The Dolphins
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2023-2024 Biography

The Dolphins Quartet intrepidly seeks the confluence of excellence and accessibility.
Our aim is to make chamber music relevant to ever widening audiences of disparate people, and in doing so, preserve and propel the art form, ensuring its healing qualities reach those who most need them and its magical legacy endures for ages to come.
A premier Juilliard string quartet based in New York and formed in Blue Hill, Maine at the 2022 Kneisel Hall Chamber Music Festival, the quartet has performed, taught, and collaborated nationwide. Its members have won top prizes at major national and international competitions, including The Fischoff and Coltman chamber music competitions and have performed across America and Europe. The Dolphins have been frequently featured at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall, performing the Juilliard premiere of Mieczyslaw Weinberg's String Quartet No. 4, Villa-Lobos' String Quartet No. 5, as well as world premieres of numerous contemporary works. The Dolphins work closely with living composers, recently performing John Corigliano's 1995 String Quartet and Daniel Ficarri's 'Lessons from the Neighborhood'. In 2023, the Dolphins presented their first collective composition, 'The Dolphin Miniatures'.

In April, the Dolphins will perform John Adams' string quartet concerto, Absolute Jest, with John Adams conducting the Juilliard orchestra in Lincoln Center's David Geffen Hall. This summer, the Dolphins will perform as Shouse Fellows at the Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival in Michigan, the St Lawrence Quartet Seminar at Stanford University, and Music from Angel Fire in New Mexico.

The Dolphins are fortunate to have studied with Joseph Lin, Joel Krosnick, Laurie Smukler, Natasha Brofsky, Molly Carr, Nick Mann, Fred Sherry, Paul Neubauer, John Corigliano, and the Juilliard String Quartet.

The Dolphins helped launch the 'Music for the Future' educational campaign for Project: Music Heals Us, bringing Juilliard composition curriculums to prisons in California. The Dolphins are proud Juilliard Gluck Community Service Fellows and perform outreach concerts throughout NYC. The Dolphins have served as teaching artists for the CMS Lincoln Center's Meet the Music series as well as Juilliard's Young Peoples Concerts series. In 2024, the Dolphins will visit multiple universities and conservatories as guest artists to perform and work with students on quartets and improvisation.

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Meet the Dolphins

2020 Gold Medal Winner in the Fischoff and the Coltman National Chamber Music Competitions, Luke Henderson is 20 years old, from Raleigh, North Carolina, and currently studies with Li Lin at The Juilliard School. In 2021 Luke won The American Prize in Instrumental Performance and the Grand Prize at the World Classical Music Awards. Throughout high school, Luke was a member of the Chamber Music Intensive Performance Seminar at the New England Conservatory Preparatory School led by Merry Peckham and of the Boston Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, conducted by Benjamin Zander. He has performed internationally in Berlin, Salzburg, Budapest, Pecs, Vienna, Amsterdam, and Jihlava. Luke was awarded the New England Conservatory Eugene Lehrer Chamber Music Award and is featured on National Public Radio's From The Top (Show 392). Luke's musical interests extend beyond European classical repertoire – namely Bluegrass, Jazz, R&B, and South Indian Classical. Luke was featured in the Juilliard Jazz Orchestra during their residency at Dizzy's Club at Jazz at Lincoln Center, performing the music of Duke Ellington. Luke is dedicated to the study and performance of contemporary classical music. In 2023, he was featured in celebration performances for contemporary composers John Corigliano, Samuel Adler, and Reena Esmail.

Visit Luke's Website: LukeHendersonViolin.com

Violinist Isaac Park, age 21, began his studies at the age of five with Sunny Kang, and studied with Li Lin, Wei He, Helen Kim, and Chen Zhao. In 2020, he entered the undergraduate program at The Juilliard School where he is currently a student of Joseph Lin. From 2016-2019, Isaac was a member of the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra. During their 2018-2019 tour, he served as co-concertmaster on their European tour where they played in venues such as the Elbphilharmonie, the Berlin Philharmonie, and the Musikverein. He has enjoyed chamber music from an early age, playing in non-profit groups, the Young Chamber Musicians, and at various festivals. He has attended the Taos School of Music, Kneisel Hall, the Juilliard String Quartet Seminar, and Music from Angelfire. Currently based in New York, he enjoys performing in nursing homes and hospitals as Juilliard Gluck Community Service Fellow.

