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Premiering Nov. 14: Anthony McGill, 2020 Avery Fisher Prize-winner & New York Phil's first African-American principal player, and CMNW Co-Artistic Director Gloria Chien

(Portland, OR) October 29, 2020 – Chamber Music Northwest (CMNW)'s 2020-21 Season continues with clarinetist Anthony McGill, 2020 Avery Fisher Prize-winner and New York Philharmonic's first African-American principal player, and new CMNW Co-Artistic Director and pianist Gloria Chien in *Clarinet Tours de Force*, a virtual concert premiering Saturday, November 14 at 7 pm PT at CMNW.org (*All-Access Pass or Single Concert Pass required. Passes on sale at CMNW.org*). A free live Musical Conversation with nationally-renowned performing artist and founder of the Sphinx Foundation Aaron Dworkin will precede the concert on Tuesday, November 10 at 6 pm PT at CMNW.org.



Anthony McGill, the 2020 recipient of the prestigious Avery Fisher Prize, exhibits an “exquisite combination of technical refinement and expressive radiance” (*The Baltimore Sun*). He is the principal clarinet of the New York Philharmonic, maintains a dynamic international solo career, and is a champion of social justice in the classical music world. This summer, a video of his haunting solo interpretation of *America the Beautiful* in minor key and accompanying #TakeTwoKnees initiative inspired by the death of George Floyd sparked widespread conversation about new ways to protest racism in the arts and beyond.

Pianist and new CMNW Co-Artistic Director Gloria Chien leads a diverse musical life as a noted performer, concert presenter, and educator. Selected by the *Boston Globe* as one of its Superior Pianists of the year, she “appears to excel in everything.”

In *Clarinet Tours de Force*, McGill and Chien continue their longstanding collaboration with a virtual concert of music written for clarinet-playing muses; Brahms' beloved Clarinet Sonatas inspired by clarinetist Richard Mühlfeld, and Weber's *Grand Duo Concertant* written for clarinetist Heinrich Baermann – which will “put a spring in your step, even if you are listening from the sofa in your living room” (*The Oregonian*).

A free live Musical Conversation with nationally-renowned performing artist, filmmaker, philanthropist, and professor Aaron Dworkin will precede the concert on Tuesday, November 10 at 6 pm PT at CMNW.org. Dworkin is the founder of the Sphinx Organization, whose mission is to transform lives through the power of diversity in the arts; professor of entrepreneurship and leadership at the University of Michigan and former dean of Michigan's School of Music, Theatre, and Dance; and host of *Arts Engines*. In this inspiring presentation, Dworkin will share his personal story and discuss the important role the arts play in society, creativity's associated value and impact in communities, strategies surrounding innovative leadership, core skillsets required for creative careers, and the importance of staying relevant in the actively evolving landscape of the arts. Conversation will include Q&A with questions from the audience at home.

2020-21 Season All-Access Passes and Single Concert Passes for Clarinet Tours de Force are on sale now at <https://cmnw.org/concerts-tickets/2020-21-season>

Anthony McGill & Gloria Chien: Clarinet Tours de Force

Saturday, November 14, 2020, 7 pm PT at CMNW.org; \$20 or free with All-Access Pass
Free live Musical Conversation on Tuesday, November 10, 2020, 6 pm PT at CMNW.org
Clarinetist Anthony McGill is one of classical music's most recognizable and brilliantly multifaceted figures. He maintains a dynamic international solo and chamber music career in addition to being the principal clarinet of the New York Philharmonic. McGill performed at President Obama's inauguration in 2009 and is a champion of social justice in the classical music world. McGill and Chamber Music Northwest's new Co-Artistic Director Gloria Chien will continue their longstanding collaboration with this performance from the stunning Mechanics Hall in Worcester, MA. <https://cmnw.org/concerts-tickets/all-concerts-events/mcgill-chien-clarinet-tours-de-force/1164>