

JUPITER STRING QUARTET

Saturday, October 08, 2022, at 7:30pm Foellinger Great Hall

PROGRAM

JUPITER STRING QUARTET

Nelson Lee, violin Meg Freivogel, violin Liz Freivogel, viola Daniel McDonough, cello

Charles Ives String Quartet No. 1: From the Salvation Army, S. 57

(1874 - 1954)Andante con moto

Allegro

Adagio cantabile Allegro marziale

Eleanor Alberga String Quartet No. 2

(b. 1949)

20-minute intermission

String Quartet in F Minor, Op. 80 Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Allegro vivace assai

Allegro assai Adagio

Finale: Allegro molto

Jupiter String Quartet, the quartet-in-residence at the University of Illinois School of Music, is represented by Jensen Artists, www.jensenartists.com.



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PROGRAM NOTES

In this program, the Jupiter String Quartet bravely takes on some of the most challenging chamber music of the late 19th and early 20th centuries in terms of both traditional and modern harmony. Be prepared for many surprises.

CHARLES IVES

Born October 20, 1984, in Danbury, Connecticut Died May 19, 1954, in New York City, New York String Quartet No. 1: From the Salvation Army, S. 57

Charles Ives firmly implanted Modernism into American music and, by doing so, put America on the international musical map. He was honored by no less composers than Gustav Mahler, Arnold Schoenberg, Henry Cowell, Aaron Copland, and Elliott Carter. His music suffered neglect during his lifetime despite its being championed by such conductors as Lou Harrison, Nicolas Slonimsky, and Bernard Hermann. His early influences were hymn tunes, the music of Stephen Foster, patriotic songs, and his father's marching band in Danbury, Connecticut. To these he added his strong understanding and admiration for Beethoven and Classical form and his highly original concepts of a new tonality, harmony, and rhythm. He studied music at Yale University under Horatio Parker but later turned from Parker's conservative ideas. He served as a church organist in New Haven until 1902 when he created a highly successful and enlightened insurance company. If that seems a strange turn for the man who was to become America's leading composer, there is no end to the unusual twists in Ives' life. He suffered what was called a series of heart attacks, later diagnosed as psychological disturbances, that brought an end to his compositional life in 1927 when he announced to his wife, Harmony

Twitchell, that he could no longer compose because "nothing sounds right." Despite this unfortunate ending to his creativity, such works as his Central Park in the Dark and The Unanswered Question for chamber ensemble, his orchestral suite Three Places in New England, and his Concord Piano Sonata, remain monuments of the repertoire. To this we might add his two string quartets, his four violin sonatas, and his 114 Songs.

lves' String Quartet No. 1, composed between 1898 and 1902, bridges his early period (before 1900) and his middle period (1900–1910). The work greatly reflects his seminal influences of hymn tunes and marching bands, but still hints of things to come.

The first movement, Andante con moto, employs traditional harmony for all four instruments in its lovely opening hymn but soon gives hints of lves' modern language. With those hints comes a growing intensity heightened by lves' use of counterpoint. To this reverently moving movement, he gives a solemn amen.

Traditional tonality continues in the playful second movement, Allegro, but so do suggestions of Ives the Modernist. Playfulness does not negate the complexity of Ives' rich contrapuntal sense. After a strong climax, Ives once again gives a prayerful ending to the movement.

Reverence continues in the third movement, Adagio cantabile, but amidst growing Modernism. In this longest of the four movements, we begin to hear the Ives of a later period when, like Elliott Carter, his music takes on the use of multiple voices occurring at once. (Perhaps we should recall that Ives's father had two marching bands begin at opposite ends of Danbury performing two different works in different keys as they marched toward each other.) Here in his first string quartet, Ives seems to maintain his adherence to hymn tunes in one voice while another suggests a playful irreverence. Despite those warring factions, this movement has a tenderness we don't always associate with Ives.

Modernism seems triumphant in the last movement, Allegro marziale, even though that triumph is haunted by Ives' hallmark play on traditional hymn tunes. Here he teases us by shifting in and out of modernity. We might even ask if he is poking fun at the military with his overstated quavers. If this is not yet the Charles Ives of the Concord Sonata, it still reveals the groundwork for such an inventive piece.

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ELEANOR ALBERGA

Born September 30, 1949, in Kingston, Jamaica String Quartet No. 2

Jamaican-born Eleanor Alberga studied at the Jamaica School of Music and in 1970 won the West Indian Associated Board Scholarship which allowed her to study at the Royal Academy of Music in London where she works as a guest lecturer. She gave up her career as a pianist in 2001 to concentrate as a composer. Her music has been performed world-wide including by the Royal Philharmonic, London Philharmonic, Bournemouth Sinfonietta, London Mozart Players, and the Women's Philharmonic of San Francisco.

She was appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire in 2021 for her services to music. Her numerous compositions include opera, orchestra, piano, vocal, and choral works, as well as three string quartets, the second of which we hear on this program as bravely performed by the Jupiter String Quartet.

