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2020 SPSQC

Saint Paul String Quartet Competition

Year 15

April 25, 2020

Special Online Version

~ Final Rounds ~

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2020 SPSQC

Final Round Jury

Catalyst Quartet

Jessie Montgomerie, violin
Karla Donehew-Perez, violin
Paul Larai, viola
Karlos Rodriguez, 'cello

The Catalyst Quartet's participation today is made possible by the Schubert Club and Music in the Park Series.

Preliminary Jury

Serena Canin, violin
Brentano String Quartet
Daniel Ching, violin
Miro String Quartet
Susan Bates, viola
SF Conservatory Prep.
Richard Belcher, cello
Enso Quartet

Artistic Director

Ray Shows
Artaria String Quartet

Master of Ceremonies

Alison Young

Video Manager

Tom Peterson

GUEST WEBCAST ARTISTS:

Calidore String Quartet
Ryan Meehan, violin
2007 Gold Medalist
Jeffrey Myers, violin
2007 Bronze Medalist

The 2020 Saint Paul String Quartet Competition is grateful for the generous individual and corporate sponsors that have made this event possible.

CATALYST QUARTET Hailed by the New York Times at their Carnegie Hall debut as "invariably energetic and finely burnished…playing with earthy vigor," the Grammy Award-winning Catalyst Quartet is comprised of top Laureates and alumni of the internationally acclaimed Sphinx Competition. Known for "rhythmic energy, polyphonic clarity and tight ensemble-playing," the ensemble has toured throughout the United States and abroad, including sold-out performances at the Kennedy Center in Washington DC, at Chicago's Harris Theater, Miami's New World Center and Stern Auditorium at Carnegie Hall in New York. They have been guest soloists with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Sphinx Virtuosi, and the Orquesta Filharmonica de Bogota, and will appear in the coming season with the New Haven Symphony.

Catalyst Quartet has given concert residencies at the University of Michigan, University of Washington, Rice University, Houston's Society for the Performing Arts, Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and Pennsylvania State University. International residencies where they perform and teach master classes have included the University of South Africa, England's In Harmony Project, and the Teatro de Bellas Artes in Cali, Colombia. Their residency in Havana, Cuba for the Cuban American Youth Orchestra in January 2019, was the first by an American string quartet since the revolution.

Catalyst Quartet has been invited as guest artist at important music festivals, including the Virginia Arts Festival, Maverick Concerts, Mainly Mozart in San Diego, the Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival, Sitka Music Festival, Juneau Jazz and Classics, Strings Music Festival, the Vail International Dance Festival, and the Grand Canyon Music Festival where they appear annually. They opened the Festival del Sole in Napa, California with Joshua Bell in 2014 and participated that year in England's Aldeburgh Music Foundation String Quartet Residency with two performances in Jubilee Hall. Recent seasons have brought international engagements in Mexico, Argentina, Colombia and Puerto Rico, and expanded tours throughout the United States. The ensemble's New York City presence has included at Lincoln Center, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, City Center, at Columbia University's Miller Theatre, for Schneider Concerts at The New School, and their own series: CQ@Howl launched in 2018. Following six concerts with jazz vocalist Cécile McLorin Salvant for Jazz at Lincoln Center, the subsequent recording won the 2018 Grammy Award for Best Jazz Vocal Album.

Their recordings span the scope of their interests and artistry. Their debut album The Bach/Gould Project - features its own arrangement of J.S. Bach's monumental Goldberg Variations paired with Glenn Gould's String Quartet Op. 1. Catalyst Quartet can also be heard on Strum, the solo debut of CQ violinist, composer Jessie Montgomery, Bandaneon y cuerdas, tango inspired music for string quartet and Bandaneon by JP Jofre, and Dreams and Daggers, their 2 CD Grammy winning album with Cecile McLorin Salvant. Catalyst has performed on numerous television and radio broadcasts for Detroit Public Television, American Public Media's Performance Today, and Chicago, Houston, Seattle and Vermont local stations. The ensemble has been featured in The Strad, Strings Magazine, and BachTRack.com.

Founded by the Sphinx Organization, the Catalyst Quartet combines a serious commitment to diversity and education with a passion for contemporary works. In 2016 the Quartet completed their sixth national tour as principal players and featured ensemble with the Sphinx Virtuosi. Catalyst Quartet members serve as principal faculty at the Sphinx Performance Academy at The Cleveland Institute of Music and Curtis Institute of Music.

The Catalyst Quartet is a Sphinx ensemble and proudly endorses Pirastro strings. www.pirastro.com. Additional information with links to audio and video performances can be found on the homepage: www.catalystquartet.com

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PRELIMINARY JURY

SERENA CANIN Violinist Serena Canin was born into a family of professional musicians in New York City. An accomplished chamber musician, Ms. Canin was twice invited to the Marlboro Music Festival and has toured the United States with Music From Marlboro, the Brandenburg Ensemble, and Goliard Concerts. In New York, she has made frequent appearances on the Continuum Series at Alice Tully Hall and at the Mannes Beethoven Institute. Ms. Canin has taught chamber music to young musicians at the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and the Chamber Music Center of New York. She holds degrees from Swarthmore College and the Juilliard School, where her principal teachers were Burton Kaplan and Robert Mann. She lives in Manhattan with her husband, pianist Thomas Sauer, and their two sons.

