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2023  
SPSQC  
Saint Paul String Quartet Competition

Year  
18

April 29, 2023

SENIOR DIVISION

~ Final Rounds ~

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2023  
**SPSQC**

#### Final Round Jury

#### **Calidore String Quartet**

Jeffrey Myers, violin  
Ryan Meehan, violin  
Jeremy Berry, viola  
Estelle Choi, 'cello

*The Calidore String Quartet's  
participation today is made  
possible by MacPhail Center  
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#### Selection Jury

Kyu-young Kim, violin Daedalus Quartet  
Laurie Carney, violin American String Quartet  
Elizabeth Oakes, viola Maia Quartet  
Karl Lavine, 'cello Kepler Quartet

#### Artistic Director

Ray Shows  
Artaria String Quartet

#### Master of Ceremonies

Alison Young

#### Production Assistants

Artaria String Quartet  
Nancy Oliveros  
Patty Ryan  
Annalee Wolf

Rebecca Hall, BRIJ Quartet

**Year  
18**

*The 2023 Saint Paul String Quartet Competition is  
grateful to the generous individual and corporate sponsors  
that have made this event possible.*

*Thank you to Hamline University and Sundin Music Hall Director Silvester  
Vivic for supporting the SPSQC for 18 years!*

**CALIDORE STRING QUARTET** Performances of the Calidore String Quartet are renowned for their “deep reserves of virtuosity and irrepressible dramatic instinct” (New York Times). Their unique “balance of intellect and expression” (Los Angeles Times) is complemented by the feeling that “four more individual musicians are unimaginable, yet these speak, breathe, think and feel as one” (Washington Post). After over a decade of performances and residencies in the world’s most esteemed venues and festivals, the release of numerous critically acclaimed recordings and lauded with significant awards, the Calidore String Quartet is recognized as one of the world’s foremost interpreters of a vast repertoire; from the cycles of quartets by Beethoven and Mendelssohn to works of celebrated contemporary voices like Grygory Kurtag, Jörg Widmann and Caroline Shaw.

In their most ambitious recording project to date, the Calidore are amidst recording the complete cycle of Beethoven’s String Quartets for Signum Records. The recording will involve multiple releases beginning in March 2023. The 22-23 season includes debuts in the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Prague, Madrid, Vancouver and Key West. Their concert activities also see returns to Wigmore Hall, Kennedy Center, Copenhagen, Florence, Montreal, St. Paul, Houston and Los Angeles. In September 2022, the Calidore performs at Carnegie Hall with violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter, in a memorial concert honoring the late composer Andre Previn. They also enjoy collaborations this season with the Emerson Quartet, clarinetist Anthony McGill, bassist Xavier Foley, violist Matthew Lipman, harpist Bridget Kibbey and pianists Ivo Kahane and Sophiko Simisive.

Recipient of a 2018 Avery Fisher Career Grant and a 2017 Lincoln Center Emerging Artist Award, the Calidore String Quartet first made international headlines as winner of the \$100,000 Grand Prize of the 2016 M-Prize International Chamber Music Competition. The quartet was the first and only North American ensemble to win the Borletti-Buitoni Trust Fellowship, was a BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artist, and is currently in residence with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center.

Highlights of recent seasons have included performances in major venues throughout North America, Europe, and Asia including Carnegie Hall, Wigmore Hall, the Kennedy Center, Konzerthaus Berlin, Brussels’s BOZAR, Cologne Philharmonie, Seoul’s Kumho Art Hall, and at significant festivals including the BBC Proms, Verbier, Ravinia, Mostly Mozart, Music@Menlo, Rheingau, East Neuk, and Festspiele Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

The Calidore has given world premieres of works by Caroline Shaw, Hannah Lash and Mark-Anthony Turnage among others. Its collaborations with esteemed artists and ensembles include Jean-Yves Thibaudet, Marc-André Hamelin, Joshua Bell, David Shifrin, Inon Barnatan, Lawrence Power, Sharon Isbin, David Finckel and Wu Han. The Calidore has collaborated and studied closely with the Emerson Quartet and Quatuor Ébène, and has also studied with Andre Roy, Arnold Steinhardt, Günter Pichler, Guillaume Sutre, Paul Coletti, and Ronald Leonard.

As a passionate supporter of music education, the Calidore String Quartet is committed to mentoring and educating young musicians, students, and audiences. In 2021 the Calidore joined the faculty of the University of Delaware School of Music and serve as directors of the newly established Graduate String Quartet Residency. Formerly, they served as artist-in-residence at the University of Toronto, University of Michigan and Stony Brook University.

The Calidore String Quartet was founded at the Colburn School in Los Angeles in 2010. Within two years, the quartet won grand prizes in virtually all the major US chamber music competitions, including the Fischhoff, Coleman, Chesapeake, and Yellow Springs competitions, and it captured top prizes at the 2012 ARD International Music Competition in Munich and the International Chamber Music Competition Hamburg. An amalgamation of “California” and “doré” (French for “golden”), the ensemble’s name represents its reverence for the diversity of culture and the strong support it received from its original home: Los Angeles, California, the “golden state.”

