



CHAMBER MUSIC RALEIGH

The Ellen Black Winston Concert Fund presents

POIESIS QUARTET

North Carolina Museum of Art

Sarah Ma, violin
Max Ball, violin
Jasper de Boor, viola
Drew Dansby, cello

Pisachi (Reveal) for String Quartet (2013)

Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate

String Quartet No. 7

Kevin Lau

Commissioned by the Poiesis Quartet (2025)

— Intermission —

complimentary airline snacks in the lobby

String Quartet (2024)

Brian Raphael Nabors

Calvary for Violin Quartet

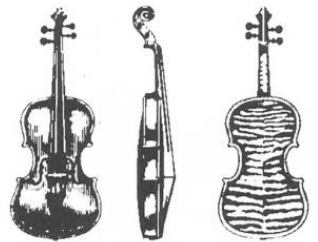
African-American Spiritual

Arranged by Max Ball

Performed attacca

String Quartet No. 1, "Calvary"

Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson



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PROGRAM NOTES BY:
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***Pisachi* (Reveal) for String Quartet**

Jerod Impichchaachaaha Tate
b. 1968

The son of a Chickasaw father and an Irish mother, Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate grew up in a family professionally involved in music, dance and theatre. He received his training as a pianist and composer at Northwestern University and the Cleveland Conservatory of Music, but his mother commissioned his first composition, *Winter Moons*, a ballet that explores traditions of the tribes from the Northern Plains and Rockies.

Tate, who has been inspired in ways of combining ethnic and Classical traditions through the music of Bela Bartók, writes:

"I didn't mix my identities of being a classically trained musician and being an American Indian. I never saw that there was even a possible relationship between those two until I started composing. And that's when they came together in a way that made me feel just wonderful."

Pisachi is composed in six "epitomes," or sections, and was originally commissioned to be performed within a slide show exhibit for ETHEL (A New York based string quartet using amplification), for a touring project entitled *Documerica*. Tate conceived *Pisachi* to be paired with images of the American Southwest. It draws specifically from Hopi and Pueblo melody, rhythms and form. The opening viola solo is a paraphrase of a Pueblo Buffalo Dance and recurs throughout the work. *Pisachi* also incorporates Hopi Buffalo Dance and Elk Dance music. It honors Tate's Southwest Native American cousins, blended with music of the Classical tradition.

String Quartet No. 7: Surfacing

Kevin Lau
b. 1982

Hong Cong-born Canadian composer Kevin Lau received his doctorate in 2012 from the University of Toronto, and has been closely associated professionally with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. From 2021 - 2024 he served as a professor at Humber College's Media and Creative Arts Faculty in Toronto.

Lau composed his String Quartet No. 7 in 2025 on commission from the Poiesis Quartet. He writes: "My last three string quartets were composed virtually back-to-back over a period of two years. Perhaps naturally, I came to see the Seventh Quartet as the final instalment in a trilogy of sorts, which began with the fantastical Fifth), followed by the considerably darker Sixth. In my mind, the Seventh offers dramatic closure to the musical and existential questions posed by these previous quartets, while simultaneously paving the way for new horizons."

The Quartet was strongly impacted by a serious family event: "The creation of my Seventh Quartet took place a month after an experience which left an indelible mark on my identity and sense of purpose. In the second month of his life, my son Robin was diagnosed with a serious disease that necessitated a liver transplant - eventually made possible by my wife, who donated a portion of her liver to save his life. After half a year spent in the hospital, our family returned home intact, filled with relief and gratitude - but also battered and haunted by what we had endured. While I often prefer to keep my artistic and personal worlds separate, I cannot help but view this piece through the lens of physical and emotional recovery - one in which virtuosity, by turns searing, defiant, and joyous, lays the groundwork for catharsis." He notes: "The title was inspired by a sensation I can only describe as a kind of defiant euphoria. It is the feeling of emerging from the abyss into a bright, almost impossibly open space"

String Quartet

Brian Raphael Nabors
b. 1991

Born in Birmingham, AL, the son of a church musician and pastor, Brian Nabors is a prolific composer who describes himself as the beneficiary of a charming Southern upbringing, which exposed him to many deep-rooted musical ideals, many of which are rooted in spirituality; one of the main principles that inspires his music. His roots have inspired innovative fusions of homegrown soundscapes with the modern flair of contemporary music. The result is a visceral, colorfully immersive sonic experience. He received a Doctor of Musical Arts and Master of Music degree in Composition at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory

of Music. He spent 2020 as a recipient of a Fulbright scholarship at the Conservatorium of Music in Sydney, Australia.

Nabors started the String Quartet in 2017, while still a student. He writes: “I did my best to create a work that contained heart and grit, capturing my love for lyricism, harmony and more thorny techniques. It was mostly finished, but I ended up putting the work away and added/revised a little since that time. I finally brought it to completion in 2024 and happy to see this little "mosaic" of my voice throughout 7 years, come to life!”

The short work is divided into a number of sections, each hinting at an aspect of African-American musical culture. It opens with a hypnotic drive, that makes your feet want to tap along, perhaps the Saturday night dance. The rhythm recurs throughout the work; moving through a variety of moods and styles, including spirituals, ending with a return to the wild rhythm.

