

## Variation String Trio

Comprised of three dynamic young string players, Variation String Trio is now entering its eighth season. Violinist Jennifer Koh, violist Hsin-Yun Huang and cellist Wilhelmina Smith formed the trio in the fall of 2005 after performing together to great acclaim at Salt Bay Chamberfest on the coast of Maine. They have performed in chamber music series' across the United States, including *Classicfest* in Pensacola, FL, *Salt Bay Chamberfest* in Damariscotta, ME, and *Performers of Westchester* in Westchester County, NY. They made their European debut in Geneva, Switzerland in February '07 and are scheduled to perform upcoming seasons at the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, "Sejong Presents" at Carnegie Hall, and the Moritzburg Festival in Germany. Unique among chamber music groups, their name, *Variation*, describes both their commitment to the repertoire for string trio (highlighting an exquisite arrangement of Bach's *Goldberg Variations*) as well as their ideal of collaborating with a range of guest artists, regularly varying and enhancing their musical offerings.

Born in Chicago of Korean parents, violinist Jennifer Koh dazzles audiences with her ability to fuse intensity of temperament with a classical poise and elegance. During the 94/95 season, she won the International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow, the Concert Artists Guild Competition, and the Avery Fisher Career Grant. She has appeared with the Chicago, Cincinnati, National, Detroit, and New World Symphonies, among others. Recitals include performances at Town Hall and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, in Seoul's Kumho Hall, and at the National Gallery in Washington, D.C. A committed educator, Ms. Koh has won praise for her innovative Music Messenger program, which takes her to classrooms all over the country. She performs on the 1727 Ex Grumiaux Ex General DuPont Stradivari, on loan from a private sponsor.

At age 17, violist Hsin-Yun Huang was the youngest-ever winner of the gold medal at the Lionel Tertis International Viola Competition. In 1993, she took top prize at the ARD Competition in Munich, winning at the same time Japan's prestigious Bunkamura Orchard Hall award. She has appeared as a soloist with the Berlin Radio Symphony, the Russian State Symphony, the Tokyo Philharmonic, the Zagreb soloists, the Bavarian Symphony Orchestra and the National Symphony of Taiwan, among many others. Ms. Huang tours frequently with Music from Marlboro, and has made appearances in numerous international chamber music festivals such as the Festival dei Due Mondi in Spoleto, Italy; the Stravanger Festival in Norway; the Rome Chamber Music Festival; and the Vancouver Chamber Music Festival. She was also the violist of the world-renowned Borromeo String Quartet for six years. Ms. Huang is currently on faculty at the Juilliard School and the Mannes College of Music.

Cellist **Wilhelmina Smith** made her solo debut with the Philadelphia Orchestra while a student at the Curtis Institute of Music. She has since forged a versatile musical career based on the

strength of her beautiful sound, commitment to a vast repertoire and impassioned performances marked by intelligence and integrity. She has since gone on to solo with numerous orchestras including most recently the Millennium Orchestra of Guatemala and the Ural Philharmonic in Russia and has performed recitals across the US and Japan. As a chamber musician she has performed with musicians such as Paul Tortelier, Yo-Yo Ma, Joshua Bell, Pamela Frank, Dawn Upshaw, Benita Valente, and members of the Guarneri, Juilliard, Brentano, Miami, Borromeo and Galimir String Quartets in major venues across the US and Europe. In 1997 she was a prizewinner in the Leonard Rose International Cello Competition. She has been a guest Artist with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and the Boston Chamber Music Society, and is currently cellist with the Mannes Trio, Music from Copland House, and Artistic Director of Pensacola Florida's Classicfest as well as Salt Bay Chamberfest.