## SELECTION JURY

**KYU-YOUNG KIM** Artistic Director and Principal Violin of The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Kyu-Young Kim is one of the most versatile and accomplished musicians of his generation. His appointment as the SPCO’s Artistic Director in January 2016 marks the first time a playing member has been tapped to take the artistic helm of a major American orchestra. Previously, Kim served as Director of Artistic Planning with the SPCO while continuing to perform in the orchestra. Since assuming his dual role in 2013, the SPCO has named many new Artistic Partners, opened its new Concert Hall at the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts to great critical acclaim, toured throughout the U.S. and to Europe, and won a Grammy Award in 2018 for its disc of Schubert’s Death and the Maiden with violinist Patricia Kopatchinskaja. Kim has also toured throughout the world as a founding member of the Daedalus Quartet with whom he won the Grand Prize at the 2001 Banff International String Quartet Competition and was a member of Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center’s Chamber Music Two Program. As a former member of the Pacifica String Quartet, Mr. Kim won the prestigious Naumburg Chamber Music Award. He has appeared as soloist with the Korea Broadcasting System (KBS) Symphony Orchestra, The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Amadeus Chamber Orchestra of Poland and the Bloomington Symphony Orchestra. He has served as guest concertmaster of the Pittsburgh Symphony, the Minnesota Orchestra, and the Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra, and is an Emeritus Member of the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra. Kim is on the violin faculty of the University of Minnesota School of Music and has done guest master classes in violin and chamber music throughout the United States and Canada.



**LAURIE CARNEY** A founding member of the American String Quartet, Laurie Carney comes from a prodigious musical family. Her father was a trumpeter and educator, her mother a pianist, and her three siblings all violinists. She began her studies at home and at the age of 8 became the youngest violinist ever to be admitted to the Preparatory Division of the Juilliard School. At 15 she was the youngest to be accepted into Juilliard’s College Division. Ms. Carney studied with Dorothy DeLay and received both BM and MM degrees from Juilliard. She has shared the stage with many of the world’s leading artists, including Isaac Stern, Yefim Bronfman, Pinchas Zukerman, and Frederica von Stade, and been featured in Mozart’s Sinfonia Concertante with the Bournemouth Symphony and the Basque (Spain) Symphony Orchestra. Ms. Carney frequently performs duo recitals with Guarneri Quartet violist Michael Tree. She was featured in the New York premiere of Giampaolo Bracali’s Fantasia.



A member of the Manhattan School of Music faculty and the faculty of Aspen Music School, she has held teaching positions at the Mannes College of Music, Peabody Conservatory, the University of Nebraska, and the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University. Her frequent master classes have taken her to California, Colorado, Indiana, Michigan, and New Mexico. Ms. Carney performs the duo repertoire with her husband, cellist William Grubb. Her nonprofessional interests include animal rights and environmental concerns. Her violin is by Carlo Tononi (Venice, 1720).



**ELIZABETH OAKES**, violist, is an active chamber musician, chamber music coach and performer. A dedicated teacher, Ms. Oakes currently runs the Chamber Music Residency Program at the University of Iowa and serves as the director of the University of Iowa String Quartet Residency Program (UISQRP). For twenty-two years, Ms. Oakes was the violist of the Maia Quartet and as a member of the Quartet, she performed throughout the United States, Asia, Canada, and Europe and concertized in major venues including Alice Tully Hall, Merkin Hall, the 92nd Street Y and Washington DC's Kennedy Center. Ms. Oakes has taught at numerous summer music festivals including the Interlochen Advanced String



Quartet Program, the Great Wall International Music Academy in Beijing, China and the Rocky Mountain Summer Conservatory in Steamboat Springs, Colorado and she currently directs the Green Lake Festival of Music Chamber Music Institute.

Ms. Oakes programming and interdisciplinary interests have led her to coordinate and program many large-scale projects. In 1997, Ms. Oakes co-founded and then subsequently served for nine years as a co-artistic director of the Foothills Music Festival in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. In her current role as the director of UISQRP, Ms. Oakes has created multi-dimensional artist-residencies with artists from across the US and abroad, including the Brentano Quartet, JACK, the Cavani Quartet, the Parker Quartet, the Elias Quartet, the Dalí Quartet, the Harlem Quartet, the Jupiter Quartet, the Jasper Quartet, the Pacifica Quartet, the Miró Quartet and the Castalian Quartet. She has been the recipient of numerous grants from major granting organizations, such as Chamber Music America, the Iowa Arts Council, Humanities Iowa, the University of Iowa's Ida Cordelia Beam Distinguished Professorship Program and the John and Anna Hanes Foundation.

Ms. Oakes has received repeated recognition for her work at the University of Iowa. In 2016, she was awarded the Dean's Distinguished Lecturer award in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and in 2022-21, she was awarded the President & Provost Award for Teaching Excellence. Most recently, she was awarded the Distinguished Professor of Instruction upon her promotion to full professor and will oversee the newly formed Dunn Graduate String Quartet at the University of Iowa School of Music.

**KARL LAVINE** is Principal cellist for the Madison Symphony Orchestra and the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra. As a member of the Madison Symphony Orchestra's Heartstrings Quartet Program, Karl performs in many special needs communities throughout the Madison area. Karl appears regularly at John and Rose Mary Harbison's Token Creek Festival in Wisconsin. He has held faculty positions at Luther College, Illinois Wesleyan University and UW Whitewater. As a past member of the Milwaukee based contemporary music ensemble, Present Music, Karl has recorded compositions with the ensemble as well as solo repertoire. He is also a member of the Kepler Quartet, a string quartet which resulted from performances of works of American composer Ben Johnston. With the help of generous grants from the Aaron Copland Recording Foundation and support from New World Records, the Kepler Quartet has recently finished recording the complete string quartets of Ben Johnston under the New World Records label.





