

David Finckel & Wu Han Biography

2021-22 Season (502 words)

Cellist **David Finckel** and pianist **Wu Han's** multifaceted careers as concert performers, artistic directors, recording artists, educators, and cultural entrepreneurs distinguish them as two of today's most influential classical musicians. They are recipients of *Musical America's* Musician of the Year award, one of the highest honors granted to artists by the music industry in the United States. They appear annually at the world's most prestigious concert series and venues, as soloists and as chamber musicians.

David and Wu Han have served as artistic co-directors of The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center (CMS) since 2004. Last season, their design and programming of a plethora innovative digital events, from concerts to lectures, sustained and even grew CMS's audiences in New York and around the world. This unparalleled, historic pandemic season is only the latest chapter in CMS's growth under their leadership, which includes: new partnerships with Medici TV, Tencent, Radio Television Hong Kong and the All Arts broadcast channel; the establishment of thriving satellite series; an expansion of touring, and comprehensive media initiatives. During the year of the pandemic, when concert halls were closed, they produced more than 270 digital projects for CMS, Music@Menlo and ArtistLed. Together, they created CMS's *Front Row National* project which has brought almost more than 400 CMS digital performances and events to over 60 chamber music presenters and their audiences around North America. In addition, their unwavering dedication to the well-being of CMS artists resulted in more than a year of creative artist employment across a number of digital and in-person platforms. David and Wu Han are also the founders and artistic directors of Music@Menlo, Silicon Valley's acclaimed chamber music festival and institute which opened in 2003. In response to the pandemic shutdown, David and Wu Han designed an entirely virtual 2020 summer festival and winter series, and in 2021 mounted Music@Menlo's return as an in-person festival. Wu Han also serves as Artistic Advisor for both the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts' Chamber Music at the Barns series and for the Society of the Four Arts in Palm Beach.

As founders of ArtistLed, the classical music industry's first musician-directed, internet-based recording company, they have released more than 20 CD's of duo and chamber repertoire over two decades, as well as overseeing (and often performing in) more than 150 releases on both the CMS *Live* and Music@Menlo *Live* labels. *BBC Music Magazine* recently saluted ArtistLed's 20th anniversary with a special cover CD featuring David and Wu Han. Passionately committed to education, Wu Han and David Finckel oversee Music@Menlo's annual Chamber Music Institute, as well as the former CMS Two program, which they dramatically transformed into today's Bowers Program, now attracting the most promising young artists from around the world. Their website now hosts *Resource*, a collection of material that provides thoughtful perspectives and lessons learned for classical musicians facing the particular challenges and opportunities many of them face.

David Finckel and Wu Han divide their time between touring and residences in New York City and Westchester County.