



with assistance from
THE INGRAM FAMILY FOUNDATION
presents

KELLY HALL-TOMPKINS, VIOLIN

The Fiddler: Expanding Tradition

This evening marks Kelly Hall Tompkins' first appearance
on our Series, as well as our 62nd Discovery Concert.

**The Muriel McBrien Kauffman Family Foundation
is the sponsor of our 59th Season.**

7:00 P.M., FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2023
FOLLY THEATER
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

Kelly Hall-Tompkins – *The Fiddler: Expanding Tradition*

PROGRAM

KELLY HALL-TOMPKINS, VIOLIN

The Fiddler: Expanding Tradition

Joshua Camp, accordion

Stephen Benson, guitar

Michael Blanco, bass

PROGRAM TO BE ANNOUNCED FROM THE STAGE.

Tonight's concert will be performed without an intermission.

Join us after tonight's performance for a Q&A with Ms. Hall-Tompkins from the stage. You are invited to move to any open seat at that time.

Following the Q&A, Ms. Hall-Tompkins will be signing autographs and selling cds in the lobby.

Kelly Hall-Tompkins is an artist represented by
Cadenza Artists International LLC, 299 S Main Street, Suite 1300 #99733, Salt Lake City, UT 84111
www.CadenzaArtists.com

PROGRAM NOTES

For the entire 13 month run on Broadway in 2015-2016, Kelly Hall-Tompkins was the “Fiddler”/Actual Violin Soloist of the hit Tony and Grammy-nominated Bartlett Sher Production of *Fiddler on the Roof*. Inspired by her experience with the amazing Broadway company of actors, dancers, musicians and creative direction, the camaraderie they shared for over 400 shows and, building on the collaboration between John Williams and violinist Isaac Stern for the 1971 film, Ms. Hall-Tompkins commissioned and developed this project with the creative team from their production, arranger Oran Eldor and Music Director/orchestrator Ted Sperling. In so doing, Kelly Hall-Tompkins became the first official Fiddler to write and commission new works for the Fiddler violin repertoire, expanding this beloved tradition into the first ever Fiddler solo album, entitled *The Fiddler Expanding Tradition*. *Fiddler on the Roof* is one of the most beloved musicals of all time and the 12 concert pieces selected for the album and this live performance feature the most iconic and familiar songs set not just as instrumental renditions, but encapsulating both the soul of the Bartlett Sher production as well as reimagining in creative new directions. From *Do You Love Me* as a jazz ballad to a virtuosic *If I Were a Rich Man* for unaccompanied solo violin, and a *Matchmaker* which borrows from the charmed sensibilities of both Fritz Kreisler’s character pieces and Gene Kelly’s dancing feet. The album also features the one song of original music composed specifically for the Bartlett Sher Production, *Mordcha’s Dance*, now cast as a violin piece. The album and music videos feature a cameo appearance by

the Tony-winning star of the hit musical, Danny Burstein, and in keeping with the unique flavor of the musical tradition, the 12 concert pieces from the album and in tonight’s program are accompanied by accordionist Joshua Camp, guitarist Stephen Benson and bassist Michael Blanco, also from the Broadway company. Kelly Hall-Tompkins’ Broadway performances, excerpts from *The Fiddler Expanding Tradition* and a live recital and spoken interviews filmed in Kiev, Ukraine are featured in the Max Lewkowicz documentary, *Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles*. The film has been screened at over 400 international film festivals, in movie theaters worldwide, on in-flight entertainment, and is streaming now on Amazon Prime. Additionally, live performances of works from the album have been featured at a wide array of venues, from the U.S. Supreme Court to the guest artist series of the International Violin Competition of Indianapolis, from Lincoln Center to BroadwayCon, from WQXR’s Greene Space to Music Kitchen-Food for the Soul Homeless Shelter partners, from New York City’s Feinstein’s 54 Below to Toronto Summer Music, from New York area Synagogues to BBC Live Radio. Ms. Hall-Tompkins had the honor of knowing the late Mr. Sheldon Harnick, *Fiddler on the Roof* lyricist and the last surviving member of the original creative team. He was a champion of the album and his personal note is included in the liner notes of the album. To life! We hope you enjoy tonight’s program find a reason to fall in love with Fiddler all over again.

—Kelly Hall-Tompkins



KELLY HALL-TOMPKINS, VIOLIN

■ Winner of a Naumburg International Violin Competition Honorarium Prize, Concert Artists Guild Career Grant, Sphinx Medal of Excellence, and featured in the Smithsonian Museum for African American History, Ms. Hall-Tompkins is a trailblazing and innovative violin soloist entrepreneur who has been acclaimed by *The New York Times* as “the versatile violinist who makes the music come alive,” for her “tonal mastery” (*BBC Music Magazine*) and as *The New York Times*’ “New Yorker of the Year.” Kelly Hall-Tompkins is currently collaborating with 5-time Emmy-winning composer Jeff Beal in a commission for a new violin concerto written for her; the collaboration also features celebrated conductor Leonard Slatkin for the world premiere with the St. Louis Symphony and also the European premiere and recording with the Orquesta of Gran Canaria, Spain in early 2024. The first American artist to perform in China after the pandemic, Ms. Hall-Tompkins received a Chinese “Rare Talent Visa” to perform as soloist with the Shanghai Symphony. Past appearances include as co-soloist in Carnegie Hall with Glenn Dicterow and conductor Leonard Slatkin, in London with Chineke! at Queen Elizabeth Hall with conductor Michael Morgan, Brevard Festival with Keith Lockhart, recitalist at Lincoln Center, soloist as the Inaugural Artist in Residence with the Cincinnati Symphony, and with the Symphonies of Baltimore, Dallas, Jacksonville, Oakland, Greensboro, recitals in Paris, New York, Toronto, Washington, Chicago, and festivals of Tanglewood, Ravinia, Santa Fe, Gateways, and in France, Germany and Italy. At home with genres beyond classical music, Ms. Hall-Tompkins is the first soloist to perform the Wynton Marsalis Violin Concerto after the original dedicatée, with over 15 scheduled performances to date, including opening nights with the Las Vegas Philharmonic, California, and Elgin Symphonies, and she also toured for 5 years with American Roots-style Violinist/Composer Mark O’Connor. She was “Fiddler”/Violin Soloist of the Grammy/Tony-nominated Broadway

