce Adolphe** watched both Victor Borge and Leonard Bernstein on TV, and after seeing them, he began “playing piano” on the breakfast table and cracking jokes with a Danish accent. Having no choice, his parents bought him a toy piano, at which Bruce pretended to be Schroeder of the *Peanuts* cartoons. Soon after the toy piano was pecked apart by the family parakeet, Bruce’s parents purchased a real piano and a larger bird. By age ten, Bruce was composing music, and no one has been able to stop him since. As a “tween,” Bruce studied piano, clarinet, guitar, bass, and – as a teen – the bassoon. All this time, he wrote music and improvised accompaniments to everything that happened around him, as if life were a movie in need of a score. His favorite summers were spent at the Kinhaven Music School in Vermont, and he loved his Saturdays at The Juilliard School’s Pre-College Division. Today, Bruce spends his time composing chamber music, playing the piano, and performing in concerts



MEET THE ARTISTS

for people like you. He lives in New York City on the Upper West Side with his wife, pianist Marija, his daughter Katja, and his opera-and-jazz-singing parrot PollyRhythm, the same bird he has had since he was 10 years old. Bruce performs weekly on public radio’s *Performance Today*, playing his Piano Puzzlers (familiar tunes in the styles of the great masters) and you can catch that show on WQXR or on iTunes, or as a podcast from American Public Media. Many great musicians have performed Bruce’s music, including cellist Yo-Yo Ma, violinist Itzhak Perlman, the Brentano Quartet, and over 60 symphony orchestras around the world, and of course lots of amazing players at The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, where Bruce has been making music since 1992. If you want to check out Bruce’s CDs and educational pieces for all ages, please visit the website of The Learning Maestros. You might enjoy his book *The Mind’s Ear: Exercises for Improving the Musical Imagination*, published this fall by Oxford University Press.



**MIKE
BLOCK**

cello

Mike Block started playing cello at the age of nine, and grew up in a family of classical musicians. His dad is an orchestra conductor, his mom plays French horn, his brother plays violin, and his sister plays violin. When Mike went to college to study music, he started to fall in love with other styles of music, like rock and pop music, as well as folk music from other cultures. Now that Mike is a professional musician, he loves playing with musicians from other cultures, and writing new music, which led him to play in the Silk Road Ensemble, led by his childhood hero, cellist Yo-Yo Ma. Even though most cello players play the instrument while sitting, Mike stands up when he plays cello so that he can move and dance and have more fun, so he invented a new cello strap that helps him play the cello standing.



**SHANE
SHANAHAN**

percussion

When **Shane Shanahan** was a young boy he annoyed his family to no end because he was always banging on the pots and pans in his kitchen! All that banging made it seem pretty clear that he had rhythm in his blood. Unfortunately, there were too many drummers in the school band, so Shane played trumpet for seven years. He did the best he could but he never fell in love with the trumpet. His true love was still the drums. When his parents realized this, they very generously got him a drum set for his birthday! For a while, Shane's family suffered through even LOUDER banging, but before too long, that banging turned into beautiful music. Now Shane travels all over the globe playing his drums for people of all ages in the biggest concert halls in the world!





**KAORU
WATANABE**
shinobue flute

Kaoru Watanabe (COW-ROO) was a typical kid from St. Louis, Missouri who loved to skateboard and play music and eventually went to Manhattan School of Music to study jazz flute and saxophone. Kaoru decided he wanted to learn more about Japan, the country where his parents are originally from, so after graduation, he packed his bags and moved to Japan for almost ten years! He ended up playing Japanese taiko drums and bamboo flutes for a famous Japanese Taiko group called Kodo, who are known for their massive 900-pound drum and energetic shows. The two year-long training programming he had to go through in order to join Kodo included learning Japanese folk dancing, singing and drumming, as well as farming, woodworking, tea ceremony and running six miles a day every day for two years! After many years with Kodo, he decided to return to New York City to focus more on his own music, which mixes Japanese music, improvisation and other music from around the world. Besides performing and teaching, he does other fun things like making music for movies like *Shrek Forever After* and the upcoming Wes Anderson animation *Isle of Dogs*.



**STEVE
WILSON**
bass trombone

Steve Wilson comes from the border city of El Paso, Texas. He started playing the euphonium in the sixth grade but switched to the bass trombone in the ninth grade so he could play in his school's jazz band and orchestra. Steve has been playing in jazz bands, orchestras, concert bands, and chamber groups ever since. Steve has degrees in music from the University of Texas at El Paso and the University of Illinois and is in now charge of the Department of Music at his old school, the University of Texas at El Paso, where he has worked for 20 years. Steve has recorded two CDs and performed in many countries including China, Brazil, Spain, Mexico, and Canada with his trombone quartet, the Continental Trombone Quartet. Steve is also active as a performer throughout the southwest playing in numerous ensembles including the out-of-this-world Roswell Symphony Orchestra. In addition to playing the bass trombone, Steve enjoys biking, running, and hiking in the beautiful El Paso desert, being a husband, and being a father to three awesome kids: Kiki, Ethan, and Conor.