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## A MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER

**"Perfection is not attainable, but  
if we chase perfection we can  
catch excellence. .."**

**~ Vince Lombardi,  
American sports leader**

Dear friends of chamber music,

I am always impressed with quality leadership no matter what field it resides in. Leadership takes time, effort, and patience to achieve positive results. In music leadership manifests as excellence in preparation, and honesty in performance. In chamber music, that can be expressed in terms of a collaborative sharing of ideas and a willingness to step up together in a concerted process. In string quartet parlance leadership is achieved only through PRACTICE: *Performances, Rehearsals, Accountability to colleagues, Communication of ideas, Time-Management, Individual preparation, Collaboration 11 ways, and Enjoyment.*

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 the most dedicated college string quartets currently in the country. These four superb college age quartets will share with us today some of the most beautiful music ever composed.

Today's jury is the excellent **Calidore String 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 2023 event begins with a compulsory work by Chinese-Canadian composer Kevin Lau, and closes with a self curated 30 minute program from each finalist quartet. The individual and ensemble skill and level of preparation will emerge for these aspiring ensembles. It will also be a challenge for our esteemed jury as they search for today's prizewinners.

Artaria String Quartet

*Founded in 2006, the SPSQC is a unique national showcase event for outstanding young string quartets. Its primary mission is to celebrate excellence in string quartet performance, foster increased awareness and participation in the chamber music art form, and enhance chamber music culture and appreciation.*

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Artaria String Quartet



### The Awards

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**1st Prize - \$2000 Gold Medal Award**

**2nd Prize - \$1600 Silver Medal Award**

**BIPOC Prize - \$800**

**Audience Prize - \$400**



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**THE SAINT PAUL STRING QUARTET COMPETITION!**

**SPSQC**



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Described as a “self-assured voice” (Barczablog) with a “masterful control over his idiom” (Classical Music Sentinel), **Kevin Lau** has established himself as one of Canada's leading young composers. Awarded the 2017 Victor Martyn Lynn-Staunton Award by the Canada Council for Outstanding Achievement, Kevin's music has been commissioned and performed by ensembles across North America, including the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, National Arts Centre Orchestra, Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, Niagara Symphony Orchestra, Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra, Tampa Bay Symphony Orchestra, Ensemble Made in Canada, Octagon, Piano Six, the Hannaford Street Silver Band, TorQ, and the Houston-based River Oaks Chamber Orchestra. Recent collaborators on new works include violinist Jonathan Crow, clarinetist Yao Guang Zhai, cellist Rachel Mercer, violinist Scott St. John, erhu soloist Andy Lin, oboist Charles Hamann, and oboist Caitlin Broms-Jacobs. In 2021 he will serve as Composer in Residence for the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra.



In 2016 Kevin composed the score for the National Ballet of Canada's original full-length ballet *Le Petit Prince*, featuring choreography by NBOC Principal Dancer and Choreographic Associate Guillaume Cote. His second ballet score, *Dark Angels*, was commissioned by the National Arts Centre Orchestra for its *Encount3rs* project in 2017, and was described as riveting (Ottawa Citizen) and extraordinarily accomplished (Artsfile). His most recent large-scale work, an opera-film hybrid (*Bound*) commissioned by Against the Grain Theatre and recorded by the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, was hailed by the Globe and Mail as “a brilliant creation.”

Kevin's discography includes two JUNO award-winning albums: “Detach” (Redshift) featuring harpist Angela Schwarzkopf, and “Mosaïque” featuring Ensemble Made in Canada. Other albums include “Solo Seven” (ATMA Classique) featuring violinist Marc Djokic, which won Best Album at the 2020 East Coast Music Awards; the JUNO-nominated “Spin Cycle” (Centrediscs, featuring the Afiara Quartet and DJ Scratch Bastid); “Encount3rs” (Analekta) featuring NACO; “The Sounds of Our Time” (Naxos) featuring cellist Rachel Mercer, and Premieres (Cambria Records) featuring violinist Conrad Chow.

In addition to composing concert music, Kevin is also active as a film composer, arranger, and pianist. He has written the scores to over a dozen films, including Ben Shirinian's *Lulu* (which won Best International Short Film at the 2020 Milan International Film Festival) and Charles Officer's acclaimed feature documentary *Invisible Essence: The Little Prince* (2018), and has created arrangements for artists such as singer-songwriters Sarah Slean, Dan Mangan, and Suzie McNeil; composer Christos Hatzis; and groups such as the Art of Time Ensemble. He has performed many of his own works and collaborates frequently with artists such as Scott St. John (violin), Lynn Kuo (violin), and Victor Cheng (piano).

Born in Hong Kong, Kevin moved to Toronto at the age of 7. In 2012 he received his doctorate in music composition from the University of Toronto under the supervision of Christos Hatzis, and has guest-lectured at UofT for the past six years. He served as Composer in Residence for the Mississauga Symphony Orchestra (2010-12), the Banff Centre (2012), and was artistic director of the Sneak Peek Orchestra (with conductor and co-founder Victor Cheng) until 2014. He was the youngest composer to be appointed RBC Affiliate Composer for the Toronto Symphony Orchestra (2012-15), and was composer in residence of the Niagara Symphony Orchestra from 2018-19.