production of *Fiddler on the Roof*. Inspired by her experience, she commissioned and developed the first ever Fiddler solo disc of all new arrangements, *The Fiddler Expanding Tradition*, which is featured alongside her recital in Kiev, Ukraine in the recent documentary "Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles" on the 55-year history of the musical. Ms. Hall-Tompkins' *Imagination Project* was called "groundbreaking" by *Strings Magazine* and has received over 1 million views on YouTube to date. Actively performing virtually throughout the pandemic, numerous projects include premiering 4 pieces written for her, creating and being invited to unique collaborations, including a co-composition with Tony-nominated actor Daniel Watts, *Echo: Shostakovich in Catharsis* with aerial dancer Alexandra Peter and Frisson Films, Gil Shaham's *Gilharmonic*, and with WQXR as part of the inaugural Artist Propulsion Lab. As founder of *Music Kitchen-Food for the Soul*, Kelly Hall-Tompkins is a pioneer of social justice in classical music, bringing top artists in over 100 concerts with over 200 top artists, in homeless shelters, reaching over 30,000 clients coast to coast from New York to Los Angeles, and in internationally in Paris, France. Through *Music Kitchen*, Ms. Hall-Tompkins commissioned 15 award-winning composers, with support from Carnegie Hall, to set the prose feedback comments of shelter clients into a composite song cycle entitled *Forgotten Voices*, which premiered individually at homeless shelters around New York City, then in its entirety in a sold-out world premiere in association with Carnegie Hall in March 2022. Ms. Hall-Tompkins is on the faculty of the Manhattan School of Music, recipient of two Honorary Doctorates (Manhattan School of Music and Adelphi University), Distinguished Alumni and Centennial Awards (Eastman School of Music), and is a published author contributor to *Music and Human Rights* on Routledge Press.



JOSHUA CAMP, ACCORDION

■ Brooklyn-based musician, Joshua Douglas Camp, has extensive knowledge of performing and recording accordion, piano, organ, synthesizers, and all manner of keyboard instruments. Much of his work has been in theater, advertising, and television. Over 15 years of Broadway experience as an accordionist and keyboardist on productions such as *Fiddler on the Roof* (Grammy nominated cast recording), *Three Penny Opera*, *Cabaret*, and the Tony winning play *Indecent*. In addition, his contributions to TV can be heard on the soundtracks and scores of *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt*, *Weeds*, *30 Rock*, *Homeland*, *On My Block*, and *The Path* just to name a few. He has performed at prestigious venues such as The Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, The Kennedy Center, and Royce Hall in LA. Joshua has over a decade of experience producing and composing in advertising including campaigns for Victoria's Secret, Sephora, Ralph Lauren, Jo Malone, and many more. He has recently shared the stage with Joan as Police Woman, and Elysian Fields.

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STEPHEN BENSON, GUITAR

■ Stephen Benson is very active on the New York City freelance scene. He is comfortable in a variety of musical settings from jazz and classical music to rock, blues, rhythm and blues, Broadway, bluegrass, and klezmer music. He has performed and or recorded with people as diverse as Phoebe Snow, John Sebastian, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Natalie Cole, Jessica Simpson and Nick Lachey, Jane Krakowski, Sutton Foster, Garrison Keillor, The New York Philharmonic, The Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, The Philadelphia Orchestra, Orchestra of St. Luke's, and the American Symphony Orchestra. He has been a regular performer at the Grand Canyon Music Festival with Robert Bonfiglio and has performed with Evelyn Blakey at the Carnival of Venice. He toured Europe for two years as a member of the Giora Feidman Trio and did a world tour of *A Chorus Line*. He currently performs on Broadway in the orchestra pits of *The Lion King*, *Chicago*, and *Aladdin*. He is on the jazz faculty at Montclair State University and lives in NYC with his wife and twins.



MICHAEL BLANCO, DOUBLE BASS

■ Michael Blanco (Bass) has performed in the orchestras of more than 40 Broadway shows, and is currently the bassist for the Alan Silvestri/Glen Ballard musical *Back to the Future*. Michael is also a jazz musician and composer who has released three albums of original music, and has toured internationally under the auspices of both The Kennedy Center and Jazz at Lincoln Center. Although he spends most of his time in New York City, Michael has also had the pleasure of performing in Bahrain, Bolivia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Kuwait, Nicaragua, North Macedonia, Oman, Panama, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Venezuela, and Yemen. Michael can be heard on Kelly Hall-Tompkins' 2018 album *The Fiddler Expanding Tradition* and is thrilled to be performing with her tonight!