Shuffle play
The Kronos Quartet mounts an expansive overview of its eclectic tastes
By Molly Sheridan

After more than three remarkably successful decades with the Kronos Quartet, including untold hours of touring, recording, commissioning and premiering—with a few pauses to pick up Grammy awards—you might expect founding violinist David Harrington would be, well, justifiably run down and perhaps even a little jaded about music making. But either the man is a fantastic actor or, more likely, he simply couldn’t imagine wasting any time complaining.

New York audiences will get an unusually broad perspective of Harrington’s world when Carnegie Hall presents Kronos: Live Mix, a five-concert festival that demonstrates the breadth of the quartet’s interests. “It’s the most complete, panoramic series that we’ve ever done in a two-week period,” Harrington explains, with just a touch of nervous laughter. “It’s a little insane. But I think Kronos is having more fun than we’ve ever had, and it feels like the composers are surprising themselves as well as us.”

The slatted lineup includes new work by Henryk Gorecki, Michael Gordon and Alexandra du Bois on Friday 24, as well as Glenn Branca, J.G. Thirlwell, Wu Man and Terry Riley on April 7. The music of Franck Oteri, John Zorn and Rahmat Asadollahi will be showcased on Sunday 26, as will Kronos’s explorations of Bollywood composer RD Burman and Icelandic post-rock band Sigur Rós (April 8).

The quartet’s turn-on-a-dime aesthetic might come off as little more than an awkward play for lucrative, if artistically questionable, crossover attention. But for Harrington, the music is all connected, and it’s his conviction that makes it work.

Kronos also offers a direct, hard-hitting political statement in its “Music in a Time of War” program (Saturday 25), which mixes pieces by Walter Kittend and Tanya Tagaq with a discussion led by Howard Siro and David Barsamian. Harrington points to both the birth of his granddaughter and the current political landscape as profound motivators. “I think even our concert I play as a counterbalance to people like George Bush, Dick Cheney and Condoleezza Rice,” he says. “Finding the right thing that feels like it really answers the questions that are most pressing in a musical way—that’s the kind of music I’m looking for. And it feels like it’s happening.”

The Kronos Quartet plays Carnegie Hall Friday 24—Sunday 26 and April 7–8.

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**HOUSE PARTY**

The Kronos Quartet takes up residence at Carnegie Hall this week.

[compound Quận's melodies stick with you in the way that Schubert, Gershwin or the Beatles stay with you—in a way that you can’t live without once you hear them. And that’s exactly the way the Gorecki Third Quartet is: There are moments in there that will be with you forever.

**Trinity Church Wall Street**

Carnegie Hall (212-472-7421), Symphony Hall (212-708-8100).

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**Discount tickets**

Carnegie Hall for each of the week’s main hall events, Carnegie Hall releases a limited number of partial-views seats for $10 apiece on noon of the day the show, family series events and presentations by outside arts agencies are not included, and it’s first-come, first-served, with a two-ticket limit per customer.

Metropolitan Opera Discounted student tickets for select performances are available at the box office, which is open Mon-Sat 10am-8pm, Sun noon-6pm. Prices for these tickets are $25 for Mon-Thurs performances and $35 for Fri performances. A current student ID card is required, and students are limited to two tickets each. To check availability, call the Met Ticket Service at 212-362-6000.

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**MILLER THEATRE**

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

**MUSIC**

Composer portraits
FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 3:00PM

Magnus Lindberg
International Contemporary Ensemble
Timothy Weiss, conductor
TICKETS: $20 + Students $10; with ID: $12
This Composer Portrait is made possible through the generous support of The Foundation for the Preservation of Finnish Music (SKS)
Clarinet Quintet (1935)
Related Docs: 1987
Linerama (1981)
Quintet (1982)

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**bach in context**

FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 3:00PM

Bach and the Baroque Trio Sonata
The Rare Fruits Council (U.S. Debut)
TICKETS: $35 + Students $15; with ID: $21
Major support for Miller Theatre’s Bach in Context Series has been provided by the Thaw Foundation.

J. S. Bach
Trio Sonata in D minor, BWV 527
Trio Sonata in E minor, BWV 990
Trio Sonata in F major, BWV 991
Artistic Director: Peter Phillips

Pietro Locatelli
Trio Sonata in A major, Op. 8, No. 7

Georg Philipp Telemann
Sonata in A major, Op. 13, No. 3

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