DANIEL CHING Daniel Ching, a founding member of the Miró Quartet, began his violin studies at the age of 3 under tutelage of his father. At age 5, he entered the San Francisco Conservatory Preparatory Division on a full twelve-year scholarship, where he studied violin with Serban Rusu and Zaven Melikian, and chamber music with Susan Bates. At the age of 10, Daniel was first introduced to string quartets.A graduate of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, Daniel studied violin with Kathleen Winkler, Roland and Almita Vamos, and conducting with Robert Spano and Peter Jaffe. He completed his Masters degree at the Cleveland Institute of Music, where he studied with former Cleveland Quartet violinist Donald Weilerstein. He also studied recording engineering and production with Thomas Knab of Telarc, and subsequently engineered the Miró Quartet's first promotional disc. Daniel is on faculty at the Sarah and Ernest Butler School of Music at the University of Texas at Austin, where he teaches private violin students and coaches chamber music. He concurrently maintains an active international touring schedule as a member of the Miró Quartet.

Daniel is a discerning connoisseur of all things cinematic and electronic. Before he became a busy parent, Daniel was an avid skier and a dedicated reader of science fiction—he looks forward to returning to those passions, some day. In his free time, Daniel enjoys hosting happy hours with friends and lounging at home with his wife Sandy, their two sons, and two cats.

SUSAN BATES Susan Bates, violist and champion of chamber music education holds the 1992 award for "Excellence in Chamber Music Training" from Chamber Music America, and has instructed violists and chamber musicians in the Pre-College of San Francisco Conservatory of Music since 1982, guiding many in the art form of chamber music who are now pursuing careers as professionals as well as playing chamber music "for the love of it".

Ms. Bates' career includes the creation and direction of several chamber music education programs for highly talented musical youth: San Francisco Conservatory of Music Pre College Chamber Music Program (1983-2000), California Summer Music (1996-2000), and Lake Tahoe Music Festival Academy with the Miró Quartet (2000-2006). In 2008, Ms. Bates founded the award-winning chamber music training program for advanced pre college string players and pianists Young Chamber Musicians (2008-present) that resides at Kohl Mansion, Burlingame and works in collaboration with the Peninsula's premier presenting series, Music at Kohl Mansion.

RICHARD BELCHER New Zealand cellist, has performed as a chamber musician and soloist across the United States, and internationally. Based in New York City, he is a founding member of the Grammy-nominated Enso String Quartet, with regular tours and performances in many of the major concert halls, including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and the Library of Congress. Richard is also principal cellist of the River Oaks Chamber Orchestra (ROCO), and has appeared at many festivals, including St Bart's, Festival d'Aix en Provence, Prussia Cove, Madeline Island, Campos do Jordao International Winter Festival, SummerFest La Jolla, and the San Miguel de Allende International Chamber Music Festival.

Active in both period music and contemporary repertoire, Richard has taken part in many live and prerecorded radio and internet broadcasts, in the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom. Richard enjoys teaching, and has served as Adjunct Faculty at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music and Boston University's Tanglewood Institute, and is currently on the faculty of the Adult Chamber Music Camp at the Interlochen Arts Academy.

Richard moved to the United States in 1998 to study with Aldo Parisot at Yale University, and it was there in 1999 that he co-founded the Enso String Quartet, with violinist and fellow student Maureen Nelson. His other principal teachers include Norman Fischer, Marc Johnson, and Alexander Ivashkin.

Richard plays an N.F Vuillaume cello made in 1856, and is married to the violinist Cece Belcher.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

"To do Anything well requires the free use of a very clear image in the mind" ~ Genevieve Stebbins

Dear friends of chamber music,

The word of the day is "clarity". In this era of viral pandemic clarity of thought and a creative mind become exponentially important as we strive to provide solutions to serious real world problems. Music is an excellent medium for mindful thinking and creativity. The young performers today will prove that!

Today we live in a fearful world in need of hope. We are required to distance ourselves physically (at least) at a time when we all want to come together. Chamber music by nature is the very antithesis of "social" or "physical" distancing, so we come together this afternoon to listen to wonderful music performed thoughtfully by bright and aspiring young people.

The Saint Paul String Quartet Competition strives to bring people together to celebrate beauty in the intimate environs of chamber music broadcast to the world. The Final Rounds of the Competition feature the best prepared and perhaps the most dedicated high school age string quartets currently in the country. These six superb young groups will be performing some of the most beautiful music ever composed.

The distinguished **Catalyst Quartet** will listen to each group and then score each performance with detailed written comments in the following categories: *Tone Quality, Intonation, Ensemble & Balance, and Musical Ideas.*

The 2020 SPSQC begins with Joseph Haydn string quartet movements followed by 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 test for our esteemed jury as they strive to rank the young quartets fairly and objectively.

Prepare to hear some of the most intimate and profound music ever written performed by musicians old enough to have begun mastering their instruments, and still young enough to play it fresh.

Ray Sloan
Artaria String Quartet

Founded in 2006 as a performance forum for outstanding high school chamber musicians, the Saint Paul String Quartet Competition's primary mission is to celebrate excellence in string quartet playing, foster an increased appreciation for the chamber music art form, and enhance the music culture in this country.

