



Jupiter Quartet Presented by Virginia Arts Festival in Two Concerts



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

Monday, April 29, 2019 at 7:30pm
Robin Hixon Theater | 440 Bank St. | Norfolk, VA
Tickets and information available [here](#).

Tuesday, April 30, 2019 at 10:30am
St. John's Episcopal | 424 Washington St. | Portsmouth, VA
Tickets and information available [here](#).

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

www.jupiterquartet.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*

Norfolk and Portsmouth, VA – The **Jupiter Quartet** is presented by the **Virginia Arts Festival** in two concerts: on **Monday, April 29, 2019 at 7:30pm** in Norfolk and **Tuesday, April 30, 2019 at 10:30am** in Portsmouth, each featuring a unique set of string quartet repertoire.

Monday evening's performance includes **Ravel's** colorful String Quartet in F major; **Janáček's** striking String Quartet No.1, “Kreutzer Sonata”, JW 7/8; and **Mendelssohn's** darkly dramatic String Quartet in A minor, Op. 13 in **Robin Hixon Theatre** (440 Bank Street | Norfolk, VA).

Tuesday morning's program is part of Virginia Arts Festival's **Coffee Concerts** series, which offers chamber music in an intimate setting at **St. John's Episcopal Church** (424 Washington St | Portsmouth, VA). This concert features **Puccini's** beautiful *I Crisantemi* (Chrysanthemums) and **Dvořák's** romantic masterpiece, the String Quartet No.13 in G major, Op.106. After the performance, patrons are invited to mingle with the 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 sixteenth year together, this tight-knit ensemble is firmly established as an important voice in the world of chamber music. 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.

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 Classics in May, 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 more information, visit www.jupiterquartet.com.

About the Virginia Arts Festival:

Since 1997, the Virginia Arts Festival has transformed the cultural scene in southeastern Virginia, presenting great performers from around the world to local audiences and making this historic, recreation-rich region a cultural destination for visitors from across the United States and around the world. The Festival has presented numerous U.S. and regional premieres, and regularly commissions new works of music, dance, and theater from some of today's most influential composers, choreographers and playwrights. The Festival's arts education programs reach tens of thousands of area schoolchildren each year through student matinees, in-school performances, artists' residencies, master classes and demonstrations.

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