

EASTMAN RANLET SERIES

YING QUARTET

with

Milena Pajaro-van de Stadt, viola

Sunday, March 26, 2023

Kilbourn Hall

3:00 PM



EASTMAN
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

UNIVERSITY *of* ROCHESTER

PROGRAM

**String Quartet No. 22 in B-Flat Major,
K. 589**

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)

Allegro
Larghetto
Menuetto and Trio
Allegro assai

Dark Vigil (1999)

Kevin Puts
(b. 1972)

INTERMISSION

String Quintet in E-Flat Major, Op. 97, B. 180

Antonín Dvořák
(1841-1904)

Allegro non tanto
Allegro vivo
Larghetto
Finale: Allegro giusto

YING QUARTET

Robin Scott, violin
Janet Ying, violin
Phillip Ying, viola
David Ying, cello

with
Milena Pajaro-van de Stadt, viola

PROGRAM NOTES

Dark Vigil (1999)

Kevin Puts

Dark Vigil was a reaction to the unrelenting pattern of violence that plagued our country's elementary and high schools during the year it was written, 1999. The title was inspired by news footage I saw of a high school in the Midwest whose students and faculty staged a student shooting incident as a means of preparation for such an event. For me, this conjured up an horrific image of the students as soldiers on a battlefield, their eyes and ears always alert to the threat of attack.

Written in one movement, the work explores the emotional complexities and turmoil of adolescence as well as my own struggle to understand the capacity of America's teens to commit these acts. In the broadest sense, the piece depicts a struggle between innocence and depravity. This central conflict fades away in the concluding section, in which quietly pulsing harmonies are superimposed by lyrical counterpoint to represent both a memorial to those whose lives have been cut short by their peers, and a spiritual transcendence by those who are forced to come to terms with the loss of their loved ones.

The work lasts about 20 minutes and is dedicated, with many thanks and great admiration, to the Ying Quartet.

— *Kevin Puts*

MEET THE ARTISTS

Praised by Strad magazine as having "lyricism that stood out...a silky tone and beautiful, supple lines," violist **Milena Pajaro-van de Stadt** has established herself as one of the most sought-after violists of her generation. In addition to appearances as soloist with the Tokyo Philharmonic, the Jacksonville Symphony, and the Sphinx Chamber Orchestra, she has performed in recitals and chamber-music concerts throughout the United States, Latin America, Europe and Asia, including an acclaimed 2011 debut recital at London's Wigmore Hall, which was described in Strad as being "fleet and energetic...powerful and focused."

Ms. Pajaro-van de Stadt was the founding violist of the Dover Quartet, and played in the group from 2008-2022. During her time in the group, the Dover Quartet was the First Prize-winner and recipient of every special award at the Banff International String Quartet Competition 2013, and winner of the Gold Medal and Grand Prize in the 2010 Fischoff Chamber Music Competition. Her numerous awards also include First Prize of the Lionel Tertis International Viola Competition and top prizes at the the Sphinx Competition and the Tokyo International Viola Competition. While in the Dover Quartet, Ms. Pajaro-van de Stadt was on the faculty at The Curtis Institute of Music and Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music, and a part of the Quartet in Residence of the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

A violin student of Sergiu Schwartz and Melissa Pierson-Barrett for several years, she began studying viola with Michael Klotz at the Bowdoin International Music Festival in 2005. Ms. Pajaro-van de Stadt graduated from the Curtis Institute of Music, where she studied with Roberto Diaz, Michael Tree, Misha Amory, and Joseph de Pasquale. She then received her Master's Degree in String Quartet with the Dover Quartet at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music, as a student of James Dunham.

The Grammy Award-winning **Ying Quartet** occupies a position of unique prominence in the classical music world, combining brilliantly communicative performances with a fearlessly imaginative view of chamber music in today's world. Now in its third decade, the Quartet has established itself as an ensemble of the highest musical qualifications. Their performances regularly take place in many of the world's most important concert halls; at the same time, the Quartet's belief that concert music can also be a meaningful part of everyday life has also drawn the foursome to perform in settings as diverse as the workplace, schools, juvenile prisons, and the White House. In fact, the Ying Quartet's constant quest to explore the creative possibilities of the string quartet has led it to an unusually diverse array of musical projects and interests.