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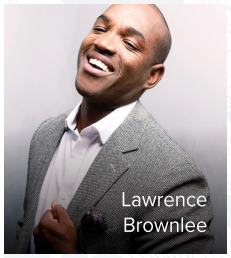

Lawrence Brownlee, *tenor*
Sun, Oct 4, 2020 • 3:00 PM
Tue, Oct 6, 2020 • 7:30 PM
Concert Hall

Midori, *violin*
Tue, Nov 10, 2020 • 7:30 PM
Music Theater

Jamie Barton, *mezzo soprano*
Jake Heggie, *piano*
Sun, Feb 7, 2021 • 3:00 PM
Tue, Feb 9, 2021 • 7:30 PM
Concert Hall

Schubert Revealed
David Finckel, *cello*
& **Wu Han**, *piano*
Thu, Mar 4, 2021 • 7:30 PM
Sat, Mar 6, 2021 • 10:30 AM
Concert Hall

Beatrice Rana, *piano*
Thu, Apr 15, 2021 • 7:30 PM
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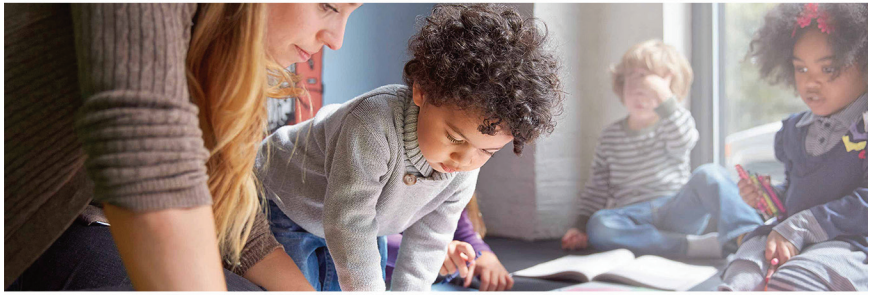

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2020 SPSQC

The Awards

1st Prize - $1000 Gold Medal Award
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Parts and Scores to Beethoven String Quartets Opp. 59, 74, 95

2nd Prize - $800 Silver Medal Award
Parts and Scores to Mozart's 10 Celebrated String Quartets
Sponsored by TCF Financial Corporation

3rd Prize - $600 Bronze Medal Award
Parts and Scores to Mendelssohn's Op.12/13 String Quartets
Sponsored by the James & Perry Leger Family

Joseph Haydn Prize - $400
Parts and Scores to Haydn's Op.76 String Quartets
Sponsored by John Waddle Violins

2019 SPSQC Finalists

HAYDN PROGRAM

1:00pm Welcome from Master of Ceremonies
Performances begin at 1:05pm

▼ MARQUIS STRING QUARTET ▼
Quartet in D major, Op.76 No.5 - IV. Finale: Presto

▼ QUARTET LUCCIOLA ▼
Quartet in D major, Op.76 No.5 - IV. Finale: Presto

▼ ARDENTE STRING QUARTET ▼
Quartet in B-flat major, Op. 76 No.4 "Sunrise" - I. Allegro con spirito

▼ THE RADER QUARTET ▼
Quartet in G major Op. 76 No.1 - I. Allegro con spirito

▼ HELIOS STRING QUARTET ▼
Quartet in D minor Op. 76 No.2, I: Allegro

▼ MERIDIEM QUARTET ▼
Quartet in B-flat major, Op. 76 No.4 "Sunrise" - I. Allegro con spirito

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

2020 SPSQC

FINAL PROGRAM

2:00pm Welcome from Master of Ceremonies

MARQUIS STRING QUARTET ▶▶▶▶

Mendlessohn: Quartet in f minor Op.80 - I. Allegro vivace assai
Ginastera: Quartet No.1, Op.20 - I. Allegro violento

◀◀◀◀ QUARTET LUCCIOLA

Mendelssohn: Quartet in a minor Op.13 - I. Adagio - Allegro vivace
Bartók: Quartet No.4 - V. Allegro molto

ARDENTE STRING QUARTET ▶▶▶▶

Mendlessohn: Quartet in f minor Op.80 - I. Allegro vivace assai
Shostakovich: Quartet No. 9 in E-flat major, Op. 117 - V. Allegro

BREAK (5 mins)

◀◀◀◀ THE RADER QUARTET

Mendlessohn: Quartet in D major, Op. 44/1 - I. Molto allegro vivace
Ginastera: Quartet No.1, Op.20 - I. Allegro violento

HELIOS STRING QUARTET ▶▶▶▶

Nielson: Quartet No. 1 in g minor Op. 13 - III: Scherzo- Allegro molto
Prokofiev: Quartet No. 2 in F major Op. 92 - I. Allegro

◀◀◀◀ MERIDIEM QUARTET

Brahms: Quartet No. 2 in a minor, Op. 51/2 - I. Allegro non troppo
Prokofiev: Quartet No. 2 in F major Op. 92 - I. Allegro

Jury recommends Final Round Prizewinners
Audience Prize votes tallied
All Awards Presented

Year 15

MARQUIS STRING QUARTET

Cecilia Martin, violin (Bexley, OH)
Kenneth Bechtel, violin (Hilliard, OH)
Jacob Liu, viola (Columbus, OH)
Eric Spain, cello (Worthington, OH)

The Marquis String Quartet is honored to coach with a team of associated faculty at the Chamber Music Connection (CMC) in Worthington, Ohio under the mentorship of Artistic Director, Deborah Price. The quartet comprises violinists Cecilia Martin and Kenneth Bechtel, violist Jacob Liu, and cellist Eric Spain. The Marquis has enjoyed delving deeply into repertoire while participating in regional and national competitions. They recently received Honorable Mention at the 2020 Midwest National Chamber Music Competition, First Prize at the 2020 Ohio String Teachers Association Chamber Music Competition, and participated as semi-finalists in the 2020 Coltman National Chamber Music Competition in Austin, TX. Looking forward, the Marquis Quartet has advanced into the quarter-finals of The Fischoff International Chamber Music Competition, and are thrilled to be in the final six of the St. Paul String Quartet National Competition. The group enjoys expressing their imagination and emotions by creating a story to go along with the repertoire they are preparing. The Marquis Quartet has participated in masterclasses with Peter Salaff, Alicia Hui, Ames Piano Quartet, Cavani, Calidore, Dover, St. Lawrence, KASA and Callisto String Quartets. The name "Marquis" was inspired by the generosity of the Loft Violin Shop who donated four Marquise bows to CMC to share amongst their students. "Marquis" is also a nobleman's title in some European countries meaning "future of value". Under the direction of Debbie Price, the group hopes to continue to grow as people, musicians, and friends.

