

EASTMAN RANLET SERIES

# YING QUARTET

WITH ELINOR FREER, PIANO

Sunday, September 15, 2024

Kilbourn Hall

3:00 PM



EASTMAN  
SCHOOL OF MUSIC  
UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER

## PROGRAM

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**Italian Serenade**

Hugo Wolf  
(1860-1903)

**Crisantemi, SC 65**

Giacomo Puccini  
(1858-1924)

**String Quartet No. 2 (“Icefield Sonnets”)** (2004)

Cold is a cell  
Glass is a place  
North is a notion

Pierre Jalbert  
(b. 1967)

### *INTERMISSION*

**Piano Quintet in E-flat Major, Op. 44**

Allegro brillante  
In Modo d’una Marcia. Un poco largamente.  
Scherzo. Molto vivace  
Allegro ma non troppo

Robert Schumann  
(1810-1856)

Elinor Freer, piano

### **YING QUARTET**

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

## PROGRAM NOTES

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### String Quartet No. 2 (“Icefield Sonnets”) (2004)

Pierre Jalbert

*Icefield Sonnets* was written for the Ying Quartet and was inspired by the poetry of Anthony Hawley. Each poem in the set speaks of the notion of “north,” specifically in the winter months, and it was my aim to capture some of the different moments of “coldness,” from quiet stillness to more violent activity. Like the set of poems, the piece is in three movements, the first marked “Cold, airy, suspended, like an ice crystal,” the second “Driving forward,” and the third “Sustained.”

1.	2.	3.
Cold is a cell	Glass is a place	North is a notion
In which one is allowed	From which to view	And a motion tundra’s
To walk around the lake	Withinwithout	Stilled grammar
And think of walking	Say hellogoodbye	Or the beauty of scant
Or defend the logic	In the same line	And drowned out
Of glacial water	Or move across	Reverberate
Sing the oval	An icy surface	Throughout the town
With a skate’s blade	Inches forward	Built in planks round
Habits of its shape	Years witness	About the river forks
The way a lip	Little change	The mouth’s glissade
Leaves an imprint	Requires a fixed gaze	In which direction
On glass a trace	To observe glacial	Doesn’t matter
Air enough just	Motion the elk	There’s north enough
To shake the frame	Make stirrings	To keep lips frozen

— *Pierre Jalbert*

## MEET THE ARTISTS

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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. The Quartet's performances regularly take place in many of the world's most important concert halls; at the same time, the Ying's belief that concert music can also be a meaningful part of everyday life has drawn the foursome to perform in settings as diverse as the workplace, schools, juvenile prisons, and the White House.

The Ying Quartet first came to professional prominence in the early 1990s as the first recipient of an NEA Rural Residence Grant which led to it serving as the resident quartet of Jesup, Iowa, a farm town of 2,000 people. Playing before audiences of six to six hundred in homes, schools, churches, and banks, the Quartet had its first opportunities to use music and creative endeavor to help build community and authentic human connection. The Quartet considers its time in Jesup the foundation of its present musical life and goals.

The Quartet's 2023-24 season features performances for Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, Chamber Music Society of Logan, Music Toronto, and Chamber Music Albuquerque. In Spring 2024, the Ying Quartet teams up with bassist and composer Xavier Foley for a collaboration built around their shared passion for Dvořák and the progressive approach that he demonstrated through his life and music.

The Ying's ongoing *LifeMusic* commissioning project, created in response to its 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.

## MEET THE ARTISTS

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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 renowned cellist Zuill Bailey, and in that season 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 Ying Quartet's numerous 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; its 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.

As longtime 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 curate opportunities to perform in community settings beyond the concert hall. The Quartet is also 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.

## MEET THE ARTISTS

A native of Montana, pianist **Elinor Freer** has built a versatile career as soloist, chamber musician, teacher, and artistic administrator. Praised for her “utmost sensitivity” (Harrisburg Patriot News) and “profound commitment and understanding” (General-Anzeiger, Bonn) Ms. Freer has performed throughout the United States, Europe, Mexico, and China, including appearances at The Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, The Valery Gergiev Festival in Rotterdam, the Gnessin Institute in Moscow, the Akademie múzických in Prague, and more. Her performances have aired on National Public Radio and on “Performance Today,” and she has recorded for Cedille Records. Recently she performed and served as a member of the jury at the 2024 Macao International Piano Competition.



A prizewinner and laureate in the Joanna Hodges International Piano Competition and the American Pianists Association Auditions, Ms. Freer has been the recipient of numerous awards including fellowships at the Steans Institute of the Ravinia Festival and the Tanglewood Music Center. She holds degrees with honors from the Cleveland Institute of Music, the University of Southern California, and, as a Frank Huntington Beebe scholar, a Performer’s Diploma from the Hogeschool voor de Kunsten Utrecht in The Netherlands.

Passionate about expanding audiences for classical music, she founded and directed residencies in rural Kansas and Montana, bringing live music onto street corners and into diverse venues such as schools, psychiatric hospitals, banks, and grocery stores. In 2024 she founded ROC City Concerts at the Eastman School of Music, a series of live concerts for underserved populations in Rochester, NY, which included performances at a local prison, substance abuse treatment facility, veteran’s home, and more. For ten years she and her husband cellist David Ying directed the Skaneateles Festival and garnered a CMA/ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming. Ms. Freer currently serves as Associate Professor of Piano and Chamber Music at the Eastman School of Music.

*We acknowledge with respect the Seneca Nation, known as the “Great Hill People” and “Keepers of the Western Door” of the Haudenosaunee 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.*

## UPCOMING EASTMAN SERIES CONCERTS

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Tickets for all series concerts can be purchased at [EastmanTheatre.org](https://EastmanTheatre.org)

### FACULTY ARTIST SERIES

#### **Composition Faculty Showcase**

Kilbourn Hall

Monday, September 16, 2024 at 7:30 PM

Music of Zohn-Muldoon, Pesca, Kuehn, Ogonek, and Sammoutis

### FACULTY ARTIST SERIES & GEORGE WALKER CENTER RECITAL SERIES

#### **Crystal Sellers-Battle**

Kilbourn Hall

Wednesday, September 18, 2024 at 7:30 PM

\*Tickets are free but must be reserved

Music of Burleigh, Barber, Hoiby, and Carter

## UPCOMING STUDENT ENSEMBLE CONCERTS

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All student performances are free unless otherwise noted.

#### **Eastman Wind Ensemble**

Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre

Monday, September 16, 2024 at 7:30 PM

Music of Plog (World Premiere), Sierra, and Bronnenkant

### ROCHESTER FRINGE FESTIVAL

#### **Eastman Percussion Ensemble**

Sproull Atrium

Tuesday, September 17, 2024 at 7:30 PM

\*Tickets are required and can be purchased through Rochester Fringe Festival

#### **Composers Concert**

Hatch Recital Hall

Tuesday, September 17, 2024 at 7:30 PM



For the most up to date information on Eastman concerts and events, scan this code to visit our online calendar.



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