

FOR PLAYERS OF VIOLIN, VIOLA, CELLO, BASS, AND FIDDLE

# STRINGS

December 2016



**Paul Neubauer LIVE, From  
Music@Menlo**

Paul Neubauer, viola; Sasha  
Cooke, mezzo-soprano; Gilbert  
Kalish, Juho Pohjonen, Wu Han,  
piano (Music@Menlo)

A supremely talented musician, Neubauer began his professional career after being appointed principal violist of the New York Philharmonic at the age of 21. He went on to appear as a soloist with over 100 orchestras worldwide and has been awarded multiple Grammys. His latest recording is a marvel and was remastered by violinist and Grammy Award-winning sound engineer Da-Hong Seetoo, whose expertise gives Neubauer and his accompanying performers the deserving spotlight they need to make their performances shine extra bright.

The sound quality of this release is truly exceptional; each track is flawless—lush, thick, and truly otherworldly. The entire disc is a honeyed treat for the ears with a little something for everyone—viola lovers, piano aficionados, and vocal admirers. But, of particular note are the “Puszta-Märchen” (“Gypsy Romance and Czardas”) and “Serenade du Tzigane” (“Gypsy Serenade”). In both, Neubauer is accompanied by Wu Han on piano, and the twosome are superb together. The rich Eastern European flair to pieces by Schulenburg and Valdez are the perfect showcase for Neubauer’s viola stylings.

Recorded in July 2015 and August 2016, during the Music@Menlo Festival, this collection of Schubert, Brahms, Schulenburg, Baldez, and anonymous music was captured at the Menlo-Atherton Center for the Performing Arts.

The second special artist-focused release from Music@Menlo LIVE, the recording follows Wu Han’s live release from 2014. Artistically infused viola performances combined with the intimate salon-music program—incorporating works showcasing both voice and piano—all make for a true celebration of sound.

—Heather K. Scott