

EASTMAN RANLET SERIES

YING QUARTET

Sunday, November 12, 2023

Kilbourn Hall

3:00 PM



EASTMAN
SCHOOL OF MUSIC
UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER

PROGRAM

String Quartet in B-flat Major, Op. 76, No. 4
(“Sunrise”)

Franz Joseph Haydn
(1732-1809)

Allegro con spirito

Adagio

Menuetto: Allegro

Finale: Allegro, ma non troppo

String Quartet No. 2

(“Songs of Nameless Ancestors”) (2023)

Derek Bermel
(b. 1967)

World Premiere

INTERMISSION

Piano Quintet in F Minor

Molto moderato quasi lento – Allegro

Lento con molto sentimento

Allegro non troppo ma con fuoco

César Franck
(1822-1890)

Ran Dank, piano

YING QUARTET

Robin Scott and Janet Ying, violin

Philip Ying, viola

David Ying, cello

PROGRAM NOTES

String Quartet No. 2

Derek Bermel

(“Songs of Nameless Ancestors”) (2023)

My second string quartet is dedicated to the Ying Quartet and was commissioned as part of the Eastman School of Music's centenary. The title arises from a phrase in Joseph Roth's novel *The Radetzky March*, in which the protagonist Captain Trotta's tempestuous dreams "dawned in his soul unknown songs of nameless ancestors". Similarly, many of the musical ideas contained in the piece came to me during restless sleep. The primary melodic force is the mordent (from *mordere*, "to bite"), a short up-and-down trill figuration used in Baroque and Renaissance music as well as in many vernacular traditions. The mordent's oscillating, stepwise shape and salutatory gesture also serve as a formal basis for the work's one continuous movement.

MEET THE ARTISTS

Ran Dank is one of today's most ardent advocates for contemporary music. In recent seasons, he has performed Kevin Puts' piano concerto *Night*, the Tobias Picker concerto, *Keys to the City*, Frederic Rzewski's *The People United Will Never Be Defeated*, and William Bolcom's Pulitzer-winning set of *Twelve New Etudes*. Alongside his wife, pianist Soyeon Kate Lee, Ran debuted the world premieres of Frederic Rzewski's *Four Hands*, and Alexander Goehr's *Seven Impromptus*.



Ran Dank and Soyeon Kate Lee have also created a concert series called Music by the Glass, which is held in a New York SoHo art gallery. During these performances, an audience of young professionals listen, mix and mingle with fellow solo and chamber work artists while enjoying treats and wines by the glass.

Ran Dank is the recipient of numerous honors, including the Naumburg Piano Competition and the Sydney International Piano Competition. He was also the First Prize winner of the Hilton Head International Piano Competition.

Ran's recent performances have included performances with the Pasadena Symphony and Keitaro Harada in April 2022 and the Westchester Philharmonic and Jayce Ogren in October 2022. Ran has upcoming performances with the Monterey Symphony in February 2023, Chautauqua in August 2023, and he is returning to Pro Music San Miguel de Allenda in March of 2024.

MEET THE ARTISTS

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.



The Ying'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 reimagined 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.

MEET THE ARTISTS

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.

www.ying4.com

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

Tickets for all series concerts can be purchased at EastmanTheatre.org

FACULTY ARTIST SERIES

Clay Jenkins, jazz trumpet

Hatch Recital Hall

Wednesday, November 29, 2023 at 7:30 PM

KILBOURN CONCERT SERIES

Third Coast Percussion

Kilbourn Hall

Thursday, November 30, 2023 at 7:30 PM

A Grammy winning Quartet of classically trained percussionists founded in 2005, Third Coast Percussion has performed hundreds of concerts across the country, presents an annual concert season at home in Chicago, teaches musicians of all ages and experience levels, and has commissioned dozens of new works by composers including Glenn Kotche, Chris Cerrone, Donnacha Dennehy, Timo Andres, David T. Little, Ted Hearne, and Augusta Read Thomas.

UPCOMING STUDENT ENSEMBLE CONCERTS

All student performances are free unless otherwise noted.

Eastman Jazz Workshop Ensemble

Kilbourn Hall

Monday, November 13, 2023 at 7:30 PM

Eastman Wind Ensemble

Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre

Monday, November 13, 2023 at 7:30 PM

Music of Jennifer Higdon, Sally Lamb McCune, and Olivier Messiaen

Saxology

Hatch Recital Hall

Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 7:30 PM

Tuba Mirum

Kilbourn Hall

Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 7:30 PM



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