



Jupiter Quartet Celebrates Beethoven's 250th Birthday



Performing Music by Beethoven, Mendelssohn, and Shostakovich Presented by Krannert Center

Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at 7:30pm
University of Illinois | Krannert Center Foellinger Great Hall |
500 S Goodwin Ave. Urbana, IL

Tickets (\$10-\$25) and information: www.krannertcenter.com

The Jupiter String Quartet, an ensemble of eloquent intensity, has matured into one of the mainstays of the American chamber-music scene." – *The New Yorker*

Watch Jupiter Quartet perform Schubert's *Death and the Maiden*

Photos of the Jupiter Quartet by Sarah Gardner
available in high resolution at www.jensenartists.com.

www.jupiterquartet.com

Urbana, IL – On **Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at 7:30pm**, the **Jupiter String Quartet**, quartet-in-residence at the University of Illinois, presents its winter recital in **Foellinger Great Hall** (500 S. Goodwin Ave). This season, the Jupiter Quartet celebrates of Beethoven's 250th birthday year by pairing one of his quartets with some of the great composers who surrounded him over the last 250 years. For this program, the Jupiter Quartet joins **Beethoven** with works by **Mendelssohn** and **Shostakovich**.

Shostakovich's String Quartet No. 11 in F minor, Op. 122 is a profound and somber work, written in memory of a close colleague, the second violinist of the Beethoven Quartet. Its stark textures and solemn mood are relieved by the joy that pervades the rest of the program, which includes Beethoven's intricate "Harp" Quartet No. 10 in E-flat major, Op. 74, and Mendelssohn's brilliant String Quartet in D Major, Op. 44 No. 1.

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 17th 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."

The quartet has performed in some of the world's finest halls, including New York City's Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center, London's Wigmore Hall, Boston's Jordan Hall, Mexico City's Palacio de Bellas Artes, Washington, D.C.'s Kennedy Center and Library of Congress, Austria's Esterhazy Palace, and Seoul's Sejong Chamber Hall. Their major music festival appearances include the Aspen Music Festival and School, Bowdoin Music Festival, Cape Cod Chamber Music Festival, Rockport Music Festival, the Banff Centre, Virginia Arts Festival, Music at Menlo, Maverick Concerts, Caramoor International Music Festival, Lanaudiere Festival, West Cork (Ireland) Chamber Music Festival, Skaneateles Festival, Madeline Island Music Festival, Yellow Barn Festival, Encore Chamber Music Festival, the inaugural Chamber Music Athens, and the Seoul Spring Festival, among others. In addition to their performing career, they have been artists-in-residence at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana since 2012, where they maintain private studios and direct the chamber music program.

Their chamber music honors and awards include the grand prizes in the Banff International String Quartet Competition and the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition; the Young Concert Artists International auditions in New York City; the Cleveland Quartet Award from Chamber Music America; an Avery Fisher Career Grant; and a grant from the Fromm Foundation. From 2007-2010, they were in residence at the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center's Chamber Music Two.

The Jupiter String Quartet feels a particular connection to the core string quartet repertoire; they have presented the complete Bartok and Beethoven string quartets on numerous occasions. Also strongly committed to new music, they have commissioned works by Syd Hodkinson, Hannah Lash, Dan Visconti, Mark Adamo, Pierre Jalbert, and Kati Agócs.

The quartet's latest album *Alchemy* (Marquis Classics, 2019) with Australian pianist Bernadette Harvey features world premiere recordings by Pierre Jalbert, Steven Stucky, and Carl Vine. *EarRelevant* proclaims, "Performed with great sensitivity and attention to detail, this album marks an important addition to the recorded repertoire of new chamber music." The quartet's discography also includes numerous recordings on labels including Azica Records, Marquis Classics, and Deutsche Grammophon.

The Jupiters place a strong emphasis on developing relationships with future classical music audiences through educational performances in schools and other 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 has also held numerous masterclasses for young musicians at Northwestern University, Eastman School of Music, the Aspen Music Festival, Encore Chamber Festival, Madeline Island Music Festival, and Peabody Conservatory.

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. You may spot some of these miniature Jupiters in the audience or tagging along to rehearsals, along with their grandparent babysitters.

For information, visit www.jupiterquartet.com.

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