Sample String Quartet Concert Programs
Compiled by the Music Entrepreneurship & Career Center, Updated March 2016

We offer these programs, organized in three categories, to help rising musicians develop distinctive programs of their own. Programs marked with asterisks have descriptions included on pages 4-5.

1. Programs Built on a Concept

**Del Sol String Quartet**

Fast Blue Village: Fast Blue Village features works from internationally acclaimed composers reflecting the vibrant sounds and rhythms of diverse cultures from around the world.

- Jose Evangelista: Spanish Garland
- Lembit Beecher: These Memories May Be True
- Chinary Ung: Spiral X: In Memoriam, for amplified string quartet with vocalizations
- Mohammed Fairouz: The Named Angels
- Elena Kats-Chernin: Fast Blue Village

**Del Sol String Quartet**

Superflat: Music that blurs the lines of pop art and high art, with works reflecting the influences of classical, jazz and pop idioms.

- Mads Tolling: Commission for Del Sol Quartet
- Philip Glass: String Quartet No. 5
- Ben Johnston: Revised Standards: “Gershwin, Rogers, Kern”
- Ben Johnston: Revised Standards: “Set for Billie Holiday”
- John Cage: String Quartet in Four Parts
- Mason Bates: Bagatelles for Amplified String Quartet and Electronica

**PUBLIQuartet***

Hidden Connections

- Igor Stravinsky: Three Pieces for String Quartet
- Claude Debussy: String Quartet, Op. 10
- Thelonious Monk: Green Chimneys
- Charlie Parker: Ah-Leu-Cha
- Thelonious Monk: Off Minor
- Claude Debussy, arr. Norpoth: Golliwogg’s Cakewalk (from Children’s Corner)

**Amphion String Quartet***

Pioneer

- Ludwig van Beethoven: String Quartet, Op. 18 No. 1
- Igor Stravinsky: Three Pieces
- Ruth Crawford Seeger: String Quartet
- Felix Mendelssohn: String Quartet, Op. 80
Del Sol String Quartet

Earth Cry: A program exploring both the beauty and complexity of the environment through the incredible medium of string quartet sound.

Osvaldo Golijov        Tenebrae
Peter Sculthorpe      String Quartet No. 18 (with dijderidu)
--Intermission--
Irene Sazer            Thunder
Robert Erickson        Solstice
Robert Honstein        Arctic

JACK Quartet, w/ Mivos Quartet | Columbia University, Friday, Feb. 27, 2015

A Concert of World Premieres

David Bird            drop, w/ Mivos Quartet
Paul Clift           colours are like memories of other colours, w/ Mivos Quartet
Alec Hall           28 Hours
Yair Klatztag        Polychronization
Matthew Ricketts     In Partial View
John Rot             whether wandering, w/ Mivos Quartet

Del Sol String Quartet

Amping Up: A program reflecting the vigor and spirit of amplified music

Ken Ueno          Peradam
Mason Bates      Bagatelles for Amplified String Quartet and Electronica
--Intermission--
Elena Kats Chernin   Fast Blue Village
Keeril Makan      Tear
Béla Bartók       String Quartet No. 4

2. Programs with Newer Repertoire

Calder Quartet | Jordan Hall, NEC, Friday, Feb. 20, 2015

Andrew Norman        Sabina
Maurice Ravel       String Quartet In F Major
Ludwig van Beethoven String Quartet No. 11 In F minor, Opus 95 "Serioso"

Shanghai Quartet | Rockport Music, Saturday, June 21, 2014

Franz Schubert      Quartettsatz In C minor, D.703
Zhou Long            Song Of The Ch’in
Krzesztof Penderecki   Quartet No. 3, "Leaves Of An Unwritten Diary"
Ludwig van Beethoven String Quartet In C Major, Op.59/3 "Razumovsky"

Mivos Quartet | Miller Theatre POP UP Concert, Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2014

Martin Stauning     Atmende Steine (2013)
J. S. Bach, arr. Higgins Contra punctus XIX (arr. 2013)

Kronos Quartet | Late Nights at Zankel Hall, Saturday, March 7, 2015*

Merlijn Twaalffhoven On Parole (World Premiere)
Bryce Dessner      Tenebre
Derek Charke        Dear Creator, help us return to the centre of our hearts
Aleksandra Vrebalov Beyond Zero: 1914–1918 (for quartet with film)
JACK Quartet | Philharmonie Luxembourg, Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2015
Ruth Crawford Seeger | String Quartet
Elliott Carter | String Quartet No. 3
Carlo Gesualdo, arr. Streisfeld | Three madrigals
Georg Friedrich Haas | String Quartet No. 8
John Zorn | The Dead Man
Iannis Xenakis | Tetras

Apollon Musagète Quartet | Weill Recital Hall, Friday, Nov. 7, 2014*
Antonín Dvořák | String Quartet No. 11 in C Major, Op. 61
Karol Szymanowski | String Quartet No. 2
Dmitri Shostakovich | String Quartet No. 4 in D Major
Igor Stravinsky | Tango for String Quartet (arr. Wolfgang Birtel)