Upcoming projects include *The Spirit Horse Returns*, an orchestral children's concert about the origins of the Ojibwe Horse for the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra (featuring Anishinaabe storyteller Jodi Contin and Metis-Ojibwe artist Rhonda Snow); and *Kimiko's Pearl*, a multi-disciplinary collaboration about the internment of Japanese Canadians during WWII, featuring chamber ensemble, sound design, and dancers from the Royal Winnipeg Ballet.

## BIPOC ROUND

1 1:00am Introduction by  
Master of Ceremonies

Performances begin at 1 1:05pm

▼ POIESIS QUARTET ▼

▼ FORST STRING QUARTET ▼

▼ TURQUOISE QUARTET ▼

▼ LORA QUARTET ▼

String Quartet No.3 - II. Winds of Change  
*Composer: Kevin Lau*

“ My Third String Quartet represents a broad attempt to weave some of my cherished musical influences into a coherent whole. In an effort to explore the roots of my musical identity, I have tried to find common ground among a diverse array of perspectives. The first movement, “Gliding,” follows an arch-like structure in which a lyrical melody, part Far East folk song and part Renaissance chorale, bookends a middle section inspired by the driving rhythms of progressive heavy metal. These disparate elements are united by an ever-shifting ground of odd meters; and with it, a sense of free-flowing spontaneity and abandon.

The second movement, “Winds of Change,” is based on an earlier work of mine that I have adapted many times for different ensembles. In this version, the theme -- a buoyant, minor-key dance in 6/8 -- competes with wry quotations from Christian Petzold's famous Minuet in G against the backdrop of an aggressive drone suggestive of world-music-inflected electronica. At times these references collide uneasily, threatening to blow apart the entire discourse; ultimately, however, the movement is a celebration of the joyous urgency which lies beneath the surface of all music-making. ” ~KL

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

# FINAL ROUND

12:30pm

Alison Young - Master of Ceremonies



## ▲POIESIS QUARTET▼

BRAHMS: String Quartet No.3 in Bb Major, Op.67  
I. Vivace II. Andante

C.T. PERKINSON: String Quartet No. 1 "Calvary"  
I. Allegro II. Adagio III. Rondo - Allegro Vivace



## ▲FORST STRING QUARTET▼

GABRIELA LENA FRANK: Leyendas  
4. Chasqui 6. Coqueteos

DEBUSSY: String Quartet in g minor, Op.10  
1. Animé et très décidé

3. Andantino, doucement expressif  
4. Très modéré - En animant peu à peu - Très mouvementé et avec passion



## ▲TURQUOISE QUARTET▼

CAROLINE SHAW: Entracte

MENDELSSOHN: String Quartet in f minor, Op.80  
I. Allegro vivace assai III. Adagio



## ▲LORA QUARTET▼

DVORÁK: String Quartet in Ab Major, Op.105, B.193  
I. Adagio ma non troppo - Allegro appassionato  
III. Lento e molto cantabile

HAYDN: String Quartet in D Major, Op.20, No.4  
I. Allegro di molto IV. Presto scherzando



# POIESIS QUARTET



**Max Ball, violin (Markham, Ontario)**  
**Sarah Ma, violin (Greenville, SC)**  
**Jasper de Boor, viola (Dripping Springs, TX)**  
**Drew Dansby, cello (Garland, TX)**

The Poiesis Quartet was founded in Oberlin, OH during Oberlin Conservatory's Advanced String Quartet program. In January 2023, the quartet completed an international tour in Uruguay with artistic residencies in Punta del Diablo and Punta del Este's premiere concert series, "Conciertos del Este". Performances included the world premiere of Alejandro Melo's composition "Elegy" which was dedicated to the quartet. This year, they were selected as finalists in the St. Paul String Quartet Competition and quarterfinalists in the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition and are the recipients of Fischhoff's Lift Every Voice Prize. They are also grateful to have performed in masterclasses with Sandy Yamamoto of the Miró Quartet, Jinjoo Cho, and Matt Albert. The Poiesis Quartet is primarily coached by Sibbi Bernhardtsson of the Pacifica Quartet and is additionally mentored by the Verona Quartet and Kirsten Docter of the Cavani Quartet.

Comprised of violinists Sarah Ma and Max Ball, cellist Drew Dansby, and violist Jasper de Boor, members of the Poiesis Quartet have attended programs such as Kneisel Hall, the Perlman Music Program, Verbier Festival, Aspen Music Festival, and Madeline Island Chamber Music's Fellowship program. In addition to quartet, Sarah and Drew are also completing Bachelor's degrees in American Studies and Chemistry (respectively), Jasper is double majoring in violin and viola performance with a minor in baroque violin, and Max is pursuing a minor in jazz studies. When not playing chamber music, Poiesis loves to learn new languages on Duolingo, share delicious ice cream cakes, and take long walks on the beach.

The name Poiesis is derived from the ancient Greek word  $\tau\omicron\iota\epsilon\iota\varsigma$ , which means "to make". Heidegger refers to poiesis as a 'bringing-forth', the "blooming of the blossom, the coming-out of a butterfly from a cocoon, the plummeting of a waterfall when the snow begins to melt". The Quartet strives to replicate the notion of poiesis in our art-making.