MEET THE ARTISTS

The **Ying Quartet's** ongoing *LifeMusic* commissioning project, created in response to their commitment to expanding the rich string quartet repertoire, has already achieved an impressive history. Supported by the Institute for American Music, the Ying Quartet commissions both established and emerging composers to create music that reflects contemporary American life. Recent works include Billy Childs' *Awakening*; Lera Auerbach's *Sylvia's Diary*; Lowell Liebermann's String Quartet No. 3, *To the Victims of War*; Sebastian Currier's *Next Atlantis*; and John Novacek's *Three Rags for String Quartet*. In August 2016 the Ying Quartet released a new Schumann/ Beethoven recording on Sono Luminus with the cellist Zuill Bailey, and in 2016-17 the five toured with the Schumann Cello Concerto transcribed for cello and string quartet along with Beethoven's "Kreutzer Sonata," also reimaged for cello quintet.

The Quartet's recent seasons featured performances with the jazz pianist Billy Childs, a tour of China, performances for the Philadelphia and Phoenix Chamber Music Societies, and performances in the group's role as quartet-in-residence at the Bowdoin International Music Festival.

The Ying Quartet's many other recordings reflect many of the group's wide-ranging musical interests and have generated consistent, enthusiastic acclaim. The group's CD "American Anthem" (Sono Luminus), heralding the music of Randall Thompson, Samuel Barber, and Howard Hanson, was released in 2013 to rave reviews; their 2007 Telarc release of the three Tchaikovsky Quartets and the *Souvenir de Florence* (with James Dunham and Paul Katz) was nominated for a Grammy Award in the Best Chamber Music Performance category.

The Ying Quartet first came to professional prominence in the early 1990s during their years as resident quartet of Jesup, Iowa, a farm town of 2000 people. Playing before audiences of six to six hundred in homes, schools, churches, and banks, the Quartet had its first opportunities to enable music and creative endeavor to become an integral part of community life. The Quartet considers its time in Jesup the foundation of its present musical life and goals.

As quartet-in-residence at the prestigious Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY, the Ying Quartet teaches in the string department and leads a rigorous, sequentially designed chamber music program. One cornerstone of chamber music activity at Eastman is the noted "Music for All" program, in which all students have the opportunity to perform in community settings beyond the concert hall. The Quartet is the ensemble-in-residence at the Bowdoin International Music Festival, and from 2001-2008, the members of the Ying Quartet were the Blodgett Artists-in-Residence at Harvard University.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT EASTMAN

Monday, March 27, 2023
Eastman Wind Orchestra
Kilbourn Hall, 7:30 PM
Free Admission

Wednesday, March 29, 2023
Eastman Wind Ensemble
Kilbourn Hall, 7:30 PM
Free Admission

Wednesday, March 29, 2023
Saxology
Hatch Recital Hall, 9:00 PM
Free Admission

March 30-April 1, 2023 at 7:30 PM | March 2 at 2:00 PM
EASTMAN OPERA THEATRE
Florencia en el Amazonas
Music by Daniel Catán
Libretto by Marcela Fuentes-Berain
Tickets Available at EastmanTheatre.org

Scan this QR code to see all of the exciting concerts coming up in our 22-23 Eastman Presents Season!



We acknowledge with respect the Seneca Nation, known as the “Great Hill People” and “Keepers of the Western Door” of the Handenosaunee Confederacy. We take this opportunity to thank the people whose ancestral lands the Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester currently occupies in Rochester, New York.

Find information about upcoming Eastman concerts and events at:
esm.rochester.edu/events
www.facebook.com/ConcertsAtEastman

Kilbourn Hall fire exits are located along the right and left sides, and at the back of the hall. In the event of an emergency, you will be notified by the stage manager. If notified, please move in a calm and orderly fashion to the nearest exit.

Please note: The use of unauthorized photographic and recording equipment is not allowed in this building. We reserve the right to ask anyone disrupting a performance to leave the hall.

Restrooms are located on the main floor of Kilbourn Hall. Fully-accessible restrooms are available on the first floor of the Eastman School. Our ushers will be happy to direct you to them.

Supporting the Eastman School of Music: For information on making a gift, please contact the Advancement Office at (585) 274-1040, or visit the Advancement website at www.esm.rochester.edu/advancement.