

# *The Wister Quartet*

The Wister Quartet was named to honor Frances Anne Wister, the founder of The Philadelphia Orchestra's Volunteer Committees. Since its formation in 1987, it has earned high praise from critics and audiences alike for its superb musicianship and memorable performances. It was the inaugurating ensemble of the German Society of Pennsylvania's concert series, "Wister and More!" in 1991 and has appeared regularly on that series ever since. It is featured in performances at the Chamber Music Society of Bethlehem and Concerts by Candlelight at Laurel Hill Mansion.

The Quartet has recorded for Direct-to-Tape Records; its first CD was nominated for a Grammy. It is the core ensemble of 1807 & Friends and is celebrating its 37th anniversary this season.

**Nancy Bean** has been a member of The Philadelphia Orchestra since 1983 and was its Assistant Concertmaster for 23 years before retiring in 2009 to devote herself to chamber music. She is Artistic Director of 1807 & Friends chamber ensemble and of the Amerita Chamber Players. She is violinist with the Florian Trio, Trio Montage, the Casimir Trio, Duo Parisienne, and Duo Paganini.

**Meichen Liao-Barnes** is Associate Concertmaster of the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia. She is a graduate of The Curtis Institute of Music and The Juilliard School, where her teachers included Yumi Ninomiya, Arnold Steinhardt, Ivan Galamian, and Dorothy Delay. She is a top prizewinner with the Great Neck Symphony, Hartford Symphony, Juilliard Concerto Competition, and is an Adjunct Professor at Temple University.

**Meng Wang, guest viola**, joined The Philadelphia Orchestra in 2017. In addition to his orchestral work, Mr. Wang enjoys an extensive career as a chamber musician. He is deeply committed to the genre and has collaborated with artists such as Yo-Yo Ma, Joshua Bell, Cho-Liang Lin, Jaime Laredo, Joseph Silverstein, Lang Lang, and pop star Bono. A graduate of The Curtis Institute of Music, Mr. Wang studied with violists Hsin-yun Huang, Michael Tree, Karen Tuttle, and Roberto Diaz.

**Lloyd Smith** has been a member of The Philadelphia Orchestra since 1967. Named Assistant Principal cellist in 1988, he retired in 2003 to devote himself to chamber music and composing. He is the cellist of 1807 & Friends, the Florian Trio, the Casimir Trio, Trio Montage, and the Amerita Chamber Players. His major compositions include three string quartets, a string quintet and sextet, a cello sonata, a piano quartet, and a cello quartet and sextet.