

CMS's Artistic Leadership on Board for Another 5 Years

By Susan Elliott, *Musical America*

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Chamber music's best known duo, David Finkel and Wu Han, will continue as co-artistic overseers of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center (CMS) through the 2026-27 season, which, having started in 2004-05, makes them the 52-year-old organization's longest-serving leaders.

Their impact on CMS and on the field of chamber music in general cannot be underestimated, not only as imaginative programmers and performers, but also as mentors and models to several generations of musicians, launching the

Bowers program for young artists and enlarging the CMS roster. They've also managed to spread the gospel of the genre to an ever widening public, from international tours and residencies to the latest electronic distribution channels.

Calling them a "powerful engine," Executive Director Suzanne Davidson points out how, since the start of the pandemic, "our indefatigable artistic directors created nearly 200 digital programs that included concert footage from our archives as well as newly created programming that has reached a global audience."

CMS also has its own, 52-week public radio series available in the U.S. as well as in China and Taiwan and has made over 750 hours of performances and educational enlightenment free to the public. Indeed, CMS performances are accessible via pretty much every media—radio, broadcast and cable TV, web streaming on its [own channels](#) and via platforms such as Medici.tv.

CMS [returned to live performances](#) at his home base, Alice Tully Hall, as of October 19.

David Finckel and Wu Han were [Musical America's 2012 Musicians of the Year](#).