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AUG. 25 - 31, 2025

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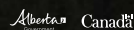
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Final Round Jury
Jerusalem Quartet
Alexander Pavlovsky, violin
Sergei Bresler, violin
Ori Kam, viola
Kiril Zlotnikov, 'cello

The Jerusalem Quartet's participation today is made possible by the Schubert Club.



Selection Jury
John McGrosso, violin Arianna String Quartet
Jonathan Ong, violin Verona Quartet
Renee Skerik, viola Artaria String Quartet (emeritus)
Rachel Henderson Freivogel, 'cello Jasper Quartet



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Artaria String Quartet

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Gabriel Katzenmeir, St Olaf College
Ian Snider, St Olaf College

Sundin Hall Director
Tommy Barbarella

The 2025 Saint Paul String Quartet Competition is grateful to the generous individual and corporate sponsors that have made this event possible.

A special Thank You to Tommy Barbarella as Sundin Music Hall's Music Director.

“Passion, precision, warmth, a gold blend: these are the trademarks of this excellent Israeli string quartet.”

Such was the Times’ (London) impression of the **JERUSALEM QUARTET**. Since the ensemble’s founding in 1993 and subsequent 1996 debut, the four Israeli musicians have embarked on a journey of growth and maturation. This experience has resulted in a wide repertoire and stunning depth of expression, which carries on the string quartet tradition in a unique manner. The ensemble has found its core in a warm, full, human sound and an egalitarian balance between high and low voices. This approach allows the Quartet to maintain a healthy relationship between individual expression and a transparent and respectful presentation of the composer’s work. It is also the drive and motivation for the continuing refinement of its interpretations of the classical repertoire as well as exploration of new epochs.

The Jerusalem Quartet is a regular and beloved guest on the world’s great concert stages. Recent appearances include a Beethoven quartet cycle at Wigmore Hall in London; a Bartok cycle at the Salzburg Festival; their annual String Quartet seminar in Crans Montana Switzerland, and a residency at the Jerusalem Academy of Music.

Highlights of the upcoming 2023/2024 season include tours of Sweden, Great Britain, Germany, Italy, and Switzerland; and appearances in the quartet Biennales in Paris, Lisbon, and Amsterdam. Alongside the quartet’s regular programs, they will bring back the “Yiddish Cabaret”, and will perform a Bartok Cycle in the Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg. Their upcoming North American tours include concerts in Montreal, Pittsburgh, Providence, Portland (Maine), Houston, Tucson, Palm Beach, Miami, New Orleans, Denver, Los Angeles, Carmel, New York, and other locations. In Ann Arbor, they will be joined by pianist Inon Barnaton.

The Jerusalem Quartet’s recordings have been honored with numerous awards, including the Diapason d’Or and the BBC Music Magazine Award for chamber music. They have recorded the string quartets of Haydn; Schubert’s “Death and the Maiden”; an album of Dvorak’s String Quintet Op.97 and Sextet Op.48, and the quartets by Ravel and Debussy.

In 2019, the Quartet released a unique album exploring Jewish music in Central Europe between the wars and its far-reaching influence, featuring a collection of Yiddish Cabaret songs from 1920s Warsaw, as well as works by Schulhoff and Korngold. The second installment of their Bartok quartet recording was released in 2020. Starting in 2025, the quartet will record exclusively for the BIS records. The first release in February 2025 will include quartets by Dmitry Shostakovich.

SELECTION JURY

Hailed by the Boston Globe as “first class, with a robust sound and technique that seems to come from the center of the person,” **JOHN MCGROSSO** has been the first violinist of the Arianna String Quartet since 1998. He has been featured as a soloist with the Chicago Symphony and the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, and has performed in recital to critical acclaim throughout the United States. During seven years as a member of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra’s first violin section, Mr. McGrosso performed frequently in the orchestra’s “Chamber Music St. Louis,” and “Discovery,” series, and originated the popular “On the Stage” series of unique audience engagement evenings.



He has taught on the faculties of Illinois Wesleyan University, the University of Missouri-Columbia, and Eastern Michigan University, and is currently an Associate Professor of Violin at the University of Missouri - St. Louis, where the Arianna Quartet is tenured and has been in residence since 2000. As a member of the Arianna Quartet, he has collaborated with artists such as James Campbell, Gilbert Kalish, Bernard Greenhouse, Richard Stoltzman, and members of the Tokyo, Vermeer, and Juilliard Quartets, and has been on the summer faculties of the Britt Institute, Madeline Island, and Music at Port Milford.

Mr. McGrosso received his bachelors and masters degrees from Juilliard, and holds a Performer’s Certificate from Northern Illinois University. He also attended the Aspen Music Festival, the Steans Young Artist Program at Ravinia, and the Quartet Programme in Aldeburgh, England. His violin teachers have included Dorothy Delay, Shmuel Ashkenasi, Joyce Robbins, Joel Smirnoff, and Gerald Beal, and he has studied chamber music with members of the Juilliard, Tokyo, LaSalle, and Vermeer Quartets.