Competition Repertoire:

Quartet in D major, Op.76 No.5 - IV. Finale: Presto
Mendlessohn: Quartet in f minor Op.80 - I. Allegro vivace assai
Ginastera: Quartet No.1, Op.20 - I. Allegro violento

Cecilia Martin, 16, has studied violin for 8 years with Columbus Symphony violinist Tatiana Hanna. In January 2019 she joined the Starling program at the University of Cincinnati where she studies with Kurt Sassmanshaus. Cecilia currently serves as co-concertmaster of the Columbus Symphony Youth Orchestra where she performed as a soloist in 2019. Cecilia joined the Chamber Music Connection in 2017 and has participated in chamber music masterclasses and unique chamber music workshops as part of the program. This summer, she plans to study at the Bowdoin International Music Festival and has previously studied at Meadowmount School of Music (Ann Setzer '19, Sally Thomas '18), IU Summer Strings Academy (Gregory Kalinovsky '16 & '17), and Interlochen Arts Camp (Ara Sarkissian '15). Cecilia has participated in solo master classes with Vadim Gluzman, Augustin Hadelich, Rachel Barton Pine, Elizabeth Chang, and Joanna Frankel. In February of 2020, Cecilia won 1st place in Columbus Symphony Orchestra Young Musicians Competition. She lives in Bexley, OH and attends Laurel Springs School.

Kenneth Bechtel, 16, has studied violin for 10 years and is currently studying with violinist Jonquil Thoms of the Columbus Symphony. Kenneth participated in the Columbus Symphony Youth Orchestra program since 2014 and joined the Chamber Music Connection (CMC) in Fall 2019. At CMC, Kenneth has participated in many chamber music masterclasses, residencies, and unique chamber music workshops. He has also played in the South Central regional Orchestra (2017-2019) and attended the Bowling Green Summer Strings program. This summer, Kenneth plans to attend the Credo Summer Festival. In addition to playing violin, Kenneth has achieved a black belt in Taekwondo and competes nationally. Kenneth lives in Hilliard, OH, attending Hilliard Darby High School as a sophomore where he is a member of his school orchestra under the direction of John Riegel.

Jacob Liu, 16, is a high school senior at Columbus Academy. He has studied viola for 8 years with Columbus Symphony violist Kenichiro Matsuda. He was a member of the Columbus Symphony Youth Orchestra (2017-2018) and served as the principal violist for the Ohio Music Education Association's South Central Regional Orchestra (2018). Jacob joined the Chamber Music Connection (CMC) in the Fall of 2019 where he has participated in many chamber music masterclasses and unique chamber music workshops. Jacob has also participated in the Ohio All-State Orchestra in 2018 and was awarded runner-up in the Worthington Young Musicians Music Club Competition. Jacob is a senior at Columbus Academy where he is the principal viola of his school orchestra under the direction of David Wong. When not playing the viola, Jacob enjoys basketball, tennis, and mathematics. He lives in Worthington, Ohio and will be attending Duke University this fall to study computer science and economics.

Eric Spain, 16, began studying cello the summer before starting kindergarten. He currently studies with Jane VanVoorhis and Wendy Morton. Eric is a member of the New Albany Symphony Orchestra, where he is one of four student musicians. He is the current assistant principal of the Columbus Symphony Youth Orchestra, and has participated in OMEA Regional Orchestra the past three years. Eric is a fellowship student at the Chamber Music Connection (CMC), which he joined at age 10. At CMC, he has participated in many masterclasses and side-by-side residencies with renowned quartets and guest artists including Peter Salaff, Ames Piano Quartet, Cavani, Calidore, KASA, St. Lawrence, and Dover String Quartets. Eric has also performed in solo masterclasses for Pablo Ferrandez, Mark Kosower, David Ying, Guy Johnston, Peter Stumpf, Erik Kim, Regina Mushabac and Kyle Price. Eric has participated in the Baldwin Wallace Summer Institute (2019), The Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, where he was accepted as a member of the Faculty Orchestra and the Advanced Chamber Orchestra (2018), and the Otterbein Summer Experience (2018). Eric will be attending Cincinnati Young Artists Cello Precollege this summer. Recently, Eric received First Prize (solo) in the Worthington Music Club (2020), and Honorable Mention in the New Albany Concerto Competition (2020). He has performed in multiple side by side concerts with the Columbus Symphony Orchestra, ProMusica Chamber Orchestra, and Chamber Music Connection. Eric attends Thomas Worthington High School where he is a member of his school orchestra under the direction of Julie Ellis. Aside from cello, Eric is a captain for his club and high school soccer teams and also enjoys baking. As part of the Marquis String Quartet, he is looking forward to participating in The Fischoff International Chamber Music Competition and the St. Paul String Quartet National Competition.

QUARTET LUCCIOLA

Liam Diethrich, violin (Higland Park, IL)
Veronika Rokicki, violin (Arlington Heights, IL)
Bella Kim, viola (Buffalo Grove, IL)
Trudie Childs, cello (St. Charles, IL)

Quartet Lucciola is a group from Midwest Young Artists Conservatory coached by Robert Bassill and Allan Dennis. Quartet Lucciola was the winner of Midwest National Chamber Music Competition and received 2nd prize from the ENKOR competition. Quartet Lucciola has performed in masterclasses with the Cavani Quartet, Mathias Tacke from Vermeer Quartet, the Avalon Quartet, and Robert Hanford, concertmaster of the Lyric Opera of Chicago.

