



Dartmouth College

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hop.dartmouth.edu

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A musical sandwich by one of the Hop's favorite string quartets

HANOVER, NH—One of the joys of witnessing a string quartet performance is the drama, as the four players alternately converse, argue, confess, woo, sob and console - all of it through music.

No foursome offers more musical drama than the **St. Lawrence String Quartet**, which performs at the Hop on Thursday, October 10—its third Hop appearance. Celebrating its 30th year, the St. Lawrence are known for intellectually and emotionally charged performances distinguished by “flexibility, dramatic fire and...a hint of rock 'n' roll energy” (*Los Angeles Times*). The *Washington Post* called them “fearless musicians whose spontaneity stretches past conventional interpretation and probes the music’s imaginative limits.”

Also, you can get to know the quartet and what they’ll be playing at a free pre-concert talk with Hop Director Mary Lou Aleskie at 6:30 pm in the Top of the Hop.

At the Hop, the quartet performs one of their renowned programmatic “sandwiches”: two works by living composers sandwiched between two quartets by the father of the string quartet, Haydn. Wrote *The New Yorker*, “No other North American quartet plays the music of Haydn with more intelligence, expressivity, and force”; the quartet recorded a groundbreaking set of six Op. 20 Haydn quartets in high-definition video for a free, universal release online in 2018.

The group also has strong, collaborative connections to living composers. Adams wrote: “They will go the distance with me, allow me to try and fail, and they will indulge my seizures of doubt, frustration and indecision, all the while providing intuitions and frequently brilliant suggestions of their own.”

They have a longstanding friendship with Golijov, of whom the *Los Angeles Times* wrote: “The sociable Golijov defies the normal model of a composer creating alone, locked away in a lonely room. He interacts with performers when he writes, often driving them crazy making last-minute changes and treating his scores as works in progress. Moreover, he gathers music from a great many sources and cultures. Sometimes he changes very little, sometimes a lot. But that dash of Golijovian magic, when he finds it, can make all the difference in bringing foreign or even dead music to life.”

Established in Toronto in 1989, the SLSQ quickly earned acclaim at top international chamber music competitions and was soon playing hundreds of concerts per year worldwide. The group established an ongoing residency at Spoleto Festival USA and made prize-winning recordings for EMI of music by Schumann, Tchaikovsky and Golijov, earning two Grammy nominations and a host of other prizes. Ensemble-in-residence at Stanford University since 1998, the SLSQ is at the forefront of intellectual life on campus, directing the music department's chamber music program and collaborating across disciplines, including with the Schools of Law, Medicine, Business and Education. The quartet frequently performs at Stanford Live, hosts an annual chamber music seminar, and runs the Emerging String Quartet Program through which they mentor the next generation of young quartets.

Other outstanding chamber music events on the Hop calendar for 2019/20 include:

- November 12: violinist Pinchas Zukerman (with pianist Angela Cheng), an all-Beethoven program by one of today's great violinists;
- January 23: Kronos Quartet with Terry Riley, performing the fascinating result of a 40-year collaboration;
- Two duo concerts by Hop pianist-in-residence Sally Pinkas, one with pianist Evan Hirsch (October 29) and the other with violinist Saul Bitrán (February 11).

MORE ABOUT...

The Hopkins Center for the Arts

Founded in 1962, "the Hop" is a multi-disciplinary academic, visual and performing arts center dedicated to uncovering insights, igniting passions, and nurturing talents to help Dartmouth and the surrounding Upper Valley community engage imaginatively and contribute creatively to our world. Each year the Hop presents more than 300 live events and films by visiting artists as well as Dartmouth students and the Dartmouth community, and reaches more than 22,000 Upper Valley residents and students with outreach and arts education programs. After a celebratory 50th-anniversary season in 2012-13, the Hop enters its second half-century with renewed passion for mentoring young artists, supporting the development of new work, and providing a laboratory for participation and experimentation in the arts.

CALENDAR LISTINGS

St. Lawrence String Quartet

Back at the Hop to celebrate its 30th year, the St. Lawrence String Quartet has earned a place among the world's most compelling string quartets for its intellectually and emotionally charged performances. The ensemble will serve up commissioned works by John Adams and Osvaldo Golijov, sandwiched between Haydn quartets. *The New Yorker* writes "no other North American quartet plays ... with more intelligence, expressivity, and force."

Thu, Oct 10, 7:30 pm

Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center for the Arts, Dartmouth College, Hanover NH

\$30-55, 40% discount for 18 and under

Information: hop.dartmouth.edu or 603-646-2422

Artist Conversation: St. Lawrence String Quartet

Quartet members talk with Hop Director Mary Lou Aleskie about the group's 30-year partnership.

Thurs, Oct 10, 6:30 pm - 7:15 pm

Top of the Hop, Hopkins Center for the Arts, Dartmouth College, Hanover NH

Free

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