Singaporean violinist **JONATHAN ONG** is the first violinist and founding member of the internationally acclaimed Verona Quartet. Critics have praised his playing as “charming and infectious” (South China Morning Post) and “possessed of perfection” (Oregon Arts Watch). An accomplished soloist and chamber musician, he concertizes actively throughout the world, having appeared in major venues such as Carnegie Hall, Wigmore Hall, Philharmonie de Paris and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Upcoming engagements include solo performances with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra of the Triangle, as well as appearances at celebrated venues and festivals such as the Beares Premiere Music Festival (Hong Kong), Shanghai Symphony Hall, Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, Bravo! Vail and the Smithsonian Institution.



Ong has won top prizes at numerous competitions around the world including the Wigmore Hall, Osaka, Chesapeake, Coleman and Fischhoff chamber music competitions, as well as the Concert Artist Guild Competition and the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Young Artist Competition. In 2020, he and his quartet were awarded the prestigious Cleveland Quartet Award by Chamber Music America. He has performed and collaborated with renowned artists such as Renee Fleming, David Shifrin, Cho-Liang Lin, Wu Man, Anne-Marie McDermott, Ning Feng, Orion Weiss, as well as members of the Juilliard, Cleveland, Borromeo and Dover Quartets.

RENEE SKERIK is Instructor of Viola and Chamber Music at Interlochen Arts Academy. She has toured throughout the United States, Europe, Brazil, including performances at the 33rd International Viola Congress in Reykjavik, Iceland and Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall. Prior to her position in Texas and Interlochen Renee served as violist with the Artaria String Quartet, a Minnesota-based prizewinning quartet of the 2004 prestigious McKnight competition and recipient of the National Endowment for the Arts Melliniel grant for performing artists. With this group she toured throughout the United States presenting concerts and masterclasses, co-founded of Stringwood Chamber Music Institute and Artaria Chamber Music School. She has worked with young violists in master class settings throughout the United States and South America, with recent master classes at Juilliard, Oberlin Conservatory, University of Michigan and the Cleveland Institute of Music. She is a regular presenter at the ASTA, TMEA, and American Viola Society national conventions. She served as coordinator of the inaugural AVS Youth Competition at Colburn in 2016. In March of each year, Renee leads a group of Interlochen students to Siena, Italy, for a chamber music immersive and collaboration with Siena Conservatory. She serves on the faculties of the Interlochen Viola Intensive, Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival and Montecito International Music Festival. Renee holds degrees from Eastman School of Music, University of Michigan and University of Minnesota with Heidi Castleman, Yizhak Schotten, and Korey Konkol, and is a graduate of the Interlochen Arts Academy and former student of David Holland.



RACHEL HENDERSON FREIVOGEL is the founding and current cellist of the Jasper String Quartet. Having performed, recorded and taught extensively with the group since its 2003 inception, Ms. Freivogel has received many honors, including the CMA Album of the Year Award (2024), Cleveland Quartet Award (2012), the Fischhoff Educator Award (2016), and top prizes at the Fischhoff, Plowman, Yellow Springs and Coleman Chamber Music Competitions. Her recordings with the quartet feature music by Caroline Shaw, Vivian Fung, Judd Greenstein, David Lang, Missy Mazzoli, Annie Gosfield, Aaron Jay Kernis, Ludwig van Beethoven, Franz Schubert, Donaccha Dennehy and others. With the quartet, she is a founder and Co-Artistic Director of Jasper Chamber Concerts, a chamber music series in Chestnut Hill, PA.



A passionate educator, Ms. Freivogel is on the faculty of Temple University's Center for Gifted Young Musicians and maintains a full private studio. During the summer months, Rachel is a Co-Director of the Saint Paul Chamber Music Institute and Co-Artistic Director of the Chamber Music Society of the Carolinas.

Ms. Freivogel began her cello studies with her mother, Deborah Watts, in her hometown of Ann Arbor, Michigan at the age of four. She earned degrees in Cello Performance, Viola da Gamba and Baroque Cello Performance from Oberlin Conservatory of Music working with Darrett Adkins and Catharina Meints, and degrees in String Quartet Performance from Rice University's Shepherd School of Music and Yale School of Music, where she studied with Norman Fischer and Clive Greensmith.



2024-2025 SEASON

Chiaroscuro Quartet

Sun, Oct 27, 2024 • 4:00 PM

Espressivo! Piano Quartet

Sun, Nov 24, 2024 • 4:00 PM

Tommy Mesa, *cello*

Michelle Cann, *piano*

Sun, Jan 26, 2025 • 4:00 PM

Jerusalem Quartet

Shostakovich Quartet Cycle Concert I

Sun, Mar 23, 2025 • 4:00 PM

Jerusalem Quartet

Shostakovich Quartet Cycle Concert V

Sun, Apr 27, 2025 • 4:00 PM

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Jerusalem Quartet

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A MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER

“Chamber music is like no other art form. Its repertoire grows more imaginative, relevant, and inclusive by the day, and its performance requires not only exceptional communication, but elevated levels of awareness, empathy, boldness, and vulnerability—the very traits that have the potential to heal our ailing world.” ~ Paul Wianko

Dear friends of chamber music,

The music you hear today is filled with great promise. From the first sounds that captivated the imagination of humanity to the exquisite playing you are hearing today, these fine young players are filling their hearts and minds with new ideas and a longer vision of possibilities. Guided by wisdom and trust in their elders, and accompanied by the love of their parents, teachers, and friends, I truly believe they love what they are doing.

