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The Juilliard School  
presents

# Spring ChamberFest: Music by Rhiannon Giddens

Monday, March 13, 2023, 7:30pm  
Paul Hall

Coaches: Rhiannon Giddens and Curtis Stewart

“At the Purchaser’s Option” from *Black Lucy and the Bard* (2018)  
Original song by Rhiannon Giddens and Joey Ryan  
Arranged for Nashville Ballet by Rhiannon Giddens and Francesco Turrisi  
Spoken text by Caroline Randall Williams

Chantae Miller, Spoken Word  
Nicole Odremán, Jazz Voice  
Bruce Acosta, Jazz Guitar

“Lullaby” for string quartet and voice (2015–16)  
Original song by Rhiannon Giddens  
Arranged by Gabriel Witcher

Evelyn Saavedra, Soprano  
Marian String Quartet  
Hava Polinsky, Violin  
Emma Richman, Violin  
Cameron Anai Williams, Viola  
Wangshu Xiang, Cello

*Program continues*

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Large  
Print

Please make certain that all electronic devices are turned off during the performance. The taking of photographs and the use of recording equipment are not permitted in this auditorium.

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Selections from *Black Lucy and the Bard* (2018)

Lucy's Theme & Shakespeare's Theme—Caroline Meets the Professor

The Duet of Shakespeare and His Fair Youth

Mirrors

Arranged by **William Drancsak III, Lydia Becker, Adrienne Hyde, Ariel Walton, and**

**Hanbyeol Lee**

**William J. Drancsak III**, Baroque Violin and Baroque Viola

**Lydia Becker**, Baroque Violin and Baroque Viola

**Adrienne Hyde**, Bass Viola Da Gamba and Lirone

**Ariel Walton**, Baroque Double Bass

**Hanbyeol Lee**, Harpsichord and Lautenwerk

Selections from *Omar* (2019–20)

Overture

Mother's Aria

Julie's Aria

Psalm 23

Libretto by **Rhiannon Giddens**

Composed by **Rhiannon Giddens** and **Michael Abels**

**Jazmine Saunders**, Soprano

**Natalie Lewis**, Mezzo-Soprano

**Andrew Turner**, Tenor

**Sam Parrini**, Violin

**Megan Yao**, Violin

**Bethlehem Hadgu**, Viola

**Wujin Kim**, Cello

**Andrew Vinther**, Double Bass

**Zoey Xinyue Zhou**, Piano

*Performance time: approximately 1 hour and 20 minutes, without an intermission*

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# About Rhiannon Giddens

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Photo by Ebru Yildiz

Musician and Juilliard Creative Associate Rhiannon Giddens uses her art to excavate the past and reveal bold truths about our present. A MacArthur genius grant recipient and two time Grammy-winning artist, Giddens co-founded the Black string band Carolina Chocolate Drops, formed the band Our Native Daughters with three other Black female banjo players to create music from stories of historic Black womanhood and survival, and has been nominated for six additional Grammys for her work as a soloist and collaborator. Giddens' latest album, *They're Calling Me Home*, her second collaboration with multi-instrumentalist Francesco Turrisi, won the 2020 Grammy for best folk album. In 2020, Giddens was named artistic director of Silkroad, a social impact organization and global music ensemble founded by Yo-Yo Ma. Last year saw the world premiere of her first opera, *Omar*, at the Spoleto Festival USA in Charleston and the LA Opera in Los Angeles. Co-composed with Michael Abels, *Omar* is based on the autobiography of Omar Ibn Said, an Islamic scholar sold into slavery. Giddens co-composed the music for the ballet *Black Lucy and the Bard* (fka *Lucy Negro Redux*) with Turrisi, which premiered in 2019 with the Nashville Ballet and shown on PBS' *Great Performances* last fall. She released her first children's book last October, *Build a House*, based off the lyrics of her song. Giddens is also curating a four-concert Perspectives series as part of Carnegie Hall's 2022–23 season.

