Brentano String Quartet

Biography | June 2026

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

With a career spanning over three decades, the Brentano Quartet has appeared throughout the world to popular and critical acclaim. The New York Times extols its "luxuriously warm sound [and] yearning lyricism; and the Times (London) hails their "wonderful, selfless music-making." Known for its unique sensibility, probing interpretive style, and original programming, the Quartet has performed across five continents in the world's most prestigious venues and festivals, thus establishing itself as one of the world's preeminent ensembles.

Dedicated and highly sought after as educators, the Quartet has served as Artists-in-Residence at the Yale School of Music for the past decade. They also lead the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival and appear regularly at the Taos School of Music. Previously, the Quartet served for fifteen years as Ensemble-in-Residence at Princeton University.

In the 2025-26 concert season, the Quartet toured throughout North America, including concerts in New York, Boston, Chicago, Vancouver, Detroit, San Francisco, and Denver. They performed the complete Mozart Quintets with violist Hsin-Yun Huang in Philadelphia. Further afield, they toured Spain and elsewhere in Europe (London, Luxemburg, Berlin). The ensemble has been invited to play a Beethhoven cycle at Wirmore hall London in the 2027-2028 season.

Formed in 1992, The Brentano Quartet has received numerous accolades, including, in 1995, the prestigious Naumburg and Cleveland Quartet Awards. They have been privileged to collaborate with such artists as sopranos Jessye Norman and Dawn Upshaw; mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato; as well as pianists Mitsuko Uchida and Jonathan Biss. The Quartet has commissioned works from some of the most important composers of our time, including Bruce Adolphe, Matthew Aucoin, Gabriela Frank, Stephen Hartke, Vijay Iyer, Steven Mackey, Charles Wuorinen, Lei Liang, James MacMillan, and Melinda Wagner.

Notable recordings include Beethoven's Quartet, Op. 131 (Aeon) which was featured in the 2012 film "A Late Quartet," starring Philip Seymour Hoffman and Christopher Walken, and a 2017 live album with Joyce DiDonato, "Into the Fire—Live from Wigmore Hall" (Warner) Their most recent release features the K. 428 and K. 465 ("Dissonance") Quartets of Mozart for the Azica label.

The Quartet is named for Antonie Brentano, whom many scholars consider to be Beethoven's "Immortal Beloved," the intended recipient of his famous love confession.

Short Version

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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.

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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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