The Saint Paul String Quartet Competition brings people together to celebrate beauty in the intimate environs of chamber music broadcast to the world. The Final Rounds of the competition showcase the best prepared and perhaps the most dedicated high school age string quartets currently in the country. These seven superb young quartets will share with us today some of the most beautiful music ever composed.

Today’s jury is the renowned Jerusalem Quartet. They will listen to and score each performance with detailed written comments in the following categories: Tone Quality, Intonation, Ensemble & Balance, and Musical Ideas.

The 2025 event begins with Joseph Haydn string quartet movements followed by a compulsory work by Israeli-American composer **SHULAMIT RAN** (pg.12) and closes with works from the Nationalist/Romantic and Modern Era. Each masterpiece will reveal the skill and level of preparation of these aspiring ensembles. It will also be a challenge for our esteemed jury as they search for today’s prizewinners.



DONATE TODAY



Artaria String Quartet

The Saint Paul String Quartet Competition’s primary mission is to celebrate excellence in string quartet performance, inspire greater awareness and participation in chamber music, and enrich the culture of this art form. We are committed to diversifying the repertoire by highlighting underrepresented composers, a goal we actively pursue through dedicated competition rounds.

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The Awards

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1st Prize - \$2000 Gold Medal Award

2nd Prize - \$1600 Silver Medal Award

BIPOC Prize - \$800

Audience Prize - \$400



As a professional flutist, **ALISON YOUNG** enjoyed a diverse music career as an orchestral principal, soloist and teacher performing on five continents including North America and New York City's Carnegie Hall. She has a knack for solo recitals with the Atlanta Constitution and Journal agreeing, calling her a recitalist of great poise and technical security, dazzling precision and virtuosic flair. Before dystonia disrupted her playing career, she made the recording premiere of David Diamond's flute concerto much to his delight. He said hers was some of the finest flute playing I have

heard. Two years later, she toured Argentina, playing her own arrangements of Piazzolla tangos and other works, releasing a CD and finally publishing her arrangements through support from a Minnesota State Arts Initiative Grant in a book that takes its name from a newspaper review, *A Little Tango in Her Blood*, music for Flute and Piano from Argentina. Alison Young was more of a cheerleader for music and musicians, as a mid-day DJ on Classical Minnesota Public Radio as well as American Public Media's syndicated concert program, *SymphonyCast*, the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and St. Olaf Christmas. And now coming full circle she identifies as a voice over artist, writer, professional speaker, and sometime-flutist. An avid kayaker, rock climber, biker, skier and long-distance backpacker, she lives with her husband across the street from the birthplace of F. Scott Fitzgerald in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

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SHULAMIT RAN, a native of Israel, began setting Hebrew poetry to music at the age of seven. By nine she was studying composition and piano with some of Israel's most noted musicians, including composers Alexander Boskovich and Paul Ben-Haim, and within a few years she was having her works performed by professional musicians and orchestras. As the recipient of scholarships from both the Mannes College of Music in New York and the America Israel Cultural Foundation, Ran continued her composition studies in the United States with Norman Dello-Joio. In 1973 she joined the faculty of University of Chicago, where she is now the Andrew MacLeish Distinguished Service Professor in the Department of Music. She lists her late colleague and friend Ralph Shapey, with whom she also studied in 1977, as an important mentor.



In addition to receiving the Pulitzer Prize in 1991, Ran has been awarded most major honors given to composers in the U.S., including two fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, grants and commissions from the Koussevitzky Foundation at the Library of Congress, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Fromm Music Foundation, Chamber Music America, the American Academy and Institute for Arts and Letters, first prize in the Kennedy Center-Friedheim Awards competition for orchestral music, and many more.

Her music has been played by leading performing organizations including the Chicago Symphony under both Daniel Barenboim and Pierre Boulez, the Cleveland Orchestra under Christoph Von Dohnanyi in two U.S. tours, the Philadelphia Orchestra under Gary Bertini, the Israel Philharmonic under Zubin Mehta and Gustavo Dudamel, the New York Philharmonic, the American Composers Orchestra, The Orchestra of St. Luke's under Yehudi Menuhin, the Baltimore Symphony, the National Symphony (in Washington D.C.), Contempo (the Contemporary Chamber Players) at the University of Chicago under both Ralph Shapey and Cliff Colnot, the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, the Jerusalem Orchestra, the vocal ensemble Chanticleer, and various others. Chamber and solo works are regularly performed by leading ensembles in the U.S. and elsewhere, and recent vocal and choral ensemble works have been receiving performances internationally.