## Competition Repertoire:

**BRAHMS: String Quartet No.3 in Bb Major, Op.67**  
**C.T. PERKINSON: String Quartet No. 1, "Calvary"**

Hailed as a "tantalizing glimpse of potential future greatness" (Epoch Times), violinist **Sarah Ma** is currently pursuing a double-degree (B.M./B.A.) at Oberlin College and Conservatory with Prof. Sibbi Bernhardtsson after transferring from B.M. studies at The Juilliard School, where she studied with Donald Weilerstein and Li Lin, as well as with Masao Kawasaki in the Juilliard Pre-College Division. She has performed internationally with Ensemble 212, the Washington Heights Chamber Orchestra, New York Concerti Sinfonietta, the Accademia D'Archi Arrigoni, and more. Sarah was featured in Show 393 on NPR's "From the Top" and was a winner of the 2021 National YoungArts Competition. She has attended the Heifetz International Music Institute and was the Dorothy Richard Starling fellow at Aspen Music Festival for several summers as a student of Robert Lipsett, Donald Weilerstein, and Paul Kantor. As a laureate of the 2019 Cooper International Competition, Sarah was sponsored by Florian Leonhard Fine Violins and the Anthony Quinn Foundation and performed on an 1828 Vuillaume. She is also grateful to have worked with Almita Vamos, Shmuel Ashkenasi, Robert Levin, Aaron Rosand, Sarah Chang, and Ray Chen, among others. As a chamber musician, Sarah was a fellow at the 2022 Kneisel Hall Chamber Music Festival and participated in Oberlin's Advanced String Quartet Program. Her chamber group, the Poiesis Quartet, recently completed artistic residencies abroad in Uruguay, and were selected to compete in the 2023 St Paul String Quartet Competition and Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition. Sarah is the recipient of the Oberlin Conservatory Dean's Scholarship, the John F. Oberlin Scholarship, and is a 2023 Benjamin A. Gilman Scholar as selected by the U.S. Department of State.

**Max Ball** (he/him) is a violinist in his third year at Oberlin Conservatory, studying with Sibbi Bernhardtsson. He has a particular passion for chamber music, putting together a number of recitals, and attending summer programs such as the BUTI String Quartet Intensive, Encore Chamber Music Institute, and Madeline Island Fellowship Program. He is a member of the Poiesis Quartet, which has completed a number of international artistic residencies in Uruguay, and will be competing in the St. Paul String Quartet Competition and Fischhoff Competition in the spring of 2023. Alongside classical music, he is also pursuing a minor in jazz studies, studying under Gerald Cannon and Jay Ashby, and joining several ensembles at Oberlin. A particular highlight is the PI (performance and improvisation) ensemble, in which players across all departments of the conservatory join forces with guest artists from around the world, playing many varied styles of music.

**Jasper de Boor** is finishing their 4th year at Oberlin conservatory studying violin and viola with David Bowlin and Kirsten Docter. Aside from their two majors, they love to sight read music, play baroque violin, piano and sleep.

**Drew Dansby** (he/him/his), 22, is a third-year double-degree student at Oberlin College, studying cello under Darrett Adkins and majoring in chemistry. Drew is a cellist in the Poiesis Quartet at Oberlin, which will compete in the St. Paul String Quartet Competition and the Fischhoff Competition in 2023, and the Charlotte Piano Trio, which has performed 13 concerts across North Carolina. Drew was an acting section cellist in the Charlotte Symphony for the 2021-22 season. He is a National YoungArts winner and gold medalist in the Cleveland Cello Society competition. Drew was a member of the National Youth Orchestra of the USA for three summers, including as a violinist in 2018 and as principal cellist in 2019, and he was the first member in the history of the orchestra to be accepted on two instruments. This past summer, he performed in the Verbier Festival Orchestra in Verbier, Switzerland and will return to play in the VFO in 2023. Drew was the founder and director of the 2022 Myers Park Summer Series, a free series of 8 innovative chamber music concerts in Charlotte fundraising for local mutual aid groups featuring 19 musicians from North Carolina.

# FORST STRING QUARTET



**Brian Zhan, violin (Charlotte, NC)**  
**Joel Kang, violin (South Korea)**  
**Sanford Whatley, viola (Tenafly, NJ)**  
**Sarah Chong, cello (Cupertino, CA)**

The Forst String Quartet is a newly formed quartet with violinists Joel Kang and Brian Zhan, cellist Sarah Chong, and violist Sanford Whatley. Formed at the Bienen School of Music at Northwestern University, they receive coachings from Mathias Tacke, Desirée Ruhstrat, and the Dover Quartet.

