PUBLIQuartet and The Mighty Third Rail to Play Symphony Space, 3/20

The innovative PUBLIQuartet, winner of the Concert Artists Guild Sylvia Ann Hewlett Adventurous Artist Prize and a CAG New Music/New Places Ensemble, will team up with the hip hop poetry trio, The Mighty Third Rail for an original performance at the Leonard Nimoy Thalia at Symphony Space on Thursday evening, March 20th at 7:30 p.m. The PUBLIQuartet will begin the evening with Gyorgy Ligeti’s Quartet No. 1. The Mighty Third Rail will then perform their own hip hop/spoken word improvisations based on iconic jazz standards by Duke Ellington and John Coltrane, as well as Gil Scott-Heron’s "The Revolution Will Not Be Televised" along with their own compositions. The concert will come full circle with a re-imagining of Ligeti’s Quartet No. 1 in which both ensembles will take part, featuring improvisation, electronics, beat boxing, and spoken word in a modern day telling of the Garden of Eden. The performance is part of the PUBLIQuartet’s MIND|THE|GAP series, which explores the intersection between jazz, hip hop, and classical genres.

Tickets are $32, $27 for members and $20 for those 30 and under and can be purchased by calling (212) 864-5400 or by visiting www.symphonyspace.org.

Named a 2013 CAG New Music/New Places Ensemble, the PUBLIQuartet's creative, interactive programming brings a fresh perspective to the classical music scene. Drawing on jazz, world, and electro-acoustic influences, PUBLIQuartet pairs music from the classical repertoire with contemporary works, original compositions, and open-form improvisations that expand the stylistic norms of the string quartet.

Current projects include the original concert series MIND|THE|GAP, which connects old and new music by bridging musical content through improvisation, and PUBLIQ Access, a new program for emerging composers that launches at the DiMenna Center in 2014. The group performs in a diverse range of venues—from Lincoln Center and 92Y Tribeca to Rockwood Music Hall and Cornelia Street Cafe. Recent concerts have been presented by American Composers Orchestra, Bargemusic, Queens College New Music Collective, Music of Now Marathon at Symphony Space, Hobart William Smith Colleges, Fordham University, and the Norwalk Symphony Orchestra.

PUBLIQuartet has collaborated with members of ICE, composer/violist Lev 'Ljova' Zhurbin, bandoneonist JP Jofre, jazz tuba legend Bob Stewart, and jazz clarinetist and composer Don Byron. The ensemble has worked with members of the Muir, Juilliard, Orion, Mendelssohn, Tokyo, American, and Brentano String Quartets and with composers Joan Tower and Butch Morris. Residencies include the Juilliard String Quartet Institute, Deer Valley Music Festival’s "Emerging Quartets and Composers" program, Robert Mann String Quartet Institute, and the Banff Centre. The members of the quartet are graduates from Eastman School of Music, Manhattan School of Music, and Mannes College of Music.