Between 1990 and 1997 she was Composer-in-Residence with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, having been appointed for that position by Maestro Daniel Barenboim as part of the Meet-The-Composer Orchestra Residencies Program. Between 1994 and 1997 she was also the fifth Brena and Lee Freeman Sr. Composer-in-Residence with the Lyric Opera of Chicago, where her residency culminated in the performance of her first opera, "Between Two Worlds (The Dybbuk)." She was the Paul Fromm Composer in Residence at the American Academy in Rome, September-December 2011.

Ran served as Music Director of "Tempus Fugit," the International Biennial for Contemporary Music in Israel in 1996, 1998 and 2000. Since 2002 she is Artistic Director of Contempo (Contemporary Chamber Players of the University of Chicago). In 2010 she was the Howard Hanson Visiting Professor of Composition at Eastman School of Music. Shulamit Ran is an elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, where she was Vice President for Music for a 3-year term, and of the American Academy of Arts and Science. The recipient of five honorary doctorates, her works are published by Theodore Presser Company and by the Israeli Music Institute and recorded on more than a dozen different labels.

The Glitter, Doom, Shards, Memory, String Quartet No. 3, was commissioned by Music Accord, a consortium of concert presenters in the U.S. and abroad, for Pacifica Quartet, and will receive its first performance in June 2014 in Tokyo.

BIPOC ROUND

12:00pm Introduction by
Master of Ceremonies

Performances begin at 12:10pm

▼ MAPLE QUARTET ▼

▼ DRAGONBOOT QUARTET ▼

▼ TRELIS STRING QUARTET ▼

▼ HESPER QUARTET ▼

String Quartet No.3 "Glitter, Doom, Shards, Memory"
I. That Which Happened
Composer: Shulamit Ran

Dedication and Inspiration:

The quartet is dedicated to Felix Nussbaum (1904-1944) and all the countless others who perished in the Holocaust. The title comes from an art exhibit of works from the Weimar Republic titled "Glitter and Doom".

Composer's Intent:

Ran wrote in the score program note, "As in several other works composed since 1969, this is my way of saying, 'Do not forget,' something that I believe can be done through music with special power and poignancy."

"That which happened" (das was geschah): This movement, inspired by Paul Celan, is a metaphor for the way in which an "ordinary" life was shattered by the Holocaust.

Winner of the BIPOC Round will be announced
at the Awards Ceremony which follows
immediately after the Final Round.

FINAL ROUND

1:00pm

Alison Young - Master of Ceremonies



▲MAPLE QUARTET▼

HAYDN: String Quartet in G Major, Op.76 No.1
I. Adagio con spirito II. Adagio sostenuto III. Menuetto.Presto

BRITTEN: String Quartet No.2 in C Major Op.36
I. Allegro calmo, senza rigore II. Vivace



▲DRAGONBOOT QUARTET▼

HAYDN: String Quartet in b minor, Op.33 No.1
Allegro II. Scherzo III.Andante IV. Finale.Presto

SHAW: Three Essays for String Quartet
2. Echo 3. Ruby



▲TRELIS STRING QUARTET▼

GRIEG: String Quartet in G minor, Op.80
I. Un poco Andante - Allegro molto ed agitato

SCHULHOFF: Five Pieces for String Quartet
I. Alla Valse Viennese II. Alla Serenata III. Alla Czecca
IV. Alla Tango milonga V. Alla Tarantella



▲HESPER QUARTET▼

SCHUBERT: Quartettsatz, D.703

BARTÓK: String Quartet No. 2, BB 75, Op. 17, Sz.67
I. Moderato II. Allegro molto capriccioso

MAPLE QUARTET



Isabel Chen, violin (Northbrook, IL)
Magali Pelletey, violin (Oakland, CA)
John Crowley, viola (Ballston Lake, NY)
Gabriel Hennebury, cello (Ann Arbor, MI)

The Maple Quartet was formed in 2022 at the Eastman School of Music, by members Isabel Chen, Magali Pelletey, John Crowley, and Gabriel Hennebury. The four are currently seniors in the undergraduate program pursuing degrees in music performance. In 2024, the Maple Quartet was awarded the Eastman School's annual Celentano String Quartet Award for the second time, which acknowledges an undergraduate quartet with outstanding ability and provides funding for professional development. This award financially supports the Quartet's numerous performances and community outreach initiatives throughout Rochester, NY. Previously, they were selected twice to perform in Eastman's Honors Chamber Music Recitals. Recent performances include collaborations with Robin Scott and Chiao-Wen Cheng on Eastman's Faculty Artist Series. They were also finalists at the 2025 Coltman Chamber Music Competition. While the ensemble were fellows at the 2024 Credo String Quartet Institute and Lutheran Summer Music Festival, they studied intensively with the Verona Quartet, Peter Salaff, and Peter Slowik. At Credo, they expanded on their community outreach with performances at the Grafton Rehabilitation Center, Oberlin Early Childhood Center, and the Murray Ridge Center. Engagements for the summer of 2025 include a residency with Voce Velata and fellowships at the ENCORE and Madeline Island Chamber Music festivals. In pursuit of their studies, the Quartet has been privileged to receive guest coachings and masterclasses with prominent chamber musicians such as the Takács Quartet, Belcea Quartet, JACK Quartet, Peter, Oundjian, Itamar Zorman, and Jesse Mills. The group's primary coaches include members of the Ying Quartet and professors David Bowlin, Masumi Per Rostad, and Mimi Hwang. The Maple Quartet is especially grateful to the Ying Quartet for inspiring their passion, commitment, and growth as an ensemble.