**Competition Repertoire:**  
**DEBUSSY: String Quartet in g minor, Op.10**  
**GABRIELA LENA FRANK: Leyendas**

**Brian Zhan**, 21, is currently a third-year dual degree student at Northwestern studying economics and violin performance with Professor Gerardo Ribeiro. Most recently, Brian has served as the concertmaster of the Northwestern University Chamber Orchestra. Brian has previously attended music festivals such as the Eastern Music Festival, the Meadowmount School of Music, the Heifetz International Music Festival, and the New York String Orchestra Seminar. He has appeared in masterclasses with renowned faculty such as Paul Kantor, Miriam Fried and Ani Kavafian. He previously studied with Ara Gregorian at the East Carolina University

Violinist **Joel Kang** has appeared on many stages around Southern California as a soloist and an orchestral player, such as the Herbert Zipper Hall and the Alex Theatre in Glendale. He began his violin studies at the age of five and since had many solo performance opportunities through orchestras and competitions. On top of performing solo for audiences, he was previously the concertmaster of the Colburn Youth Orchestra and the Southern California Youth Philharmonic. Joel has won numerous competitions including the Southern California Junior Bach Festival, California ASTA competition, and the Young Muse International Competition, where he performed at Carnegie Hall. Most recently, he won the Colburn Community School of Performing Arts Concerto Competition where he performed the Wieniawski 2nd Violin Concerto with the Colburn Youth Orchestra. In previous summers, Joel has studied with Gerardo Ribeiro at Meadowmount, Danielle Belen and Simon James at Center Stage Strings, and attended the Vivace Music Festival. He has performed in masterclasses for Midori, Miriam Fried, Ara Gregorian, Jennifer Fraustchi, and Fabiola Kim. Joel currently studies with Professor Gerardo Ribeiro at Northwestern University, where he is pursuing a dual degree in Violin Performance and Math. He has previously studied with Margaret Batjer at the Colburn Academy.

**Sanford Whatley** started music from the age of three where he studied violin and piano at the JCC Thurnauer. Throughout his youth, he would go to many summer music camps including Kinhaven, Bowdoin International Festival, Green Mountain Chamber Festival, NYO USA, and Greenwood. Sanford would go on to form the HaWK Piano Trio with close friends cellist Jonah Kernis and pianist Yunus Hakkaci as apart of the Chamber Music Center of New York and eventually the New York Youth Symphony chamber music program. They would compete in various competitions including semi-finalists in 2019 Fischhoff's Junior Division and finalists in the 2020 Coltman Chamber Music Competition. In his sophomore year of high school, he picked up viola and started attending Juilliard Pre-college as a viola and violin student of Elizabeth Chang. Currently, Sanford is a sophomore studying at Northwestern University pursuing dual degrees in viola performance with Professor Helen Callus, and computer science.

**Sarah Chong**, age 21, has been playing the cello since age 9 under Jihee Kim. She currently attends the Bienen School of Music at Northwestern University and studies under Professor Hans Jorgen Jensen. In 2019, Sarah was awarded the first prize of the MTNA CA state division and alternate winner at the regional division. In 2019, she performed with the Prometheus Symphony Orchestra as the Felix Khuner Concerto Competition winner. Sarah was a semifinalist in the 2022 Klein Competition as well as an alternate semifinalist of the 2023 Fischhoff Competition with her quartet, the Forst String Quartet. Sarah performed in a masterclass taught by Professor Thomas Landschoot and also played chamber music for the Dover Quartet, the Pacifica Quartet, and the Gryphon Piano Trio. She currently sits as principal cellist in the Northwestern University Chamber Orchestra. Sarah spent her summers continuing her musical studies with Professor Jensen at the Meadowmount School of Music in the summers of 2014, 2015, 2021 and 2022, as well as with Professors Richard Aaron and Darrett Adkins at the Aspen Music Festival and School in the summers of 2017 and 2019. With the Primrose Quartet, Sarah made her European debut in 2021 playing works by Debussy in Simorre, France with the Musique Dans le Gers Festival.



# TURQUOISE QUARTET



**Hayoung Choi, violin (Daejeon, S. Korea)**  
**Katrina Stroud, violin (Austin, TX)**  
**Carlos Walker, viola (St Petersburg, FL)**  
**Juliana Moroz, cello (Winnipeg, Manitoba)**

Hailed for their “gleaming sensitivity,” The Turquoise Quartet was founded at The Robert McDuffie Center For Strings, Mercer University where they are all recipients of the McDuffie Center Presidential Fellowship. They founded the quartet in celebration of their friendship, love of boba tea, and their commitment to the joy of string quartet playing. The Quartet has had the opportunity to work closely with distinguished artists including Donald Weilerstein, Lawrence Dutton, Annie Fullard, and Peter Oundjian. Members of the quartet represent four nationalities, and have attended prestigious summer festivals as fellowship students including Domaine Forget, Encore Chamber Music String Quartet Intensive, Aspen Music Festival, Center Stage Strings, Innsbruck Festival, and Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival, and have performed internationally at The Rome Chamber Music Festival. They also perform frequently on the renowned Fabian Concert Series at Mercer University, and throughout Georgia. The Quartet chose the name Turquoise to represent the popular gemstone which is said to bring wisdom, tranquility, and hope.