Competition Repertoire:

Quartet in D major, Op.76 No.5 - IV. Finale: Presto
Mendelssohn: Quartet in a minor Op.13 - I. Adagio - Allegro vivace
Bartók: Quartet No.4 - V. Allegro molto

Liam Diethrich is a senior at Highland Park High School. He currently studies violin with Almita Vamos and Davis King, and is Concertmaster of Midwest Young Artists Conservatory's Symphony Orchestra. In addition to violin, Liam is also a music composer. He performed an original composition on ABC's Windy City Live, and also performed live on WGN Radio's Steve Cochran Show. Liam has won numerous awards for both violin and composition, including the Walgreens National Concerto Competition overall, strings category, and early music category. In composition, he recently won awards in five categories in the Illinois Music Educators Association Student Composition Contest, and has received national and international honors from ASCAP, Nafme, MTNA, and the Ravel Association. Many of Liam's compositions have been performed live, including by the Kankakee Symphony Orchestra and Quintet Attacca. In 2019, he attended the Curtis Institute summerfest for composition where he studied with David Ludwig, Dimitri Tymoczko, and Jonathan Bailey Holland, and NYU film/media scoring workshops taught by top industry professionals Michael Levine, Tom Salta, and Mark Snow. As a violinist, Liam has performed in masterclasses with Rachel Barton-Pine and the CSO's Stephanie Jeong.

Veronica Rokicki, 17, is a junior at John Hersey High School and is currently in Midwest Young Artists Conservatory Symphony orchestra and additionally serves as associate concertmaster of the District 214 Honors orchestra and concertmaster of John Hersey High School Symphony orchestra. In her three years of the District 214 honors orchestra, Veronica is a two-time finalist in the District 214 honors orchestra concerto competition. Veronica has also been a featured soloist with the Hershey High School symphony and chamber orchestras. Veronica has been selected for the ILMEA all-state honors orchestra at the IMEC conference in Peoria.

Bella Kim, 17, is a junior at Adlai E. Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire, Illinois and currently studies viola with Desirée Ruhstrat. Bella is the principal violist in the Midwest Young Artists Conservatory's symphony orchestra. Along with being featured in the spotlight program with the Chicago Philharmonic, she was the recent winner of the early music category of Walgreens National concerto competition and has received honors from Society of American Musicians competition, CSO Crain-Maling competition and ENKOR competition. Bella attended Curtis Institute 2019 summerfest where she was principal under Paul Bryan and a concerto competition finalist. She has performed in masterclasses with Roberto Díaz, Shmuel Ashkenasi, and Youming Chen from the CSO. Bella is also involved in music at her school, where she is in Tri-M music honors society and serves as an executive Strings Board member. In her free time, Bella enjoys sculpting, reading about biology and binge-watching Disney movies.

Trudie Childs is 18 years old and a senior at St. Charles East High School. She has been studying the cello since age 10 and is a private student of Larry Glazier (Tenured Member, Grant Park Symphony Orchestra). Trudie spent 7 years as a member of the Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra (EYSO) and its chamber music institute including a season with Maud Powell String Quartet and is a two-time winner of EYSO's Young Artist Concerto Competition. She is currently a member of the Midwest Young Artists Conservatory (MYAC) Symphony Orchestra and intensive chamber music program where she studies, performs and competes as a member of Quartet Lucciola. An ILMEA participant at the district level (District 9) since 6th grade, Trudie has also performed twice in the All-State Honors Orchestra at the IMEC conference in Peoria. Trudie has played in masterclasses with John Sharp (Chicago Symphony Orchestra), Carter Brey (Curtis Institute), Thomas Mesa (Manhattan School of Music) and Stephen Balderson (DePaul University). She is a section leader in her high school's Chamber Orchestra, and enjoys singing and performing with her sisters as The Catalpa Trio. Trudie is pursuing a career in cello performance..

ARDENTE STRING QUARTET

Ella Saputra, violin (Schaumberg, IL)
Ruth Kim, violin (Vernon Hills, IL)
Julie Kim, viola (Buffalo Grove, IL)
Haoming Song, cello (Lincolnshire, IL)

The Ardente String Quartet is part of Midwest Young Artists Conservatory's intensive chamber music program in Highwood, IL. All members are also part of Midwest Young Artists Symphony Orchestra. The quartet is coached by Dr. Allan Dennis and Robert Bassill, and consists of Ella Saputra (15) and Ruth Kim (15) on violin, Julie Kim (15) on viola, and Haoming Song (16) on cello. Ella, Ruth, and Julie are students of Desirée Ruhstrat, and Haoming is a student of Hans Jørgen Jensen. Ruth, Julie, and Haoming go to Adlai E. Stevenson High School, while Ella goes to J.B. Conant High School.