Competition Repertoire:

HAYDN: String Quartet in G Major, Op.76 No.1
BRITTEN: String Quartet No.2 in C Major Op.36

Isabel Chen studies violin with Robin Scott at the Eastman School of Music, where she is completing her final year towards receiving a Bachelor's in Violin Performance with Performer's Certificate. Her former teachers include Oleh Krysa, Cyrus Forough, Almita Vamos, Mathias Tacke, and Jasmine Lin. Isabel has soloed with the Fenimore Chamber Orchestra, Elmhurst and Oistrakh Symphony Orchestras following wins in regional and national concerto competitions. She was invited to Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall for the 2023 InterHarmony Festival Concert Series, and broadcasted several times on Classical WFMT's Introductions for solo and chamber appearances. She has performed in summer festivals including the Fellowship Program at Madeline Island, Colorado College Music Festival, and Bowdoin International Music Festival. She has played in masterclasses for artists including Boris Kuschnir, Guy Braunstein, Donald Weilerstein, Itamar Zorman, and Noah Bendix-Balgley. She has always been passionate about early music: she currently plays baroque violin in the Collegium Musicum at Eastman, and sings alto in the Christ Church Schola Cantorum of Rochester.

Magali Pelletey has been playing violin since she was 4. In 2019 she was a winner of the YPSO concerto competition and performed Saint-Saens Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso with the orchestra. She is now a senior at the Eastman School of Music where she is pursuing a degree in violin performance, where she studies with Mikhail Kopelman, as well as a degree in microbiology and immunology at the University of Rochester. She has attended Bowdoin International Music Festival and Madeline Island Chamber Music. Magali's passion for music remains prominent, and she has a particular interest in chamber performance and community outreach. Along with the Maple Quartet, Magali has received the Celentano Award twice and has performed on departmental honors chamber recitals. Together they advanced to the final rounds of the Coltman Competition. Additionally, she has been in principal rotation in the Eastman Orchestras. Magali has received coachings and participated in masterclasses with world-renowned groups and musicians, including the Takács Quartet, Belcea Quartet, JACK Quartet, Verona Quartet, Telegraph Quartet, Delphi Trio, Meg Freivogel, Noah Bendix-Balgley, Itamar Zorman, and Bonnie Hampton, and Chee-Yun Kim.

John Crowley, 22, is currently a senior at the Eastman School of Music pursuing a bachelor's degree in viola performance. John is the winner of Eastman's 2023 Viola Concerto Competition, and he subsequently made his solo debut with the Eastman Philharmonia performing the Walton Viola Concerto in November of 2023. In 2024, he was selected for Eastman's coveted Performer's Certificate. John's festival appearances include full tuition fellowships at Colorado College Summer Music Festival and the National Orchestral Institute. John currently studies viola with Phillip Ying and chamber music with the Ying Quartet, Mimi Hwang, Masumi Per Rostad, and David Bowlin. He is originally from the capital district of New York, where he studied viola with Sue Nazzaro. He performs on a viola made by Guy Rabut in 2023, and a bow made by Sue Nazzaro in 2024. In his free time, John enjoys composing, hiking, cycling, skiing, playing chess, and eating good food.

Gabriel Hennebury is in his Senior year at the Eastman School of Music, where he is working on a Bachelor's degree in Cello Performance with Professor Joseph Johnson. Prior to his enrollment at Eastman he spent two years at the Interlochen Arts Academy, where he graduated as the sole recipient of the Fine Arts award in Cello Performance. His past teachers include Guy Johnston, Patrick Owen, Sarah Cleveland, and Daniel Thomas. In addition to his solo studies, Gabriel particularly enjoys being a member of chamber ensembles. He is the founding cellist of the Maple Quartet, a dedicated and aspiring student-led group which was awarded the 2023-24 and 2024-25 Celentano String Quartet award. He currently studies chamber music primarily with members of the Ying Quartet, Mimi Hwang, and David Bowlin, and has had additional instruction from members of the Belcea, Takács, and Verona Quartets, and coachings from Itamar Zorman, Jessie Mills, and René Schiffer. Gabriel has appeared in masterclasses performing for cellists such as Sheku Kanneh-Mason, Amir Eldan, Richard Narroway, and Peter Garret.

