

ARGUS QUARTET

Biography

Clara Kim, violin • Giancarlo Latta, violin • Maren Rothfritz, viola • Mariel Roberts, cello

The Argus Quartet’s “vivacious foursome” (*The New Yorker*) is committed to bringing thoughtful and personal programs to both seasoned listeners and audiences new to classical music. The Quartet enjoys projects that celebrate collaboration, community, and risk-taking in venues of all shapes and sizes.

Praised for playing with “supreme melodic control and total authority” and “decided dramatic impact” (*Calgary Herald*), Argus has quickly emerged as one of today’s most dynamic and versatile ensembles. Formed in Los Angeles in 2013, the Quartet has performed in some of the country’s most prestigious venues and festivals, including Lincoln Center’s Alice Tully Hall, Chamber Music Society of Detroit, the Ravinia Festival, the Albany Symphony’s American Music Festival, and Music Academy of the West. In 2017, Argus won First Prize at both the M-Prize Chamber Arts Competition and the Concert Artists Guild Victor Elmaleh Competition.

Highlights of the 2022-23 concert season include two appearances at Carnegie Hall, a return to Columbia University’s Miller Theatre for its Pop-Up Concerts series, the beginning of a multi-year recording project of the string quartets of Donald Crockett, and the launch of a new program consisting of works by Indigenous composers. This program will feature a new composition by Pulitzer Prize finalist Anne Leilehua Lanzilotti, commissioned as a National Performance Network Creation & Development Fund Project. The Quartet will premiere the program in San Diego, Long Beach, and Denver in spring 2023.

Central to the Quartet’s work is close collaboration with living composers. In 2022, Argus premiered Jessica Meyer’s “Of Being,” commissioned by Chamber Music America, at the Morgan Library. Past commissions include works by Katherine Balch, Donald Crockett, GRAMMY nominee Eric Guinivan, Hermitage Prize winner Thomas Kotcheff, and Guggenheim Fellowship recipient Juri Seo. Argus’ recording of Seo’s works for string quartet was released in May 2019 on Innova Recordings; December 2022 saw the release of Christopher Cerrone’s “The Air Suspended” with pianist Shai Wosner on New Focus Recordings. The Quartet has received grants from the Koussevitzky Foundation, Concert Artists Guild, and the Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts in support of their commissioning efforts.

Education and outreach are an important part of the Argus Quartet’s mission. The Quartet has worked with students through residencies and masterclasses at Yale and Princeton, Temple University, James Madison University, Rockport Music, California State University Long Beach, and the Virginia Arts Festival. From 2020-2022, they were an ensemble in residence with Midori & Friends, regularly presenting interactive performances in New York City public schools.

From 2015-17, Argus served as the Fellowship Quartet in Residence at the Yale School of Music under the guidance of the Brentano Quartet, and from 2017-19 held the position of Graduate Resident String Quartet at the Juilliard School, where they worked closely with the Juilliard String Quartet. They have also held residencies at New Music on the Point working with the JACK Quartet, and at the Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts as the Ernst Stiefel Quartet in Residence.

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