Visit Isaac's Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/bak.eesak

James has been playing chamber music since he was a young child, his family adding up to a cello quintet. His love for chamber music has only grown since then. James has attended Credo Chamber Music Festival (2016-2018), Castleman Quartet Program (2019), Juilliard Chamberfest (2022-2023), Juilliard String Quartet Seminar (2023), Kneisel Hall (2022-2023), and Music From Angel Fire (2023-2024). James Preucil in his fourth year at the Juilliard School of Music, studies with Professor Samuel Rhodes. James is also dedicated to composition, especially centered around the viola. In July 2021, he performed a solo recital featuring his own 5-movement composition: Sonata no. 1 in C major for solo viola "The Sea". In December 2021, he performed his virtuosic, 12-movement composition "Kalendarmusik for Solo Viola" based off the months of the year. In June 2023 he performed his work Sonata no. 2 in Db major for solo viola "Solitude". In 2023, he collaborated with his quartet to compose and perform the "Dolphin Miniatures" for string quartet. On his senior recital in February 2024, he premiered "Steel Groove" for solo viola and String Quartet no. 1 in F# minor "Grunge". Other than his own compositions, James is passionate about playing new or undiscovered music for viola, especially solo viola. Most recently, he gave the Juilliard premiere of Weinberg Sonata no. 3 for Solo Viola.

Watch James' YouTube Channel: https://youtube.com/@ViolaKing?si=sy9xQrIoIK78fwhp

Ian Maloney is a cellist, composer, and chamber musician studying with Joel Krosnick at The Juilliard School where he is currently pursuing a Master of Music. Ian has appeared on WQXR's Young Artists Showcase, NPR's From the Top, and in music videos with Brooklyn's Project Trio and violinist Joshua Bell. He has performed in master classes for Carter Brey, Philippe Muller, Clive Greensmith, Paul Katz, David Finckel, Bonnie Hampton and Colin Carr. He has earned first prize in numerous music competitions and has appeared as a featured orchestral soloist. In January, Ian performed at GlobalFEST 2023 with the New York Arabic Orchestra at David Geffen Hall. Ian has also attended the Young Artist Chamber Music Programs at Music@Menlo, Kneisel Hall, and Yellow Barn, and was a featured young artist at the 2023 Music from Angel Fire festival.

Watch Ian's YouTube Channel: https://youtube.com/@ianmaloney7702

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2023-2024 Repertoire

Classical

Ludwig van Beethoven	String Quartet No. 1 in F Major, Op. 18 (1801)
Ludwig van Beethoven	String Quartet No. 15 in A minor, Op. 132 (1825)
Joseph Haydn	String Quartet No. 2 in C major, Op. 20 (1772)
Felix Mendelssohn	String Octet in E♭ Major, Op. 20 (1825)
Felix Mendelssohn	String Quartet No. 2 in A minor, Op. 13 (1827)
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	String Quintet in G minor, K.516 (1787)
Franz Schubert	String Quartet No. 15 in G major (1826)

Romantic

Arnold Schoenberg	String Quartet No. 1 in D minor, Op. 7 (1905)

Modern

Gabriel Fauré	String Quartet in E minor, Op. 121 (1924)
Heitor Villa-Lobos	String Quartet No. 5, W.263 (1931)
Mieczyslaw Weinberg	String Quartet No. 4 in E♭ Major, Op. 20 (1945)

Living

Eleanor Alberga	String Quartet No. 2 (1994)
Andy Akiho	LIgNEouS 3, 2.1 (2010)
John Corigliano	String Quartet (1995)
The Dolphins	Dolphin Miniatures (2023)
The Dolphins	Angel Fire Quartet (2024)
Daniel Ficarri	Lessons from the Neighborhood (2023)
James Preucil	String Quartet No.1 in F# minor “Grunge” (2023)
Will Stackpole	String Quartet (2021)

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QUARTET

Sample Program One

Revolution and Renewal

Joseph Haydn: String Quartet in C Major, Op. 20 No. 2
The Dolphins: The Dolphin Miniatures
~intermission~
Mieczyslaw Weinberg: String Quartet in E♭ Major, Op. 20 No. 4

This program features three distinctly unique works, early in each composers quartet writing. They all contain ideas, sounds, and techniques that push the boundaries of what's possible with a string quartet.

