

Biography | September 2024

**Mark Steinberg** | violin  
**Serena Canin** | violin  
**Misha Amory** | viola  
**Nina Maria Lee** | violoncello

Shortly after inception in 1992 in New York, the Brentano String Quartet won several competitions: The Cleveland String Quartet Competition, the Naumburg Chamber Music Competition and the Tenth Martin E. Segal Competition. For their debut at London's Wigmore Hall, the ensemble was awarded 1st prize in the Royal Philharmonic Society Music Competition.

The Brentano String Quartet is Artist-In-Residence at Yale School of Music and gives frequent master classes and workshops across the U.S.. Previously, the ensemble had been appointed as the first string quartet to hold a residency at Princeton University, a position they held for 15 years. Other residencies include Wigmore Hall, New York University and Lincoln Center.

The ensemble places special emphasis on contemporary music, as evidenced by commissioned and premiered works by Milton Babbitt, Chou Wen-Chung, Charles Wuorinen, Bruce Adolphe, Steven Mackey, and Jonathan Dawe. The quartet has worked closely with composers such as Elliott Carter and György Kurtág. But the ensemble has also appropriated older works in arrangements, including music by Gesualdo, Monteverdi, Purcell and Josquin des Prés. At the Mozart Week in Salzburg, the Brentano String Quartet performed a program with Pulitzer Prize winner Mark Strand that combined poetry with music by Mozart and Webern. In their project "Fragments," the musicians merged unfinished works by composers such as Schubert, Mozart, Beethoven, Bach and Schönberg with contemporary compositions by Sofia Gubaidulina and Bruce Adolphe, among others.

The Brentano String Quartet has performed on many prestigious stages in the U.S., Canada, Australia, Japan and Europe, as well as international festivals such as Edinburgh, Bath, De Divonne, Kuhmo, Salzburg Mozart Week, Brandenburg Summer Concerts and many others. Together with pianist Mitsuko Uchida, the ensemble has performed at the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, the Library of Congress, Lincoln Center, Frankfurt's Alte Oper, the Cologne Philharmonie, and with soprano Jessye Norman at Carnegie Hall. The quartet also works closely with pianist Richard Goode.

Recent tours have taken the quartet to Wigmore Hall and the Barbican in London, the Konzerthaus in Berlin, the Philharmonie in Essen and numerous European cities. They have also toured extensively throughout North America, with concerts at Carnegie Hall, in Detroit, San Francisco and Pittsburgh, and with partners such as Joyce DiDonato, Vijay Iyer, Ignat Solzhenitsyn and Jonathan Biss.

Throughout 2021-2023, the Brentano Quartet collaborated with soprano Dawn Upshaw and renowned American composer Melinda Wagner on the project "Dido Reimagined", which is based on "Dido's Lament", the final aria of Purcell's opera "Dido and Aeneas".

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The quartet has released CDs of works by Mozart and the late string quartets by Beethoven on the Paris label AEON. Prior to that, they produced three CDs of Haydn's Op. 71 string quartets and works by Bruce Adolphe, Chou Wen-Chung, Charles Wuorinen and Steven Mackey. In 2016, the Azica label published a live recording of Schubert's String Quintet with Michael Kannen and Mozart's String Quartets K. 428 and K. 465. In 2014, the quartet recorded the music for the film "A Late Quartet" (with Philip Seymour Hoffman and Christopher Walken), which premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival.

Upcoming highlights include performances at the Amsterdam Biennale in February 2024, followed by a 5 months' tour throughout the U.S. and Canada.

The quartet named itself in reference to Antonie Brentano, to whom - assumably - Beethoven dedicated his famous "Letter to the Immortal Beloved".

The Brentano Quartet has been invited by the Wigmore Hall to present a Beethoven cycle in London in the 27/28 season.

### **Short version**

Shortly after its founding, the Brentano String Quartet won several competitions and was named quartet-in-residence by New York University and Lincoln Center, Princeton University and London's Wigmore Hall. It is currently artists-in-residence at the Yale School of Music.

The quartet performs on all the world's most prestigious stages, such as the Wigmore Hall, the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, the Pierre Boulez Hall in Berlin and at the Mozartwoche in Salzburg. It has recorded CDs for various labels with works by Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven and Schubert and recorded the music for the film "A Late Quartet".

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