

The Morgan Library & Museum

presents

Rush Hour Music in Gilbert Court

American String Quartet

Quartet in D Major for Strings, Op. 76, No. 5, Hob. III:79 (1797)

Joseph Haydn
(1732-1809)

String Quartet in F Major (1903)

Maurice Ravel
(1875-1937)

Rush Hour Music in Gilbert Court is made possible by Cynthia Hazen Polsky and Leon B. Polsky.

*The program will be performed without an intermission.
Please turn off all electronic devices. Photography and recording are not allowed.*

About the Artists

Peter Winograd, *violin*
Laurie Carney, *violin*
Daniel Avshalomov, *viola*
Wolfram Koessel, *cello*

Internationally recognized as one of the world's finest quartets, the American String Quartet has spent decades honing the luxurious sound for which it is famous. The Quartet celebrated its 45th anniversary in 2019, and, in its years of touring, has performed in all fifty states and has appeared in the most important concert halls worldwide. The group's presentations of the complete quartets of Beethoven, Schubert, Schoenberg, Bartók, and Mozart have won widespread critical acclaim, and their MusicMasters Complete Mozart String Quartets, performed on a matched quartet set of instruments by Stradivarius, are widely considered to have set the standard for this repertoire.

Recent seasons featured performances of the Quartet's major project together with the National Book Award-winning author Phil Klay and the poet Tom Sleigh, which offers a groundbreaking program combining music and readings that examines the effects of war. The Quartet also collaborated with the renowned author Salman Rushdie in a work for narrator and quartet by the film composer Paul Cantelon built around Rushdie's novel *The Enchantress of Florence*. These tremendously imaginative collaborations cement the American String Quartet's reputation as one of the most adventurous and fearless string quartets performing today, as comfortable with the groundbreaking as with the traditional.

The Quartet's diverse activities have also included numerous international radio and television broadcasts, including a recent recording for the BBC; tours of Asia; and performances with the New York City Ballet, the Montreal Symphony, and the Philadelphia Orchestra. Recent highlights include performances of an all-sextet program with Roberto and Andrés Díaz, many tours of South America, and performances of the complete Beethoven cycle of string quartets at the Cervantes Festival in Mexico and the Tel Aviv Museum in Israel.

The American's additional extensive discography can be heard on the Albany, CRI, MusicMasters, Musical Heritage Society, Nonesuch, and RCA labels. Most recently the group released "Schubert's Echo," which pairs Schubert's monumental last quartet with works bearing its influence by Second Viennese masters Alban Berg and Anton Webern. This repertoire posits that the creative line from the First to the Second Viennese Schools is continuous – and evident when these works are heard in the context of each other.

As champions of new music, the American has given numerous premieres, including George Tsontakis's Quartet No. 7.5, "Maverick," Richard Danielpour's Quartet No. 4, and Curt Cacioppo's *a distant voice calling*. The premiere of Robert Sirota's *American Pilgrimage* was performed around the U.S. in the cities the work celebrates. The Quartet premiered Tobias Picker's String Quartet No. 2 in New York City in celebration of the 90th anniversary of the Manhattan School of Music.

Formed when its original members were students at The Juilliard School, the American String Quartet's career began with the group winning both the Coleman Competition and the Naumburg Award in the same year. Resident quartet at the Aspen Music Festival since 1974 and at the Manhattan School of Music in New York since 1984, the American has also served as resident quartet at the Taos School of Music, the Peabody Conservatory, and the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition.

The American String Quartet is represented by MKI Artists.
www.mkiartists.com

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Through September 26, 2021

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225 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10016

(212)-685-0008

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