



Jupiter Quartet Presented in Two Performances at the University of Illinois



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

Wednesday, April 10, 2019 at 6pm

**World Premiere of *Quantum Rhapsodies*, presented by the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology
Free and open to the public. Register [here](#).**

Tuesday, April 23, 2019 at 7:30pm

**Illinois Premiere of Kati Agócs *Imprimatur* plus works by Mendelssohn and Dvořák, presented by Krannert Center
Tickets (\$10-\$25) and information [here](#).**

www.jupiterquartet.com

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

“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*

Urbana, IL – On **Wednesday, April 10, 2019 at 6pm**, the **Jupiter String Quartet**, quartet-in-residence at the University of Illinois, collaborates with the **Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology** for the World Premiere of ***Quantum Rhapsodies***, a live performance on quantum physics and its role in our universe.

Quantum Rhapsodies combines narrative, visuals, and live music played by the Jupiter String Quartet, including excerpts from **Beethoven's** String Quartets Op. 59/2 and Op. 132; **Dutilleux's** *Ainsi la Nuit*; **Ruth Crawford Seeger's** String Quartet; **Schubert's** String Quartet in G Major; and **Janáček's** String Quartet No. 1 “Kreutzer Sonata.” *Quantum Rhapsodies* is created and performed by physicist Smitha Vishveshwara, the Beckman Institute's researchers and visualization experts, Protagonist Pizza Productions, theater-maker Latrelle Bright, the students of PHYS 498 ART, and collaborators. Watch the trailer for *Quantum Rhapsodies* [here](#).

This event is presented as part of the Beckman Institute's 30th anniversary at the **Beckman Institute Atrium** (405 N. Mathews Ave.). A reception precedes the performance at 5pm, and a meet and greet with the performers and creators follows at 7pm. Registration is strongly encouraged, as space is limited. Register [here](#).

On **Tuesday, April 23, 2019 at 7:30pm** the Jupiter Quartet performs a recital presented by Krannert Center in **Foellinger Great Hall** (500 S. Goodwin Ave). This program includes **Mendelssohn's** String Quartet No. 2 in A Minor, Op. 13; **Dvořák's** String Quartet No. 13 in G Major, Op. 106; and features the Illinois Premiere of **Kati Agócs' *Imprimatur*** (2018). *Imprimatur* was co-commissioned by the Aspen Music Festival and School, the Harvard Musical Association, and Krannert Center for the Performing Arts/University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in honor of the 15th anniversary of the Jupiter String Quartet.

Imprimatur is a rhapsodic suite in five movements which flow into one another without pause, framed by an introduction and coda. Of the piece, Kati Agócs says, “*Imprimatur* explores how a single idea imprints itself upon the memory through rapturous re-imagination. The word ‘imprimatur,’ from Roman Catholic tradition, signifies approval to print a text – an affirmation or sanctioning. Most saliently, it can also mean a mark of distinction or an imprint. My piece is a meditation on spiritual lightness, expressing rapturous joy and affirmation that is celebratory in tone, via a collective, shared energy.”

The Boston Globe has praised Agócs' music for its elegance, citing "music of fluidity and austere beauty" with "a visceral intensity of expression" and encouraging audience members to "go, listen, and be changed." A recent Guggenheim Fellow, Agócs is also a winner of the prestigious Arts and Letters Award from The American Academy of Arts and Letters and a 2017 Juno Award nomination for Classical Composition of the Year.

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 sixteenth year together, the quartet is firmly established as an important voice in the world of chamber music.

The quartet has performed across 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, 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, Lanaudiere Festival, West Cork (Ireland) Chamber Music Festival, Caramoor International Music Festival, Music at Menlo, Maverick Concerts, Madeline Island Music Festival, Rockport Music Festival, the Banff Centre, Yellow Barn Festival, Skaneateles Festival, Encore Chamber Music Festival, and the Seoul Spring Festival, among others.

Their chamber music honors and awards include the grand prizes in the Banff International String Quartet Competition and the Fischhoff 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 2007-2010, they were 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. In 2012, they were appointed as artists-in-residence and faculty at the University of Illinois, where they continue to perform regularly in the beautiful Krannert Center for the Performing Arts.

The Jupiter String Quartet feels a particular connection to the core string quartet repertoire; they have presented the complete Bartok string quartets at the University of Illinois and the complete cycle of Beethoven string quartets at the Aspen Music Festival and School, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Lanaudiere Festival in Quebec. Also strongly committed to new music, they have commissioned string quartets from Syd Hodkinson, Hannah Lash, and Dan Visconti, and Kati Agócs; a quintet with baritone voice by Mark Adamo; a piano quintet by Pierre Jalbert.

The quartet can be heard in numerous recordings on labels including Azica Records, Marquis Classics, and Deutsche Grammophon. Their next release is a recording of contemporary works with piano alongside Australian pianist Bernadette Harvey to be released on Marquis Records in 2019.

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.

Early exposure to chamber music brought these four musicians together. Meg and Liz grew up playing string quartets with their two brothers and they grew to love chamber music during weekly coachings with cellist Oliver Edel, who taught generations of students in the Washington, D.C. area. Nelson's parents are pianists (his father also conducts) and his twin sisters, Alicia and Andrea, are both musicians. Although Daniel originally wanted to be a violinist, he chose the cello because the organizers of his first string program declared that he had "better hands for the cello," and is happy that he ended up where he did.

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.