

*The Morrison Artists Series presents  
New York Polyphony  
May 6, 8pm in SF State's McKenna Theater*



## **Calefax brings the house down! Jay Campbell receives Avery Fisher Career Grant!**

*A Morrison Chamber Music Center post  
from Artistic Director Richard Festinger*

Within days of his return to New York after his March 13, 2016 Morrison Artists Series performance, the brilliant young cellist Jay Campbell was tagged as one of five young performers to receive the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant this year. Hats off to Jay! These Grants of \$25,000 give professional assistance and recognition to talented instrumentalists who the Lincoln Center Recommendation Board and Executive Committee believe have great potential for solo careers. Since 2004, consideration is also being given to chamber ensembles. Up to five Career are awarded each year.



**Cellist Jay Campbell**

To quote Avery Fisher on the motivating mission behind the awards:

*"Musicians of outstanding ability are such an important part of our culture. But they are like flowers that must bloom at a particular time. They have to be helped at the right moments."*

Other recipients in recent years who you may recognize include pianist Joyce Yang (2010), violinist Itamar Zorman of the Lysander Trio (2013), the Escher String Quartet (2013), whose violist Pierre Lapointe is an SF State alumnus, and the redoubtable pianist Yuja Wang (2010).

Another recent recipient is the brilliant flutist Tara Helen O'Connor, a stalwart of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. Tara decided to use her award to fund a CD of new works for flute and piano. This stunning CD was released about a month ago on the Bridge label, and includes as the title track my composition *The Way Things Go*, which I was immensely pleased to be asked to write for the project.



The Calefax performance on last Sunday's Morrison Artists Series concert brought the audience to its feet. I don't remember a concert when so many members of the audience came up to me at intermission and after the concert to express their delight in the program and the performers. Calefax's arrangements of repertoire of all periods are extremely well done, full of coloristic shifts and effects that the ensemble's unusual instrumentation makes possible. Their rendition of Richard Strauss' 1895 tone poem *Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks* was particularly witty and vivacious, and Duke Ellington's *In a Sentimental Mood* provided a most satisfying encore. If you were unable to attend their performance you might want to explore their extensive discography of 17 CDs.



**New York Polyphony**

The Morrison Artists Series historic 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season is rapidly drawing to a close! The last concert of the season comes up on May 6, 2016, at 8pm when *New York Polyphony* takes the McKenna Theater stage. Regarded as one of the finest vocal chamber ensembles in the world, these four men, "singers of superb musicianship and vocal allure" (*The New Yorker*), apply a modern touch to repertoire that ranges from medieval melodies and

Renaissance madrigals to cutting-edge contemporary compositions. Their dedication to innovative programming, as well as a focus on rare and rediscovered Renaissance and medieval works, has not only earned New York Polyphony critical acclaim, but also helped to move early music into the classical mainstream. During a recent visit to SF State by Frank Havroy of *Nordic Voices* (another of the world's great vocal chamber ensembles, who

you may remember from their appearance on the Morrison Artists Series last season), he singled out *New York Polyphony* as one of the most outstanding and innovative vocal ensembles of our time.

On May 6 *New York Polyphony* will perform their program, *A Lily among Thorns*, a concert on the theme of human sensual love, including works by John Dunstable, Jacob Clemens, Francisco Guerrero, Michael McGlynn, Ivan Moody and others. Their growing discography includes two GRAMMY-nominated releases and albums that have topped the “best of” lists of *The New Yorker*, *Gramophone*, and *BBC Music Magazine*. This is a don’t miss program! I hope you’ll join me for what promises to be a spectacular close to our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season. Admission free reservations are available by visiting our web site at [morrison.sfsu.edu](http://morrison.sfsu.edu), or by calling our box office at (415) 338-2467. I look forward to seeing you at the concert!

- *Richard Festinger, Artistic Director*