The Haydn op 20 string quartets pioneered string quartet polyphony, and redefined the roles of the four instruments in the string quartet. Haydn liberated the low-voices from exclusively bass line writing and introduced thematic development in each of the voices. Op 20 No 2 establishes the four voices as equals, intensifying the drama and revolutionizing counterpoint.

The Dolphin Miniatures is The Dolphins first collective composition. The miniatures were conceived from musical musings on our cherished memories from our time in Blue Hill, Maine - the birthplace of the Dolphins. Some of the movements depict dream-like recollections of natural scenes and feelings. Other offer humorous retellings of important events and stories. All together, the 7-movement work takes the listener into the heart of The Dolphins.

Mieczyslaw Weinberg was a polish composer whose lived experience transformed his musical profile into a haunting, romantic amalgamation of pain and resolve. His 4th quartet transitions from abstract pastoral to grotesque scherzo, to funeral march and desolate expanse. A rarely heard masterpiece.

Sample Program Two

Evocative Epics

Arnold Schoenberg: String Quartet in d minor, No. 1 Op. 7
Franz Schubert: String Quartet in G Major, No. 15 D. 887

The last of Schubert's fifteen quartets, D. 887 is a work of massive proportion, and pushed the genre of string quartet further than ever before. Schubert's expert song writing and romanticism are displayed in full force, resulting in an operatic struggle for resolution. The G Major Quartet reflects a battle between love and pain in Schubert's soul, and his heart seeks revelation in a giant of the quartet literature.

Schoenberg's first quartet takes tonality to the extreme and soars to Beethovenian heights. It is a dramatic tale spun out into one monumental movement, where a small thematic seed is stretched, inverted, and manipulated into one of the most magnificent feats of compositional mastery.

Sample Program Three

Voices of the Soul

Felix Mendelssohn: String Quartet in a minor, No. 2 Op. 13
The Dolphins: Angel Fire Quartet
-intermission-
Gabriel Fauré: String Quartet in e minor, Op. 121

Mendelssohn's 2nd string quartet was written as a response to the death of Ludwig van Beethoven, whom Mendelssohn greatly admired. Throughout the course of the work, Mendelssohn quotes many of Beethoven's works in both obvious and subtle ways, especially his string quartet Opus 132 in the same key. It begins and ends with a hymn-like chorale, making it feel as though Mendelssohn is paying homage to his idol.

The Angel Fire Quartet is a musical retelling of The Dolphins' experiences and adventures at the Music From Angel Fire Festival in New Mexico. The first movement Moonlight Broom is a depiction of the mystical and breathtaking nocturnal New Mexican landscape. Dolphins Van is... self-explanatory. The movement is upbeat to reflect the speed of the open New Mexican highway, but written in an uneven 7-8 meter since the right rear tire had low pressure. Sunset Ladders recounts the memory of when the group climbed a ski slope at sunset. Queen Ida's Potluck and Christmas Cantina follow. A group composition, the piece recounts a pivotal moment in The Dolphins' history.

The last work of the French Composer Gabriel Fauré, was published in 1924, and can be considered his 'intimate, profound farewell to life'. Fauré sought to pioneer French classical music without destroying the traditions he revered. His respect and awe of the Beethoven string quartets almost prevented him for writing a string quartet at all. As he is writing this piece, he had almost completely lost his hearing. This piece represents Fauré's lifelong search for aesthetic equilibrium and in his last musical words he quotes melodies from his youth as he remembers the music of his childhood that first gave him joy.

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Recordings

Ludwig van Beethoven - String Quartet No. 1 in F Major, Op. 18 (1801)

https://youtu.be/wDWHB8tbpz0?si=tgp3vyWg7lpJzJTw

Ludwig van Beethoven - String Quartet No. 15 in A minor, Op. 132 (1825)

https://youtu.be/6xjV2oey7nI?si=Fnc4_zIQ97lL1Kjt

Arnold Schoenberg - String Quartet No. 1 in D minor, Op. 7 (1905)

https://youtu.be/OWfWeBG8Skg?si=5Ce09KucC2rla2DW

Heitor Villa-Lobos - String Quartet No. 5, W.263 (1931)

https://youtu.be/OuGXps98SHs

John Corigliano - String Quartet (1995)

https://youtu.be/nBD1PoYe6Y0

The Dolphins - Dolphin Miniatures (2023)

https://youtu.be/Vu_uYbINdXs?si=ID2YLo6EVvXhvX0G

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