Competition Repertoire:
Haydn: Quartet in B-flat major, Op. 76 No.4 "Sunrise" - I. Allegro con spirito
Mendlessohn: Quartet in f minor Op.80 - I. Allegro vivace assai
Shostakovich: Quartet No. 9 in E-flat major, Op. 117 - V. Allegro

Ella Saputra began her musical studies at the age of four on violin and later added viola as her second instrument. She has received multiple prizes and awards from Sejong Music Competition, Music Festival in Honor of Confucius, the Society of American Musicians, Walgreens Concerto Competition, as well as DePaul Concerto Festival for Young Performers. Ella is also a fellow of Chicago Musical Pathways Initiative, a program dedicated to the development of young musicians of under-represented ethnic groups in classical music. Ella made her solo orchestral debut in violin with the Midwest Young Artists Conservatory (MYAC) Concert Orchestra as the overall winner of 2017 Walgreens Concerto Competition (MYAC Junior Division). In March 2018, she made her solo orchestral debut in viola with the Oistrakh Symphony of Chicago as one of the winners of the junior division of DePaul Concerto Festival for Young Performers. Most recently, Ella performed as a soloist with MYAC Symphony Orchestra as the overall winner of 2019 Walgreens Concerto Competition (MYAC Senior Division). Ella has attended HeifetzPEG and Philadelphia International Music Festival where she has worked with Bela Horvath, Kimberly Fisher, and Marc Rovetti, among others. She has also been selected to perform in a masterclass with international soloist Adele Anthony.

Ruth Kim is a freshman at Adlai E. Stevenson High School and has studied violin since age 3. She currently studies under the tutelage of Desiree Ruhstrat. Additionally, she has been a winner of many competitions such as: Walgreens National Concerto Competition, Society of American Musicians Competition, Music Festival in Honor of Confucius, Sejong Cultural Society, Depaul Concerto Festival, and many more. She has also performed as a soloist with MYAC's Concert Orchestra. Besides violin Ruth likes being with friends, studying in the field of veterinary medicine, and cuddling with her dog Chocopie.

Julie Kim, 15, is a freshman at Adlai E. Stevenson High School. She currently studies viola with Desireé Ruhstrat and is a member of the Midwest Young Artists Conservatory symphony orchestra. Outside of music, she plays field hockey and is involved in Catalyst.

Haoming Song, 16, is a junior that goes to Adlai E. Stevenson High School. He has been playing the cello for approximately 8½ years, and currently studies with professor Hans Jørgen Jensen at Northwestern University. He has remained an orchestra member of Midwest Young Artists Conservatory, and is currently the principal cellist of its Symphony Orchestra. His past achievements include receiving First Prize in the senior division of the 2020 Society of American Musicians competition. He also served principal cellist of the Honors Orchestra in the 2020 Illinois Music Education Conference. Haoming has also participated in the DePaul Concerto Competition, Walgreens National Concerto Competition, and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra young artists competition, receiving honorable mentions for each.

THE RADER QUARTET

Theo Brockhorst, violin (Richmond Heights, MO)
Ethan Mayer, violin (St. Louis, MO)
Jacob Sheldon, viola (St. Louis, MO)
Alec Cho, cello (Chesterfield, MO)

The Rader Quartet was formed in the summer of 2018 by the Preparatory Program of the Community Music School of Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri. It is also co-sponsored by the Chamber Music Society of St. Louis and an anonymous donor. The members include violinists Theo Bockhorst, age 18, Ethan Mayer, age 18, violist Jacob Sheldon, age 18, and cellist Alex Cho, age 17, who are all members of the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra and have won numerous prizes and awards as soloists with community and regional orchestras. They are coached by Kurt Baldwin of the Arianna String Quartet, Chris Tantillo, a violist in the St. Louis Symphony, and the Preparatory Program's Artistic Director Vera Parkin. Since forming, they have given performances at the Sheldon Concert Hall as part of their professional concert series, performed with conductor Leonard Slatkin, played gigs, and bonded over a lot of runs to Raising Cane's. Last year, the Rader String Quartet was awarded Second place and the Haydn prize at the 2019 St. Paul String Quartet Competition as well as reaching the Semi-finals of the Fischoff National Chamber Music Competition.

Competition Repertoire:
Quartet in G major Op. 76 No.1 - I. Allegro con spirito
Mendlessohn: Quartet in D major, Op. 44/1 - I. Molto allegro vivace
Ginastera: Quartet No.1, Op.20 - I. Allegro violento

Theo Bockhorst, 18, is from St. Louis, MO, where he began his study of the violin at the age of 4. Currently the co-concertmaster of the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra, he is in his fifth year with the ensemble. In addition to the Youth Orchestra, he received the concertmaster position in his third year with the Missouri All-State Orchestra. His participation in the Preparatory Program at the Community Music School has allowed him the opportunities to attend prestigious competitions such as the Fischoff National Chamber Music Competition, and the St. Paul National String Quartet Competition, where his quartet won Second Prize in addition to the Best Haydn Award in 2019. As soloist, he has won nearly every St. Louis area concerto competition, performing with a total of eight local and community orchestras, including a performance with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra in front of an audience of over ten thousand. Recently, he advanced to the final round of the MTNA Senior String Division after winning the State and Divisional rounds of the competition. He is a current student of Joo Kim of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, and a senior at Clayton High School.

Ethan Mayer, 18, is a St. Louis Missouri native and began playing the violin at the age of 6. He is currently a Senior at Clayton High School in Clayton, Missouri. Ethan is a member of both the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra and the The Community Music School Preparatory Program for Chamber Music. In addition, he played with the Missouri All State Orchestra for two years. In 2017 he was the winner of the Belleville Philharmonic Concerto Competition. In May of 2018, Ethan was invited to play a solo with with St. Louis Symphony Orchestra. In 2018 he was the winner of the St. Louis Philharmonic Concerto Competition. He has attended Center Stage Strings at the University of Michigan, Meadowmount School of Music, and the Aspen Music Festival and School. He currently studies with Joo Kim of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra.