## Competition Repertoire:

**MENDELSSOHN: String Quartet in f minor, Op.80**  
**CAROLINE SHAW: Entrâcte**

**Hayoung Choi** is an award-winning violinist from Daejeon, South Korea. She is 21 years old and in her fourth year of undergraduate studies at the Robert McDuffie Center for Strings of Mercer University. She is a student of distinguished artists Amy Schwartz Moretti, Robert McDuffie, and David Kim. Most recently, Hayoung received the coveted 2023 Dorothy DeLay Fellowship from Aspen Music Festival. In 2022, she was awarded fourth prize at the Irving M. Klein International String Competition. She is a National winner of MTNA Young Artist Competition. And, in 2021, she took top prize for violin in the Hong Kong Gen-Next Arts International String Competition. Performing from an early age, Hayoung has appeared as soloist with Neo-Strings, Sangrok Orchestra, Seoul Symphony Orchestra, Daejeon Philharmonic Orchestra, Macon-Mercer Symphony Orchestra. She has also performed with Amy Schwartz Moretti, Hsin-Yun Huang, Julie Albers, and Elizabeth Pridgen in Fabian Concert Series. She has participated in Erato Ensemble Winter Music Festival in Jeju, QingDao Music Festival in China, Takayama Music Festival in Japan, Innsbruck Institute Summer Festival, Vivace Music Festival, and Aspen Music Festival. Hayoung will make her solo, concerto debut with Aspen Festival Orchestra in 2023 as the 2023 Dorothy Delay Fellow.

**Katrina Stroud** has been playing violin since the age of three and is currently a sophomore at the Robert McDuffie Center for Strings where she is pursuing her Bachelor's degree in Violin Performance with electives in Business. Katrina currently studies with Amy Schwartz Moretti, Robert McDuffie, David Kim, along with chamber coaches Annie Fullard and Lawrence Dutton. Katrina enjoys performing in the Macon-Mercer Symphony Orchestra and has performed under the baton of Peter Oundjian, Peter Bay, Roderick Cox, Jeffrey Turner and Ward Stare. She has performed solo for renowned pedagogues such as Paul Kantor, Miriam Fried, Jan Sloman, and Naoko Tanaka to name a few. Katrina is also an avid chamber musician and has worked with members of the Emerson, Cavani, Tokyo, Cleveland, Calidore, Attacca, and Ariel String Quartets among others. Katrina also engages in community events where she performs at local churches, high schools, and for nearby assisted living homes. Katrina has spent her summers at Texas Strings Festival, Encore Chamber Music String Quartet Intensive and Center Stage Strings, and plans to study with Robert Lipsett this summer at the Aspen Music Festival and attend the Blackburn Fellow program at the Napa Valley Festival. In her free time, Katrina loves to read and enjoy nature.

Canadian cellist **Juliana Moroz** is recognized as a rising young artist in North America. Named to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's 30 under 30 in 2021, Juliana is originally from Winnipeg and a consistent prizewinner in local and provincial music festivals. Juliana is pursuing a Bachelor of Music degree at the Robert McDuffie Center for Strings of Mercer University in Macon, Georgia, where she is in her senior year and a student of distinguished cellists Richard Aaron, Julie Albers, and Leo Singer. Noted performances and awards include her solo debut with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra at age 15, the 2020 winner of the Women's Musical Club's McLellan Competition for solo performance with the Winnipeg Symphony, the 2018 and 2019 winner of the Women's Musical Club of Winnipeg's Scholarship Competition, and the 2017 Aikins Memorial Trophy at the Winnipeg Music Festival, the Festival's highest prize for instrumental performance. Juliana has attended the Aspen Summer Music Festival, Morningside Music Bridge Program, Orford Arts Festival, Rosamunde Summer Festival, and was a participant in the inaugural Josef Gingold Chamber Music Festival in Miami, Florida. An avid chamber musician, Juliana has performed with acclaimed chamber musicians violinist Amy Schwartz-Moretti, pianist Orion Weiss, and violist of the Emerson Quartet, Lawrence Dutton. Her former teachers are Yuri Hooker and Andrea Bell. She loves to play with her family as a member of the JAGD Quartet and baking desserts, especially macarons.

**Carlos Walker**, violist, is currently a junior at The Robert McDuffie Center for Strings where he is the recipient of a McDuffie Center Presidential Fellowship. Carlos began his studies on the violin at the age of ten, and attended high school at The Pinellas County Center for The Arts in St Petersburg Florida. At the age of 17, he discovered his love for viola, playing Barber String Quartet, and subsequently served as principal viola for FMEA All-State Concert Orchestra, as a member of the renowned National Youth Orchestra, and received first prize in the American Viola Society National Collegiate Competition. Carlos made his international debut playing at the Teatro Argentina in Rome, Italy at the Rome Chamber Music Festival. Summer festival's include Encore Chamber Music String Quartet Intensive, Aspen Music Festival as a Fellowship recipient, and will attend the Heifetz International Music Institute in 2023. A passionate chamber musician, Carlos has had the opportunity to work with members of the Cavani String Quartet, Ehnes String Quartet, Donald Weilerstein, Peter Salaff, Ayane Kozasa, and Lawrence Dutton. At the McDuffie Center, he pursues Viola studies with distinguished artists, Rebecca Albers and Victoria Chiang. In his spare time, Carlos enjoys reading and vegan cooking.