DRAGONBOOT QUARTET



Katya Moeller, violin (Iowa City, IA)
Catherine Carson, violin (Northfield, MN)
Sydney Whipple, viola (Oakland, CA)
Lila Holyoke, cello (New York, NY)

The DragonBoot String Quartet is comprised of violinists Cate Carson and Katya Moeller, violist Sydney Whipple and cellist, Lila Holyoke. Built on a foundation of deep musical relationships, the members of this ensemble have fostered musical connections that have survived the test of time. Violinist Cate Carson and violist Sydney Whipple first played together for their own enjoyment at the California Summer Music Festival—over ten years ago. Cellist Lila Holyoke and violinist Katya Moeller have performed together in chamber ensembles for three consecutive years. Most recently, Lila and Cate performed together for seven weeks this past summer, sharing chamber works with children at Kneisel Hall. The DragonBoot String Quartet is the ultimate fusion of these avid chamber musicians, finally coming together after all of these years at The Juilliard School's Honors Chamber Program. Most recently, the quartet won Grand Prize at the Coltman Chamber Music Competition in Austin, Texas. DragonBoot Quartet has performed in Alice Tully Hall, the Tenri Cultural Institute (as guests of the If Music Be the Food concert series), and with Eleva Chamber Players in Vermont. Upcoming engagements include outreach programs at Rikers Island, performances in Juilliard's Paul Hall and the David Rubenstein Atrium in NYC and the Artist Series Concerts of Sarasota. As an all-women group, DragonBoot Quartet is particularly interested in performing works by women composers to highlight their contributions to the repertoire and to share with diverse audiences. Dedicated to the exploration of chamber music, these spirited artists have attended various festivals, such as the Verbier Festival, Perlman Music Program, Music@Menlo, Kneisel Hall, the YellowBarn Young Artists Program, and Bowdoin International Music Festival. Members of the group have participated in masterclasses with the Dover String Quartet, the Cavani String

Competition Repertoire:

HAYDN: String Quartet in b minor, Op.33 No.1
SHAW: Three Essays for String Quartet

Quartet, and the Ying Quartet. The group is currently coached by Merry Peckham and Adam Meyer. Cate and Sydney are currently pursuing their Master's Degree; Cate, under the tutelage of Laurie Smucker, and Sydney, studying with Misha Amory. Katya and Lila are both working toward their Bachelor's Degree. Katya is in her third year of studies with Masao Kawasaki. Lila is a BCJ student in a shared-studio of Natasha Brofsky and Clara Kim.

Catherine Carson is a violinist from Northfield, MN, currently studying at The Juilliard School with Laurie Smukler as a Master's student. Catherine has won prizes in many competitions, including the Young Arts, Schubert Club Scholarship, Thursday Musical, Young People's Symphony Concert Association (YPSCA), Rochester Music Guild and Mary West Solo Competitions, and as a result of the YPSCA competition, at which Catherine won the grand prize, she was able to perform the Sibelius Violin Concerto with the Minnesota Orchestra. Previous teachers include Renée Jolles, Sally O'Reilly, and Susan Crawford; Catherine has also worked with Robin Scott, Almita Vamos, and Ayano Ninomiya, and has performed in masterclasses with Gil Shaham, Jennifer Koh, Gwen Thompson, Nicola Benedetti, and Donald Weilerstein.

Violinist Katya Moeller, 20, was called a "phenomenal instrumentalist" and praised for her "dramatic and convincing performances" and "exquisite interpretations" by Fanfare Magazine. She played her first solo recital at the age of six and made her orchestra debut when she was twelve. Since then, she has taken the stage internationally, concertizing in Italy, Hungary, Romania, Austria, Switzerland, Russia, Brazil, Southeast Asia, as well as across the United States. Katya is in her third year of undergraduate studies at the Juilliard School, studying with Masao Kawasaki. Previously she studied with Almita Vamos at the Music Institute of Chicago Academy. She has participated in master classes and lessons with Midori Goto, Rachel Barton Pine, Mihaela Martin, Benjamin Beilman, Donald Weilerstein, David Finckel, the Cavani Quartet, to name a few. Summer engagements include the 2024 Verbier Festival Academy in Switzerland, Aspen Music Festival, Yellowbarn Young Artists Program, and the Bowdoin Festival.

Violist Sydney Whipple, is native of Oakland, California. She made her orchestral solo debut at 17, performing the Walton Viola Concerto with the Yuba Sutter Symphony, and has since appeared as a soloist with the Baden-Baden Philharmonic, and Eleva Chamber Players. Sydney earned her Bachelor of Music degree from The Juilliard School under the tutelage of Carol Rodland, and is currently in a Master of Music program at Juilliard, studying with Misha Amory. Sydney is a proud recipient of a Kovner Fellowship. In past summers she has taken part in programs at Music@menlo, The Perlman Music Program, Bowdoin International Music Festival, Varão Classico (Portugal), and Carl Flesch Academy (Germany). Sydney also has an interest in demonstrating how experiencing music cultivates empathy.

Lila Holyoke is a sophomore at Barnard and Juilliard, studying with Natasha Brofsky and Clara Kim. Lila was a Kovner Fellow at Juilliard from 2022-23 while she completed an undergraduate artist certificate. She began cello at five at the Special Music School with Yari Bond. Lila Studied at Juilliard Pre-college throughout high school where she graduated with distinction in performance. She has opened for pianists Jonathan Biss and Orli Shaham and played principal cello in a small ensemble led by Joshua Bell. In 2016 she premiered Augusta Read Thomas' work "Rainbow Bridge to Paradise." In 2023 she placed alternate in Juilliard's annual cello concerto competition and in 2024 participated in Naumburg's international cello competition. As a chamber musician, Lila has performed at Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall, the Rose Studio at CMS, the National Arts Club, the Kennedy Center, and on WNYC. Lila has spent summers at Kinhaven, Greenwood, Meadowmount, Yellowbarn's Young Artists Program and Kneisel Hall.