Alex Cho, a Senior at Marquette High School, has been studying the cello for 9 years. He began studying the cello with Yun-Yang Lin when he lived in Connecticut, and since moving to St. Louis in 2012, he has been learning from Dr. Catherine Lehr. Alex has participated in several Orchestras over the past few, but most notably, he has served as the Co-Principal Cellist of the STL Youth Symphony. Besides his orchestral accomplishments, Alex has been featured as a soloist with the Belleville, UMSL, and a combination of the Missouri Baptist and St. Charles Orchestras. Alex has also participated in the Preparatory Program at Webster University Community Music School(Director, Ms. Vera Parkins) since 2014. For the past two years, Alex served as the cellist of the Rader Quartet which placed second at the St. Paul String Quartet Competition in 2019, and reached the semi-finals of the International Fischoff Competition.

Jacob Sheldon, 18, is currently a senior at Ladue Horton Watkins High School in St. Louis. He started playing the violin at the age of nine but switched to the viola the following year due to the fact that "the violin E string gave him a headache." He has played the viola ever since and is currently studying with Joanna Mendoza, the violist of the Arianna String Quartet. For the past few years, Jacob has participated in the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra, the Missouri All-State orchestra, and Webster Community Music School's Preparatory Program. He was selected as one of the winners of the Stars of Tomorrow Concerto Competition and soloed with the Belleville Philharmonic. Jacob is currently scheduled to perform the Walton Viola Concerto with the University City Symphony Orchestra this summer. In the fall, he will be going to school in Philadelphia at the University of Pennsylvania

HELIOS STRING QUARTET

Steven Lu, violin (Plano, TX)
Gabriel Fedak, violin (Irving, TX)
Drew Goodwin, viola (McKinney, TX)
Faith Choi, cello (Plano, TX)

The Helios String Quartet was formed in the fall of 2019 and is comprised of Steven Lu and Gabriel Fedak, violin; Drew Goodwin, viola; and Faith Choi, cello. All four students are members of the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra under the direction of Richard Giangiulio. The quartet is coached by Diane Kitzman.

The quartet members have individually attended festivals including Interlochen Arts Camp, Montecito International Music Festival, Aspen Music Festival, Encore Chamber Music Festival, and have received masterclasses from Lynn Harrell, Maxim Vengerov, Martin Beaver, and Ralph Fielding. The quartet's members have competed in various competitions, including the Juanita Miller Concerto Competition, American Protege Concerto Competition, and the Lynn Harrell Concerto Competition. Furthermore, they are members of the TMEA All-State orchestra and performed at the centennial convention this past February.

Competition Repertoire:

Haydn: Quartet in D minor Op. 76 No.2, I: Allegro
Nielson: Quartet No. 1 in g minor Op. 13 - III: Scherzo- Allegro molto
Prokofiev: Quartet No. 2 in F major Op. 92 - I. Allegro

Steven Lu (14) is a 14-year-old violinist from Plano, Texas. He began studying violin at the age of five and has since performed as a soloist in various prestigious concert halls around the world. He made his Carnegie Hall debut at just 13 years old playing the Second Grieg Violin Sonata and the Second Wieniawski Violin Concerto. Steven is the 2017 and 2020 first prize winner of the Collin County Young Artists Competition and the 2019 second prize winner of the American Protege Concerto Competition. He has been the masterclass student of world-renowned musicians such as the first violinist of Tokyo String Quartet, Martin Beaver, and former Dallas Symphony Concertmaster, Diane Kitzman. He has also been part of the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra as one of the youngest string players in the highest group. He is currently serving as the co-first violinist of the Helios String Quartet. Steven currently studies with Charles Krigbaum and Diane Kitzman.

Gabriel Fedak (17) started playing the violin at the age of 7. Gabriel is currently a junior at Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. Since a young age, he has been an active member in orchestral programs, such as the UNT Summer Strings Institute, the UTA Summer Strings Camp, and the Interlochen Arts Camp, where he was Concertmaster of the World Youth Symphony Orchestra during the summer of 2019. In 2019, he was a finalist for the Lynn Harrell Concerto Competition, and in 2020, Gabriel won third prize at the Juanita Miller Concerto Competition. He was invited to perform with the National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America in their 2020 tour across North America. Gabriel currently studies with Alexander Kerr and Alexandra Adkins.

Drew Goodwin (18) is a senior at McKinney Boyd High School in McKinney, Texas. He has studied with Emily Burak, and currently studies under Ron Houston. Drew has received significant orchestral experience, playing with the Odysseus Chamber Orchestra, the Odysseus Youth Orchestra, and the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra. In addition to lessons, Drew has participated in masterclasses with prominent viola pedagogues such as Kathryn Steely, Catherine Forbes, Peter Chun, and Susan Dubois. Drew will continue to pursue viola and music in college next year while studying electrical engineering and business administration.

Faith Choi (17) is a junior at The Hockaday School in Dallas, TX. Born in Los Angeles, she moved to Texas where she began playing piano and cello at the age of 10. She made her Carnegie Hall debut at 12 years old and has been a member of the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra since the 5th grade. In 2017, she was invited to the Montecito International Music Festival, where she was selected to participate in a masterclass with Lynn Harrell. In the summer of 2019, she was given a full scholarship to be a member of the Carnegie Mellon University Millenium Orchestra. Her cello sonata was the Senior Texas state winner of the 2019-2020 MTNA Composition Competition and received an honorable mention in the South Central Division of the MTNA Composition Competition. She currently studies under Ko Iwasaki.