Alberga's String Quartet is composed in just one movement, but the musical variety within that movement is extensive. After a brilliant opening, the brilliance continues but with melodic moments that can be most moving. Virtuosic challenges are everywhere in this thrilling work before its final race to a dramatic conclusion. The work seems especially relevant to the inventive musical time in which it was written although traditional tonality still rings within it.

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FELIX MENDELSSOHN

Born February 3, 1809, in Hamburg, Germany Died November 4, 1847, in Leipzig, Germany String Quartet in F Minor, Op. 80

Stand warned, those of you who associate Mendelssohn with the pleasantries of the Wedding March and the Songs Without Words, that the F Minor Quartet is another side of this composer. For it, he put aside his Hegelian belief in music of "moderate affections," and let fly one of the most impassioned and angry statements of certainly his own output and possibly even that of the entire chamber music canon. Generally speaking, Mendelssohn had always used chamber music for his most serious creations, but this, his final statement, is different from all the rest. It

came in 1847 after the death of his beloved sister Fanny at the age of forty-one. Beset with grief, Mendelssohn retreated to Switzerland for the summer and by September had produced the F Minor Quartet.

The work is hurled upon us in the tense opening statement of the first movement, Allegro vivace assai. Like Beethoven, Mendelssohn employed a motto that will return throughout the quartet. The forward motion is interrupted briefly before a development of the main theme which rises in pitch and dynamic. A coda begins quietly but reaches a high level of tension before the movement concludes.

The Allegro assai is a far cry from the gossamered scherzo of Mendelssohn's famous Octet. Here we have the music of despair and anger. Dissonance, syncopated rhythms, and a strange, sad waltz add to the savagery of the movement.

The Adagio is the heart of the elegy. It develops from an opening statement by the cello and first violin to a powerful climax and quiet dénouement.

There is little solace in the final movement, Allegro vivace assai, with its explosions of sound. Sonata form is honored, but it is the emotional content of this movement that is its finest quality.

Mendelssohn subtitled the work "Requiem for Fanny," but it would serve also as his own since he died two months later of a stroke at the age of forty-five.

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PROFILES

JUPITER STRING QUARTET

The Jupiter String Quartet is a particularly intimate group, consisting of violinists Nelson Lee and Meg Freivogel, violist Liz Freivogel (Meg's older sister), and cellist Daniel McDonough (Meg's husband, Liz's brother-in-law). Now enjoying their 19th year together, this tight-knit ensemble is firmly established as an important voice in the world of chamber music. The New Yorker claims, "the Jupiter String Quartet, an ensemble of eloquent intensity, has matured into one of the mainstays of the American chamber-music scene." In 2012, the Jupiter Quartet members were appointed artists-in-residence and faculty at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign where they perform regularly at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, maintain private studios, and direct the chamber music program.

The Jupiters place a strong emphasis on developing relationships with future classical music audiences through educational performances in schools and community centers. They believe that, because of the intensity of its interplay and communication, chamber music is one of the most effective ways of spreading an enthusiasm for classical music to new audiences. The quartet offers masterclasses for young musicians, most recently at Northwestern University, Eastman School of Music, the Aspen Music Festival, Encore Chamber Festival, Madeline Island Music Festival, and Peabody Conservatory.

The Quartet has performed throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, Asia, and the

Americas in some of the world's finest halls. including New York City's Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center, Washington, DC's Kennedy Center and Library of Congress, Boston's Jordan Hall, London's Wigmore Hall, Mexico City's Palacio de Bellas Artes, Austria's Esterhazy Palace, and Seoul's Sejong Chamber Hall. Their major music festival appearances include the Aspen Music Festival and School, Bowdoin International Music Festival, Cape Cod Chamber Music Festival, Rockport Music Festival, Banff Centre, Virginia Arts Festival, Music at Menlo, Maverick Concerts, Caramoor International Music Festival, Skaneateles Festival, Yellow Barn Festival, Encore Chamber Music Festival, Lanaudiere Festival, West Cork (Ireland) Chamber Music Festival, Madeline Island Music Festival. the inaugural Chamber Music Athens, and Seoul Spring Festival, among others.

Their chamber music honors and awards include the grand prizes in the Banff International String Quartet Competition and the Fischoff National Chamber Music Competition in 2004. In 2005, they won the Young Concert Artists International auditions in New York City, which quickly led to a busy touring schedule. They received the Cleveland Quartet Award from Chamber Music America in 2007, followed by an Avery Fisher Career Grant in 2008. From 2007 to 2010, the Jupiter Quartet was in residence at the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center's Chamber Music Two and, in 2009, they received a grant from the Fromm Foundation to commission a new quartet from Dan Visconti for a CMSLC performance

at Alice Tully Hall. Strongly committed to new music, the Jupiters have also commissioned string quartets from Michi Wiancko, Syd Hodkinson, Hannah Lash, and Kati Agócs; a quintet with baritone voice by Mark Adamo; and a piano quintet by Pierre Jalbert.

The Jupiter Quartet remains strongly committed to making music during these challenging times. In July 2020, they gave the world premiere of Michi Wiancko's To Unpathed Waters, Undreamed Shores. Other recent and upcoming livestream concerts include performances presented by Bowdoin International Music Festival, Asheville Chamber Music Series, and Syracuse Friends of Chamber Music, as well as virtual residencies with the University of Iowa and Middlebury College.