String Quartet No. 1, "Calvary"

Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson
1932-2004

Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson was a versatile African-American musician – composer, conductor, pianist and drummer – familiar both in jazz, pop and classical music. He came from an artistic family and his mother, a piano teacher and organist in the Bronx, named him after the African-British composer Samuel Coleridge Taylor.

Perkinson studied music at the Manhattan School of Music and Princeton University. In 1965 he co-founded New York's Symphony of the New World, and served as music director of Jerome Robbins' American Theater Lab and the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. He worked as a music director and arranger for many famous jazz and soul artists including Marvin Gaye, Barbara McNair, Lou Rawls, Donald Byrd, Max Roach, Melvin Van Peebles, and Harry Belafonte. After 1998 he was affiliated with the Center for Black Music Research at Columbia College in Chicago.

Perkinson's music is eclectic, drawing its inspiration from the Baroque, Romanticism, blues and spirituals. His extensive catalog includes many vocal works, violin, viola and cello concertos, 12 film scores, five ballets, two piano sonatas two sinfoniettas and one string quartet.

Perkinson composed his String Quartet No. 1 in 1956, based on the spiritual "Calvary", whose origin is uncertain. His treatment of the spiritual in the first movement is quite syncopated, showing all his influences, including splashes of blues. But he warned: “When I sat down to write this string quartet, I was not trying to write something Black, I was just writing out of my experience.” The mood of the slow second movement is closer to that of a spiritual, while the rondo finale is angular with blues notes and complex counterpoint.



Dallas Morning News praised “her impassioned account... and pianissimos at the threshold of audibility that still radiated intensity.”

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Sarah Ying Ma is pursuing an Artist Diploma at the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music, studying with Kristin Lee and mentored in chamber music by the Ariel Quartet. Named a 2024 *Performance Today* Young Artist in Residence with host Fred Child, Sarah is the recent 2nd Prize winner of the 2023 Dallas International Violin Competition, where *The*

In 2024, Sarah was a semifinalist in both the solo and ensemble divisions of the Concert Artists Guild Louis & Susan Meisel Competition, later advancing to the finals with Poiesis. They have appeared as soloist with the Dallas Chamber Symphony, Ensemble 212, and the Accademia D'Archi Arrigoni, among others, and were featured on NPR's *From the Top* (Show 393). A 2021 National YoungArts winner and laureate of the 2019 Cooper International Competition, Sarah has trained at the Heifetz Institute, Kneisel Hall, and the Aspen Music Festival as the Dorothy Richard Starling Fellow, studying with Robert Lipsett, Donald Weilerstein, and Paul Kantor.

After earlier studies at The Juilliard School's Pre-College Division, Sarah earned a B.M. in Violin Performance from Oberlin Conservatory under Sibbi Bernhardsson



Max Ball is an Artist Diploma student at the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music, studying with Kristin Lee and receiving chamber music mentorship from the Ariel Quartet. Passionate about ensemble playing, Max has performed in numerous chamber recitals and attended programs including the BUTI String Quartet Intensive, Encore Chamber Music Institute, and the Madeline Island Fellowship Program.

In addition to classical performance, Max also pursues a minor in Jazz Studies, working with Gerald Cannon and Jay Ashby and performing in several Oberlin ensembles. A particular highlight is the PI (Performance and Improvisation) Ensemble, which brings together musicians across conservatory departments and international guest artists in a wide range of musical styles.

Max holds a B.M. in Violin Performance with a Oberlin Conservatory, where they studied with

Jasper de Boor is a recent graduate of Oberlin majored in violin and viola under David Bowlin currently studying viola and chamber music at the College-Conservatory of Music with Ayane Outside of quartet playing, Jasper enjoys sight-Baroque violin, and—when time allows—



Drew Dansby graduate of Oberlin he studied cello with academic degrees in Studies, and Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra full-time in the 2023–24 season, becoming the orchestra's youngest member at age 22. Drew has also performed as an acting cellist with the Charlotte Symphony, served as associate principal cellist of the New York String Orchestra, and held principal positions with the Verbier Festival Orchestra.

Originally from Charlotte, NC, Drew made his solo debut with the Charlotte Symphony at 15. He is a founding member of the Charlotte Piano Trio, which has presented 14 concerts across North Carolina, and he founded and directed the 2022 Myers Park Summer Series. His awards include recognition as a National

YoungArts winner and gold medalist in the Cleveland Cello Society competition. Drew was a three-time member of the National Youth Orchestra of the USA—first as a violinist and later as principal cellist, becoming the first musician in the program's history to be accepted on two instruments. As a winner of Oberlin's Concerto Competition, he performed David Baker's *Concerto for Cello and Jazz Band* with the Oberlin Jazz Ensemble in 2024.



minor in Jazz Studies from Sibbi Bernhardsson.

Conservatory, where they double- and Kirsten Docter. They are University of Cincinnati's Kozasa and the Ariel Quartet. reading, playing piano and sleeping.

(he/him) is a recent double-degree College and Conservatory, where Darrett Adkins and completed chemistry, Comparative American sociology. He joined the

The Ellen Black Winston Concert Fund supports one concert in each of Chamber Music Raleigh's seasons. As one of the company's founders in 1941, Mrs. Winston organized an endowment fund for the organization in 1972 and made a bequest establishing the concert fund upon her death in 1984. She left a legacy that continues to bring music and education to the capital city. A social worker, a writer and editor, she also served as U.S. commissioner of welfare in the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

