

Praised in *The New York Times* as having “everything one wants in a quartet: a rich, precisely balanced sound, a broad coloristic palette, real unity of interpretive purpose and seemingly unflagging energy,” the Miami String Quartet has established its place among the most widely respected quartets in America. For over twenty years, their diversity in programming, poise in performance, keen sense of ensemble and impeccable musicality has made the Miami String Quartet one of the most sought after quartets in chamber music today.

Winners of the 2000 Cleveland Quartet Award presented by Chamber Music America, and Chamber Music Society Two ensemble of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center from 1999-2001, the Miami String Quartet has been in residence at Hugh A. Glauser School of Music at Kent State University since 2004. They were Quartet in Residence at the Hartt School in Hartford, from 2003 to 2009. Other previous residencies include Florida International University and the New World School of the Arts in Miami, where the group was founded in 1988.

The Miami String Quartet has appeared extensively throughout the United States and Europe. Highlights of recent seasons include performances in New York at Lincoln Center’s Alice Tully Hall and the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., as well as engagements in Boston, Indianapolis, Los Angeles, New Orleans, San Francisco, Seattle, St. Paul, and its own concert series in Palm Beach, Florida. International highlights include appearances in Bern, Cologne, Amsterdam’s Concertgebouw, Istanbul, Lausanne, Montreal, Rio de Janeiro, Hong Kong, Taipei, and Paris. The Quartet has recently toured with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and they perform frequently for the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society.

The Miami String Quartet is in demand at many of the country’s great festivals. For many years, the Quartet has served as resident ensemble at the Kent/Blossom Music Festival in Ohio, and has appeared at Chamber Music Northwest, Mostly Mozart, Ravinia, the Brevard Festival, Rutgers Summerfest, Music from Angel Fire, Virginia Arts Festival – where it has been the resident ensemble – and at the festivals of La Jolla, Santa Fe, and Pensacola.

The ensemble’s interest in new music has led to many commissions and premieres. In 2009 the Quartet and the Kalischstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio premiered Ellen Taaffe Zwilich’s Septet, a work co-commissioned by a dozen organizations including the 92nd St. Y, Kennedy Center, Chamber Music Society of Detroit, Kravis Center, Philharmonic Society of Orange County, Friends of Chamber Music (Portland), Chamber Arts Society of Durham, and Denver Friends of Chamber Music. In 2008, they and the Imani Winds premiered Roberto Sierra’s *Concierto da Camera*, commissioned by Chamber Music Northwest, Stanford University, and Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival. Also in 2008, the ensemble performed the premiere of Joan Tower’s *Angels* (String Quartet No. 4), commissioned by Music from Angel Fire, and premiered Ricky Ian Gordon’s *Green Sneakers* for baritone and string quartet, commissioned by Bravo! Vail festival in Colorado. Other recent commissions include a new work by composer Annie Gosfield, commissioned by the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival; a joint commissioning by the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and the Virginia Arts Festival of a piano quintet by Bruce Adolphe; and a new work by composer Stephen Jaffe commissioned by the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society.

In 2000, Miami String Quartet premiered Augusta Read Thomas’s *Invocations*. In the 1997-98 season, the Quartet presented the American premieres of Quartets Nos. 1 and 2 by Peteris Vasks, which met with enormous acclaim and were subsequently recorded; Vasks’ Quartet No. 3 has since become a signature piece for the ensemble. Among other new music highlights are a commissioning grant from Chamber Music America for a piano quintet from Maurice Gardner, world premiere performances of the quartet *Whispers of Mortality* by Bruce Adolphe, a quartet by Philip Maneval, Maurice Gardner’s Quartet No. 2 and *Concertino* as well as premieres of Robert Starer’s Quartet Nos. 2 and 3, and David Baker’s *Summer Memories*.

The Miami String Quartet’s first recording, the first two quartets of Alberto Ginastera, was released in 1994. Their second CD, Saint-Saëns Quartets Nos. 1 and 2 and Faure’s String Quartet, was released in the fall of 1997 on BMG Conifer. The aforementioned 1999 BMG recording of Peteris Vasks’ Quartet Nos. 1, 2, and 3 garnered unqualified praise on both sides of the Atlantic. Azica Records released their recording of Zwilich’s Septet, with the Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio, in 2014. Their recording of Joan Tower’s quartets *Angels* and *Incandescent* was released in April 2016.

In 1992, the Miami String Quartet became the first string quartet in a decade to win First Prize of the Concert Artists Guild New York Competition. The Miami String Quartet has also won recognition in competitions throughout the world; as laureate of the 1993 Evian Competition, 1991 London String Quartet Competition, and as the 1989 Grand Prize Winner of the Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition.

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