TRELLIS STRING QUARTET



Dallas Noble, violin (Hopewell, NJ)
Leo Matsuoka, violin (Los Angeles, CA)
Zach Levin, viola (Vancouver, Canada)
Drew Dansby, cello (Los Angeles, CA)

Formed in August 2023 for the University of Delaware's Graduate String Quartet in Residence program, the Trellis String Quartet is composed of violinists Dallas Noble and Leo Matsuoka, violist Zach Levin, and cellist Priscilla Kim. Together, they represent four countries (with each of the members holding dual citizenship) and many well-known institutions, including the Colburn Conservatory, Eastman School of Music, University of Michigan, Dalhousie University, and the Aspen Music Festival, among others. The four members of Trellis are currently pursuing Masters Degrees in Performance under the mentorship of the Calidore String Quartet.

In the spring of 2024, Trellis was selected as a finalist at the Saint Paul String Quartet Competition and a semifinalist at the 2024 Coltman Chamber Music Competition. They are deeply engaged with their community in Delaware, having given interactive concerts at Brandywine Baroque Society and Newark Charter School and organized fundraising concerts for local food banks. They have been honored to work with many illustrious artists such as Elicia Silverstein, Elias Goldstein, and Lawrence Stomberg, and members of the Emerson, New Orford, and Dali String Quartets. At ENCORE Chamber Music Institute 2024, led by esteemed violinist Jinjoo Cho, Trellis had the privilege of being mentored by members of Quatuor Ebène, Cleveland, Pacifica, Michelangelo, Cavani, and Ariel String Quartets; additionally, they collaborated with the Verona Quartet to perform Danish composer Niels Gade's String Octet in one of the festival's mainstage concerts.

The group takes their name from the architectural structure – trellis – which is a framework of interwoven materials upon which plants grow. Like a trellis, the quartet hopes that their group will provide a foundation on which to help each other grow, and that collectively, their work and music will help the community around them to grow too.

Competition Repertoire:
GRIEG: String Quartet in G minor, Op.80
SCHULHOFF: 5 Pieces for String Quartet

Dallas Noble is a violinist, writer, and teacher from Hopewell, New Jersey and a recent graduate of the Colburn Conservatory, where they studied with Robert Lipssett. Dallas is a passionate believer in the power of music to heal, empower, and deconstruct prejudice, and they are deeply committed to bringing together musicians and audience members from all walks of life. They are an enthusiastic chamber and orchestral musician, having been selected for the Aspen Music Festival's Orchestral Leadership Fellowship and played under the baton of such conductors as Esa-Pekka Salonen, and Gustavo Dudamel, and Marin Alsop, among others. During their time in Los Angeles, they worked closely with the local arts organizations Urban Voices Project and Street Symphony. They have been honored to perform with artists such as Elicia Silverstein, the Verona Quartet, Vijay Gupta, and Juliette Kang in concert. Dallas has appeared as a soloist with multiple orchestras in the greater Philadelphia area and has been honored to receive many awards over the years, including a 2017 Anthony Quinn Foundation Scholarship.

Violinist **Leo Matsuoka**, aged 23, is a recent graduate of the Eastman School of Music, where he studied with Oleh Krysa and Robin Scott. An avid chamber musician, he has performed as a member of Chamber Music OC's distinguished pre-college program and participated in master classes with Phil Setzer, Robert DeMaine, the Jupiter String Quartet, Julian Martin, and Margaret Batjer. Leo is a founding member of the Genesee Piano Trio as well as the Trellis String Quartet, and he was a recipient of the John Celentano Award for Excellence in Chamber Music upon graduation from the Eastman School of Music. Leo also has extensive orchestral experience, having served as principal second violinist and concertmaster of the Eastman School Symphony Orchestra and as associate concertmaster of Pacific Symphony Youth Orchestra. His previous teachers include Iryna Krechkovskyy and Ayako Sugaya. Leo began formal training at the age of 10 and attended the Orange County School of the Arts Instrumental Music program.

Primarily focused on classical viola, dual instrumentalist **Zach Levin** has amassed a wide array of experience in both orchestral and chamber music. He has performed with Symphony Nova Scotia as part of their season-long apprenticeship program, as well as in NYO Canada's "Frenery" collaboration tour with the European Union Youth Orchestra in 2019. Zach received his Bachelor of Music from Dalhousie University in 2019, having studied with Leo Perez, Philippe Djokic, and Mark Lee. Previous teachers include Andrew Dawes and Nicki Stieda, from his days in Vancouver, BC. In his free time, Zach enjoys watching baseball, exploring his local food scene, and brewing good coffee.