# LORA QUARTET



**Alyssa Tong, violin (McKinney, TX)**  
**Matthew Vousé, violin (New York, NY)**  
**Hannah Wendorf, viola (Cottage Grove, WI)**  
**Carter Elmer III, cello (Oklahoma City, OK)**

The Lora Quartet, comprised of members Alyssa Tong and Matthew Vousé (violins), Hannah Wendorf (viola), and Elmer Carter III (cello), was formed in 2022 at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. They are mentored by SFCM's quartet-in-residence, the Telegraph Quartet, and are primarily coached by Telegraph violinist Eric Chin. They have played in masterclasses for the Parker, Miró, Kronos, and Chiaroscuro Quartets, and were invited to participate in the Ralston White Retreat, an intensive chamber music winter term project run by the Telegraph Quartet. Recently, they performed with the Kronos Quartet and Post:ballet as part of the Kronos Project, a collaboration between several San Francisco Bay Area arts organizations, performing multiple pieces from the 50 for the Future Library, which is a rich collection of newly commissioned works for string quartet. They have also worked with Paul Wiancko, Jean-Michel Fonteneau, Sunny Yang, and the Valley Concert Choral. Especially passionate about contemporary music, the quartet has performed works by Clarice Assad, Ken Benshoof, Nicole Lizée, and Joan Jeanrenaud, and has presented traditional and contemporary works for both formal concerts and community outreach. The Lora Quartet drew their name from the wild parrots of San Francisco ("lora" is a Spanish translation of "parrot"). Just like the parrots, the quartet's members came from far away to put down roots in San Francisco, and can often be heard laughing and making music together.

## Competition Repertoire:

**HAYDN: String Quartet in D major, Op.20, No.4**  
**DVORÁK: String Quartet in Ab Major, Op.105, B.193**

**Alyssa Tong** studies violin under Simon James at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. She formerly studied under Nelson Lee of the Jupiter String Quartet at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign School of Music. Alyssa has participated in masterclasses for artists such as Rachel Barton Pine, Ani Kavafian, Laurie Smukler, Zach De Pue, Daniel Hope, and Alexi Kenney. An avid chamber musician, she has performed in chamber masterclasses with Yo-Yo Ma, the Cavani, Parker, Catalyst, JACK and Telegraph Quartets, Mathieu Herzog, and pianist Michael Brown. Her other violin mentors include Paul Kantor, Charles Castleman, and Soovin Kim and she has spent recent summers at Bowdoin International Music Festival, ENCORE Chamber Music, Lyrica Fest and the Castleman Quartet Program. During the pandemic, Alyssa launched the first online summer music festival to great success, providing instruction for over 100 students with faculty from the country's most prestigious music schools. Faculty members Ani Kavafian, Paul Katz, Paul Kantor, Soovin Kim, Ettore Causa, and more praised her work that filled the gap left by the canceled in-person festivals. The festival, the Online Solo Strings Intensive, continued and is on its fifth iteration. She also started an in-person offshoot, which has hosted the Verona and Rolston Quartets, and manages the Young Artist Institute at Chamber Music Northwest. She is passionate about increasing accessibility to classical music, which includes revitalizing the concert stage, providing quality music education to youth, and opening conversations around careers and holistic musicianship.

Hailing from New York, **Matthew Vousé** is a violinist dedicated to upholding the traditions of his field as well as reimagining what it means to be a classical musician in the 21st century. An experienced orchestral, solo, and chamber musician, Vousé has performed in many well established venues across the US, including Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, and the Boston Symphony Hall and has also collaborated with multiple Bay area artists, such as the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra, the Kronos Quartet, and the Telegraph Quartet to name a few. Vousé's mission is to break down the many stigmas and walls associated with "Classical" music, to promote trans-genre collaboration, and to cultivate an inclusive and accessible environment for all. Vousé is currently earning his Bachelor of Music at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, studying with Simon James.

**Hannah Wendorf**, violist, is currently in the third year of her undergraduate studies at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, under the mentorship of Dimitri Murrath. A native of Madison, Wisconsin, she discovered her passion for music through her elementary school strings program and private piano lessons, and later as a member Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestras, participating in both the orchestral and chamber music programs. Her experiences connecting with peers in WYSO, as well as summer programs at Interlochen and Tanglewood, set her heart on pursuing chamber music professionally. Upon moving to San Francisco, Hannah was drawn to the contemporary music scene, and has played in the SFCM New Music Ensemble as well as premiered and recorded pieces by student composers. Also an experienced orchestral musician, she has served as principal violist at the Brevard Music Center and the Boston University Tanglewood Institute, and of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra in the 2019 Stars of Tomorrow concert. In summer study and masterclasses, she has learned from Erika Eckert, Michelle La Course, Jessie Montgomery, the Danish String Quartet, and Andrea Burger of the Notos Quartet. Hannah is especially passionate about connecting music to community and believes that sharing both familiar and contemporary works with diverse audiences is vital to the continued impact of classical music.

**Elmer Carter III** is a first-year masters Cello Performance major at San Francisco Conservatory of Music, studying under the tutelage of Professor Jean-Michel Fonteneau. Elmer received a Bachelor's Degree in Cello Performance from Oklahoma City University, where he served as principal cello of the OCU Symphony Orchestra for three years. Elmer has participated in several competitions, including the Ladies Music Club of Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Community Orchestra Young Artist Competition, and the Delta Symphony Orchestra Young Artist Competition. In addition to his orchestral and solo cello endeavors, Elmer has been involved in various chamber music settings ranging from piano trios to string sextets to cello choirs. Additionally, Elmer has worked with organizations like El Sistema Oklahoma, providing music lessons to at-risk youth. Elmer became a member of the Lora Quartet in August 2022 and enjoys finding different ways to enrich and deepen the sound of the quartet.



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