MERIDIEM QUARTET

Saren Daghlian, violin (Altadena, CA)
Isabella Hayden, violin (Los Angeles, CA)
Albert Zhou, viola (South Pasadena, CA)
Tatum Hodgson, cello (Sierra Madre, CA)

The Meridiem Quartet, comprised of violinists Saren Daghlian and Isabella Hayden, violist Albert Zhou, and cellist Tatum Hodgson, was formed in Fall 2018 at the Pasadena Conservatory of Music in Pasadena, California. They are coached by Andrew Cook and Aimée Kreston and have also received instruction from Andrew Picken, Rowena Hammill, Sharon Harman, Patrick Rosalez, and the Girsky Quartet. In 2019, Meridiem was awarded the Bronze Medal in the PCM National Chamber Music Competition. The ensemble's name is derived from the Latin word for "glow."

<u>Competition Repertoire</u>:
Haydn: Quartet in B-flat major, Op. 76 No.4 "Sunrise" - I. Allegro con spirito
Brahms: Quartet No. 2 in a minor, Op. 51/2 - I. Allegro non troppo
Prokofiev: Quartet No. 2 in F major Op. 92 - I. Allegro

Saren Daghlian (16) is a homeschooled senior in high school. Saren studies with Sharon Harman at the Pasadena Conservatory of Music, where he actively participates in many music programs. Saren has earned many prizes at numerous competitions and many positions in youth orchestras such as the first prize at the MTAC VOCE State Competition in 2018, the Edward A. Pfeiffer award for most promising talent at the MTAC String Festival in 2018, first place at the VOCE Pasadena Branch for four consecutive years; first place at the Armenian Allied Arts Association for two consecutive years (in both chamber music and solo violin): concertmaster positions in the String Orchestra, Symphony, and Philharmonic orchestras in the Pasadena Youth Symphony Orchestras (PYSO); first place at the Satori Competition for two years; bronze medal at the PCM National Chamber Music Competition; and the PCM Honors Recital as a top scoring student. In 2019, Saren won the PYSO Philharmonic concerto competition and performed with the orchestra in their December concert. Additionally, Saren enjoys taking part in chamber music with his siblings in a trio along with being part of his church worship orchestra. He also enjoys performing in other concert venues such as retirement homes and touring with his youth orchestra in many countries such as Costa Rica. Apart from his musical studies, Saren volunteers in a biology laboratory in USC's medical campus where he studies the role of lymphatics in brain tumor metastasis. During his spare time, Saren likes to play chess.

Isabella Hayden (16) picked up the violin at the age of seven, having fallen in love with Vivaldi's Four Seasons at the age of 4. She is a violinist in the Meridiem Quartet, which won the bronze medal at the 2019 Pasadena Conservatory of Music Chamber Music Competition. She has won the concerto competition of the Colburn String Orchestra twice and has been invited to be part of WE ARE LIKE MUSIC's projects, which included premiering a solo work, premiering orchestral works, and a unique project in which a musical staff was placed onto the largest fish tank at the Aquarium of the Pacific, transforming the fish into (ever moving) notes. Isabella also attended Interlochen Arts Camp in the summer of 2019, performing in the World Youth Symphony Orchestra. She has played under the batons of James Conlon, JoAnn Falletta, Cristian Măcelaru, Jung-Ho Pak, Mei-Ann Chen, and Maxim Eshkenazy, and she has studied chamber music under Andrew Cook, Andrew Picken, and Ron Patterson. Isabella is currently part of The Crossroads School's Elizabeth Mandel Music Institute, under the leadership of Alexander Treger. Isabella studies violin with Aimée Kreston. Her previous teachers were Leslie Katz and Monique Nardone.

Albert Zhou (18) began studying the violin at age 5 and currently studies with Aimée Kreston. He was assigned to play viola in a chamber music intensive and found that he enjoyed it as much if not even more, prompting him to begin studying the viola with Andrew Picken. Albert attended Interlochen Arts Camp where he was a violist in the World Youth Symphony Orchestra (WYSO) in the summers of 2018 and 2019, serving as principal and assistant principal on multiple concerts. At Interlochen, Albert was also a participant in the Advanced String Quartet program. He has had the opportunity to work with Movses Pogossian, Paul Coletti, Eric Nowlin, Yizhak Schotten, and Michael Ouzounian. An avid chamber musician, Albert was a member of the Canto Quartet which advanced to the semi-final round of the PCM Chamber Music Competition in 2017 and is currently a member of the Meridiem Quartet, bronze medalist of the 2019 PCM Chamber Music Competition. Albert is the recipient of a merit scholarship from the Pasadena Conservatory of Music and plays on a viola on generous loan from Ann Horton.

Tatum Hodgson (18) is a working freelance musician in LA. She held the principal cello position in the Claremont Young Musicians Orchestra (CYMO) for two years and currently plays for American Youth Symphony, a pre-professional orchestra based at UCLA. She won CYMO's 2019 concerto competition and performed Tchaikovsky's Rococo Variations with orchestra on their final 30th anniversary concert. The previous summer, she won the baroque concerto competition held at Indiana University, and performed with orchestra on the final gala. She has performed twice with orchestra in Walt Disney Concert Hall. She is a member of two chamber groups through the Pasadena Conservatory of Music and the Colburn School's Ed and Mari Edelman Chamber Music Institute. She has won first place in competitions such as the ASTA Solo Recital Competition, MTAC's VOCE competition, and the Satori Strings Competition, among others. She has attended music programs all over the U.S. and as far as Switzerland such as Interlochen National Arts Camp, Montecito International Music Festival, Credo Summer Chamber Music Festival, Indiana University Summer String Academy, and Borromeo Chamber Music Festival on full merit scholarships. She is a registered Suzuki cello teacher for Pre-Twinkle through book three. She was selected to perform in masterclasses under various esteemed artists such as Nathan Vickery, Brandon Vamos, and Amir Eldan, and was invited to play for Amit Peled at the SAA National Conference. Tatum currently studies with Tanya Carey.