Born in Los Angeles, California, **Priscilla Kim** began her musical studies at age 8. Currently, she studies under cellist Estelle Choi and the Calidore String Quartet as part of the graduate string quartet assistantship at the University of Delaware, where she is a founding member of the Trellis String Quartet. She is a recent graduate of the University of Michigan, where she studied with Richard Aaron. Along with leadership roles in youth orchestras, Priscilla has held principal positions in the University of Michigan's Symphony and Philharmonia Orchestras, as well as the Conducting Academy Orchestra at Aspen, receiving fellowships to attend the festival in 2019 and 2021. Her notable performances include playing with Johannes Moser for the Philharmonic Society of Orange County, alongside her former piano trio at Carnegie Weill Hall, as well as in orchestra performances in historic halls abroad such as the Rudolfinum, Musikverein, and Glinka Capella. Her former teachers include Pacific Symphony cellist Laszlo Mezo and Joonsung Jun.

HESPER QUARTET



Valerie Kim, violin (USA)
Yejin Yoon (South Korea)
Sohui Yum, viola (South Korea)
Connor Kim, cello (USA)

The Hesper Quartet is a Korean-American string quartet based in New York City and their eponym is Hesperus, the “evening star” and Greek mythological personification of Venus in the early night sky, capturing their roles as leaders and storytellers.

In 2024, the Hesper Quartet swept silver medals at the Chesapeake International Chamber Music Competition, Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition, Lyon International String Quartet Competition, and the Yellow Springs Chamber Music Competition. They were also awarded the “Special Prize of Encouragement” by the Artsylvia Foundation in South Korea. In 2023, the Hespers were awarded first prize at the Fanny Mendelssohn International Competition, the Servaas International Music Competition, and were selected for the Lauren V. Ackerman Prize at Stony Brook University.

Recent festival appearances include the Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival in both 2023 and 2024, the McGill International String Quartet Academy, and the St. Lawrence String Quartet Seminar. They have performed at a variety of venues including Stanford University’s Bing Concert Hall, Capitol Theatre Windsor, Staller Center for the Arts, Temple Beth El, and the JeJu Cultural Arts Center in South Korea and

Competition Repertoire:

SCHUBERT: Quartettsatz in cm, D.703

BARTÓK: String Quartet No.2, BB 75, Op.17, Sz.67

have had the pleasure of collaborating with renowned artists such as Chiho Han, Lawrence Dutton, Hsin-Yun Huang, Peter Wiley, and Shai Wosner. Highlights of the upcoming season include performances and masterclasses at the Académie musicale de Villecroze, the Chesapeake Chamber Music Festival and the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center.

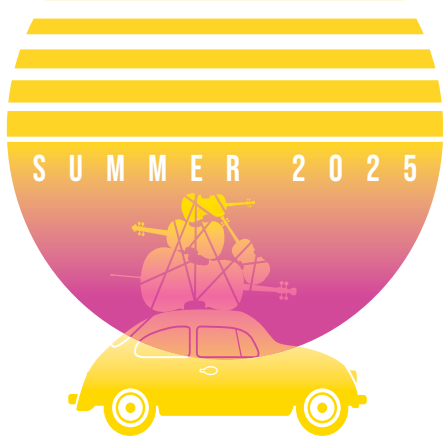
The Hesper Quartet was founded in 2022 at Stony Brook University’s Emerson String Quartet Institute. Its current members are violinists Valerie Kim and Yejin Yoon, violist Sohui Yum and cellist Connor Kim.

Valerie Kim is pursuing her DMA under the tutelage of Itzhak Perlman at The Juilliard School where she also received her BM and MM degrees as a Kovner Fellow. She has worked closely with members of the Brentano Quartet, Cleveland Quartet and the Juilliard String Quartet at the Perlman Music Program Chamber Music Workshop, Yellow Barn and the Robert Mann String Quartet Institute.

After receiving her BM from Korea National University of Arts, **Yejin Yoon** received her MM from the Yale School of Music and is currently pursuing a DMA at Stony Brook University with Jennifer Frautschi, Philip Setzer, Hagai Shaham, and Arnaud Sussman. She has been invited to the Kneisel Hall Chamber Music Festival, the Ozawa International Chamber Music Academy, and the Toronto Summer Music Festival where she was mentored by members of the Escher, Orion, and Tokyo String Quartets.

Sohui Yum, first prize winner of the 2022 Washington International Competition, has performed at festivals including Kronberg Academy’s Chamber Music Connects the World, the Lucerne Festival, Music@Menlo, and the Ravinia Steans Music Institute. She is now pursuing her DMA at Stony Brook University as a teaching assistant to Lawrence Dutton and Matthew Lipman, and received her BM from Korea National University of Arts, her MM from the New England Conservatory, completed her postgraduate studies at the Curtis Institute of Music, and received an Artist Diploma in Chamber Music at the San Francisco Conservatory.

Connor Kim received his BM, MM and Artist Diploma from The Juilliard School where he studied with Timothy Eddy and Joel Krosnick, whom he is a faculty assistant for. He won top prizes at the Anton Rubinstein Academy International Competition and the Schadt National Competition for Strings and has performed at IMS Prussia Cove, Music@Menlo, the Perlman Music Program Chamber Music Workshop, and the Ravinia Steans Music Institute.



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