



Escher Quartet

Visiting Artist Series

Adam Barnett-Hart, violin

Brendan Speltz, violin

Pierre Lapointe, viola

Brook Speltz, cello

Felix Mendelssohn
(1809 – 1847)

String Quartet in F Minor, op. 80

- I. *Allegro vivace assai*
- II. *Allegro assai*
- III. *Adagio*
- IV. *Finale: Allegro molto*

Ruth Crawford Seeger
(1901 – 1953)

String Quartet (1931)

- I. *Rubato assai*
- II. *Leggiero*
- III. *Andante*
- IV. *Allegro possibile*

Intermission

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770 – 1827)

String Quartet in F Major, op. 59, No. 1

- I. *Allegro*
- II. *Allegretto vivace e sempre scherzando*
- III. *Adagio molto e mesto*
- IV. *Thème russe. Allegro*

Thursday, April 6, 2023

7:30 p.m.

*Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall
Williamstown, Massachusetts*

*Please turn off cell phones.
No photography or recording is permitted.*

Escher Quartet

The Escher String Quartet has received acclaim for its profound musical insight and rare tonal beauty. A former BBC New Generation Artist and recipient of the Avery Fisher Career Grant, the quartet has performed at the BBC Proms at Cadogan Hall and is a regular guest at Wigmore Hall. In its home town of New York, the ensemble serves as season artists of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center.

The 2021-2022 season finds the Escher Quartet touring the U.S. extensively, performing in numerous cities and venues including New York's Alice Tully Hall and Rockefeller University, Washington D.C.'s Kennedy Center, the Segerstrom Center for the Arts in Costa Mesa, La Jolla Music Society, Savannah Music Festival, and Chamber Music Society of Detroit. Internationally, the quartet returns to Wigmore Hall in London and the Sociedad Filarmonica de Bilbao.

The Escher Quartet has made a distinctive impression throughout Europe, with recent debuts including the Amsterdam Concertgebouw, Berlin Konzerthaus, London's Kings Place, Slovenian Philharmonic Hall, Les Grands Interprètes Geneva, Tel Aviv Museum of Art, and Auditorium du Louvre. The group has appeared at festivals such as the Heidelberg Spring Festival, Budapest's Franz Liszt Academy, Dublin's Great Music in Irish Houses, the Risør Chamber Music Festival in Norway, the Hong Kong International Chamber Music Festival, and the Perth International Arts Festival in Australia.

Alongside its growing European profile, the Escher Quartet continues to flourish in its home country, performing at the Aspen Music Festival, Bravo! Vail, Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, Bowdoin Music Festival, Toronto Summer Music, Chamber Music San Francisco, Music@Menlo, and the Ravinia and Caramoor festivals. The quartet has held faculty positions at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX and the University of Akron, OH.

Recordings of the complete Mendelssohn quartets and beloved romantic quartets of Dvorak, Borodin and Tchaikovsky were released on the BIS label in 2015-18 and received with the highest critical acclaim, with comments such as "...eloquent, full-blooded playing... The four players offer a beautiful blend of individuality and accord" (BBC Music Magazine). In 2019, DANCE, an album of quintet's with Grammy award winning guitarist Jason Vieaux, was enthusiastically received. The Escher's most recent recording, the complete quartet of Charles Ives and Samuel Barber, was met with equal excitement, including "A fascinating snapshot of American quartets, with a recording that is brilliantly detailed, this is a first-rate release all around" (Strad Magazine). The quartet has also recorded the complete Zemlinsky String Quartets in two volumes, released on the Naxos label in 2013 and 2014.

Within months of its inception in 2005, the ensemble came to the attention of key musical figures worldwide. Championed by the Emerson Quartet, the Escher Quartet was invited by both Pinchas Zukerman and Itzhak Perlman to be Quartet in Residence at each artist's summer festival: the Young Artists Program at Canada's National Arts Centre; and the Perlman Chamber Music Program on Shelter Island, NY.

The Escher Quartet takes its name from the Dutch graphic artist M.C. Escher, inspired by Escher's method of interplay between individual components working together to form a whole.

See music.williams.edu for full details and additional happenings as well as to sign up for the weekly e-newsletters.

Upcoming Events

Prof. Jessie Ann Owens - Class of 1960 Music Lecture

Fri Apr 7 | Sawyer Library | 4:15 PM

MIDWEEKMUSIC

Wed Apr 12 | Chapin Hall | 12:15 PM

Cappella Pratensis - Visiting Artist Series

Sat Apr 15 | Chapin Hall | 7:30 PM

Joanna Kurkowicz, violin - Faculty Recital

Sun Apr 16 | Chapin Hall | 7:30 PM

MIDWEEKMUSIC

Wed Apr 19 | Chapin Hall | 12:15 PM

Prof. Kathryn Alexander - Class of 1960 Music Lecture

Thu Apr 20 | Bernhard Music Center, room 30 | 4:15 PM

Berkshire Symphony - Student Soloist Gala

Fri Apr 21 | Chapin Hall | 7:30 PM

Williams Gospel Choir

Sat Apr 22 | Chapin Hall | 4:00 PM

Miranda Cuckson and Nunc - Visiting Artist Series

Wed Apr 26 | Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall | 7:30 PM

Violin Studio Recital

Thu Apr 27 | Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall | 4:30 PM

Williams Jazz Festival - Syotos - Visiting Artist Series

Thu Apr 27 | Goodrich Hall | 7:30 PM