

Sarah Ying Ma | violin
Max Ball | violin
Jasper de Boor | viola
Drew Dansby | violoncello

Programme I

Sergei Prokofiev (1891-1953) String Quartet No. 1 in B minor, Op. 50
Jeff Scott (*1967) *Tapestry of the Beloved Beatified* (2026)
(Commissioned by the Poiesis Quartet)

Sky Macklay (*1988) *Many Many Cadences*
Maurice Ravel (1875-1937) String Quartet F Major, Op. 35

Programme II

Sky Macklay (*1988) *Many Many Cadences*
Maurice Ravel (1875-1937) String Quartet F Major, Op. 35

Kevin Lau (*1982) String Quartet No. 7, *Surfacing*
(Commissioned by the Poiesis Quartet)
Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) String Quartet No. 16 in F Major, Op. 135

Programme III | A Better World

Michi Wiancko (*1976) *To Unpathed Waters, Undreamed Shores*
Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson (1932-2004) String Quartet No. 1, *Calvary*

Jeff Scott (*1967) *Tapestry of the Beloved Beatified* (2026)
(Commissioned by the Poiesis Quartet)
Kevin Lau (*1982) String Quartet No. 7, *Surfacing*
(Commissioned by the Poiesis Quartet)

A Love Letter to the Queer Community

Zola Saadi-Klein (*2003) 60' without intermission
bolbol: āb garm o seylāb
Daniel Lasagna (*2002) *Circus of the Mind* (2025)
Maya Irizarry Lambright (*2002) *forest of taldeni*
Max Lang (*2004) *commonplace little perils* (2025)
Calvin Ray Shawler (*2005) *Order* (2024)

Program notes

A Better World

“An artist’s duty, as far as I’m concerned, is to reflect the times.”

These famous words of renowned African-American musician-activist Nina Simone continue to ring with truth today. As humans, we are constantly investigating and responding to the conditions of society, and this program explores our inherently political lives with power, intimacy, and sincerity.

The first half of the program invites hope: Michi Wiancko, who reflects on the climate disasters that have devastated vulnerable populations, describes her work as “a celebration, a call to action and meditation on our collective humanity”. Paired with Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson’s inimitable ‘Calvary’ quartet, we are inspired by collective perseverance through struggle. Based on the African-American spiritual of the same title, this work tells the story of Jesus’ crucifixion, signifying the resistance and deliverance of Black Americans in the past, present, and future.

The second half of the program features two of our most meaningful commissions: Jeff Scott, commissioned through the Caramoor Center, highlights the well-documented history of LGBTQ+ artist-activists in the U.S. Following this, Lau’s Quartet No. 7 – which was inspired by a familial trauma, when the composer’s newborn son was diagnosed with a rare disease – navigates the parallel processes of recovery and growth, surfacing from the depths of strife and hardship with a renewed exuberance. In tandem, these pieces bind our past and present experiences together, honoring our community’s history while uplifting the next generation. Ultimately, this program is an artistic lesson in resilience and strength, providing us with an opportunity to mourn, celebrate, and grow together. A better world is possible, and it starts here.

(Poiesis Quartet)

A Love Letter to the Queer Community

This project features five 10-minute works from emerging QTPOC (Queer & Trans People of Color) composers who are students or alumni of Oberlin College & Conservatory. Entirely commissioned by the Poiesis Quartet, this impact-driven program aims to expand the string quartet canon with the artistic stories of diverse artists, centering the vast knowledge and approaches to music-making by the intersection of QTPOC that are too often unheard. According to the Institute for Composer Diversity’s 2024 Orchestra Repertoire Report, works by living Women and Nonbinary composers of color are only programmed 4.1% of the time. As such, this project presents an important opportunity for artists and audiences everywhere to challenge norms in classical music, and experience vibrant, engaging, and beautiful music from non-traditional perspectives.

As a quartet made up of queer- and trans-identifying Oberlin alumni, this project is our love letter to the wonderful queer community at Oberlin that raised us, and to spotlight voices that are not traditionally represented in chamber music. The music on this program explores several aspects of interdisciplinary art, the blend of non-Western musical forms and structures, political commentary, and improvisatory sound-making. More detailed information, including program notes, composer biographies, possible visual art components, and potential premiere dates are available upon request. If applicable, opportunities such as pre-concert talks with some artists / composers may be possible.

(Poiesis Quartet)

Jeff Scott (*1967) – new work commissioned by the Poiesis Quartet

Jeff Scott -Grammy-Winner 2024- is a French horn player, composer and teacher from Queens, New York, who is known for his 'urban classical music'. He is a member of the Imani Winds Quintet and has performed in major Broadway productions and film soundtracks, including The Lion King and Clockers. Scott is the creator of works for wind and brass quintets, horn quartets and jazz ensembles, and is a professor of horn at the University of Buffalo.

<https://www.musicbyjeffreyscott.com/>

Sky Macklay (*1988) - *Many Many Cadences*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eO_5-ssHzYM

This piece aims to stretch the audiences' perception of traditional cadences used in Western classical music, in a humorous way.

<https://www.skymacklay.com/many-many>

Kevin Lau (*1982) - *String Quartet no.7* (commissioned by the Poiesis Quartet)

https://youtu.be/x_loBKwHPEk

This piece is written by the Chinese-Canadian composer Kevin Lau, and was composed during a time of grief and struggle for Kevin while his newborn son was battling a rare disease. The music is a celebration of love and gratitude for family.

Michi Wiancko (*1976) - *To Unpathed Waters, Undreamed Shores*

Michi Wiancko is a violinist and composer whose creative work encompasses a wide spectrum of new composition, collaboration, and interpretation.

<https://www.michiwiancko.com/>

Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson (1932-2004) - *String Quartet No. 1, Calvary*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TRPmCqdr92U>

This work by African-American musician Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson is based on the traditional spiritual Calvary, which deals with the death and ascension of Jesus. Calvary stands for the strong resilience of Black people in America and expresses solemnity and joy despite the immense difficulties of everyday life.