The quartet chose its name because Jupiter was the most prominent planet in the night sky at the time of its formation, and the astrological symbol for Jupiter resembles the number four. They are also proud to list among their accomplishments in recent years the addition of seven quartet children: Pablo, Lillian, Clara, Dominic, Felix, Oliver, and Joelle.

"Perhaps what stands out most is the Jupiter Quartet's precise, unified, and spirited sense of ensemble. Their chemistry, like that of a topnotch cast of actors, is one of constant give-andtake of energy." (Cleveland Classical).

Land Acknowledgement

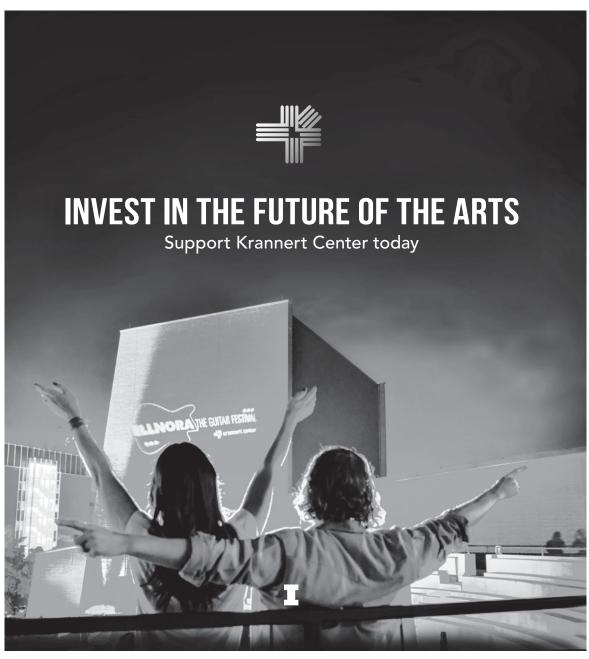
The University of Illinois System carries out its mission in its namesake state, which includes the traditional territory of the Peoria, Kaskaskia, Piankashaw, Wea, Miami, Mascoutin, Odawa, Sauk, Mesquaki, Kickapoo, Potawatomi, Ojibwe, Menominee, Ho-Chunk, and Chickasaw Nations. These lands continue to carry the stories of these Nations and their struggles for survival and identity.

As a land-grant institution, the University of Illinois has a particular responsibility to acknowledge the peoples of these lands, as well as the histories of dispossession that have allowed for the growth of this institution for the past 150 years. We are also obligated to reflect on and actively address these histories and the role that this university has played in shaping them. This acknowledgement and the centering of Native peoples is a start as we move forward for the next 150 years.

Krannert Center affirms the commitment by the university to move beyond these statements, toward building deeper relationships and taking actions that uphold and preserve Indigenous rights and cultural equity.

As we gather to experience this performance, we have an opportunity to reflect on the ways that systems of oppression have shaped our society. We can work together to create systems that support human dignity, establish equity, strengthen cross-cultural relationships, and draw upon the creative capacity of all people that make up this community, state, nation, and world.

9



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We work to create the best possible setting for the experiences you seek and find here.

NECESSARIES

Restrooms are located in the foyers of Foellinger Great Hall, Tryon Festival Theatre, and Colwell Playhouse; the east entrances on the Lobby level; and in each elevator lobby on Level 1 and Level 3. Lobby restrooms and one restroom in each elevator lobby are fully accessible and contain baby-changing stations.

Ushers will be happy to provide you cough drops courtesy of St. Joseph Apothecary, or disposable foam earplugs if the place starts rockin'.

If you or a companion needs medical assistance, contact an usher or other staff member.

Please take a moment before the performance to note the theatre exits nearest to you. If it becomes necessary to evacuate the theatre, please remain calm, follow the instructions of the house staff, and exit in an orderly fashion to the appropriate safe meeting location, which will be announced to you.

SIGHTS AND SOUNDS

The use of cell phones, cameras, and recording devices during performances is prohibited unless otherwise announced from the stage.

LATE ARRIVALS

As a courtesy to performers and audience members, latecomers will be seated only at times selected in advance by the artist. Should you find that you've arrived late to a performance, our Patron Services staff will keep you informed about the earliest seating opportunity.

LOST ITEMS

If you are in need of Lost and Found, please visit the Patron Services counter. We will do our best to reunite object and owner!

TICKET RETURNS

If you find you can't attend a performance, please contact the Ticket Office in advance, preferably by 6pm the day before the performance (kran-tix@illinois.edu or 217.333.6280). We never charge a handling fee on ticket transactions.

SERVICES

Krannert Center for the Performing Arts is committed to making experiences accessible for all patrons, and we are delighted to provide a number of services to assist you. Krannert Center is equipped with an assisted listening system, wheelchair-accessible and no-step/few-step seating, and large-print programs, Braille programs, and American Sign Language interpreters are available with three weeks' advance notice.

For assistance regarding your visit, please email: Para ayuda en relación con su visita, favor de enviar un email a:

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