3. Conventional Programs with a Twist

Borromeo String Quartet | Weill Recital Hall, Friday, Oct. 10, 2014
Dmitri Shostakovich | String Quartet No. 3 in F Major
Béla Bartók | String Quartet No. 6
Benjamin Britten | String Quartet No. 2 in C Major

Artemis Quartet | Zankel Hall, Wednesday, April 15, 2015*
Antonín Dvořák | String Quartet No. 12 in F Major, Op. 96 "American"
Pēteris Vasks | String Quartet No. 5
Bedrich Smetana | String Quartet No. 1 in E minor, "From My Life"

Emerson String Quartet | NEC' s Jordan Hall, Thursday, Jan. 22, 2015
Henry Purcell | Two Fantasias & Chacony (arr. Benjamin Britten)
Lowell Liebermann | String Quartet
Ludwig van Beethoven | String Quartet No. 15 in A minor, Op. 132

Escher String Quartet w/ Jennifer Zetlan | Alice Tully Hall, Sunday, March 15, 2015
Voces intimaes
Franz Schubert | Quartet in A minor for Strings, D. 804, Op. 29 No. 1 “Rosamunde” (1824)
Alban Berg | Lyric Suite for String Quartet (1925-26)
Jean Sibelius | Quartet in D minor for Strings, Op. 56, “Voces intimaes” (1909)

St. Lawrence String Quartet | Zankel Hall, Thursday, Oct. 29, 2015*
Franz Joseph Haydn | String Quartet in F minor, Op. 20 No. 5
John Adams | Second Quartet
Ludwig van Beethoven | String Quartet in C-sharp minor, Op. 131

Artemis Quartet | Zankel Hall, Sunday, March 23, 2014
Johannes Brahms | String Quartet in C minor, Op. 51 No. 1
György Kurtág | Officium breve in memoriam Andreae Szervánszky
Ludwig van Beethoven | String Quartet in C-sharp minor, Op. 131
J. S. Bach | Prelude & Fugue in E minor, Well-Tempered Clavier Book II, BWV 879

Pacifica Quartet | CMSLC, Alice Tully Hall, Friday, Nov. 7, 2014
Franz Joseph Haydn | Quartet in B-Flat Major for Strings, Hob. III:78, Op. 76 No. 4 “Sunrise”
Shulamit Ran | Glitter, Doom, Shards, Memory, Quartet No. 3 for Strings
Giacomo Puccini | Crisantemi for String Quartet
Felix Mendelssohn | Quartet in F minor for Strings, Op. 80
**Takács Quartet** | Zankel Hall, Thursday, Nov. 19, 2015
Franz Joseph Haydn | String Quartet in C Major, Op. 74, No. 1
Timo Andres | New Work
Antonín Dvořák | String Quartet No. 14 in A-Flat Major, Op. 105

**Jasper String Quartet** | Weill Recital Hall, Salon Encores, Friday, Feb. 19, 2016*
Franz Joseph Haydn | String Quartet in G Major, Op. 76 No. 1
Aaron Jay Kernis | String Quartet No. 3
Claude Debussy | String Quartet in G minor

**Kelemen Quartet** | Weill Recital Hall, Salon Encores, Friday, Oct. 23, 2015*
Franz Joseph Haydn | String Quartet in D minor, Op. 76 No. 2 "Fifths"
György Kurtág | Six moments musicaux, Op. 44
Béla Bartók | String Quartet No. 5

### SELECTED PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

**Kronos Quartet** | Late Nights at Zankel Hall
The Kronos Quartet continues to expand the range and context of the string quartet. This concert includes a new work commissioned by Carnegie Hall and Beyond Zero: 1914–1918, an extraordinary multimedia production that features music by Aleksandra Vrebalov and a film by Bill Morrison. A native of the former Yugoslavia, Vrebalov’s work recounts her firsthand experiences in the war-torn Balkans of the 1990s, set against Morrison's film that includes seldom-seen World War I footage from the Library of Congress.

(from Carnegie Hall, accessed 3/4/15)

**Apollon Musagète Quartet** | Salon Encores, Weill Recital Hall
A fascinating variety of quartet styles from Central and Eastern Europe are featured. Commissioned by Vienna’s Hellmesberger Quartet, Dvořák set aside his Czech nationalism in his String Quartet in C Major, a work looking back to the quartets of the Viennese school. Shostakovich’s String Quartet No. 4 opens in pastoral calm, but grows more intense as it explores Jewish themes—a potentially lethal path in the time of Stalin’s Jewish purges. Szymanowski’s String Quartet No. 2, with its wide spectrum of color and expression, is one of the Polish master’s finest works.

(from Carnegie Hall, accessed 3/4/15)

**Amphion String Quartet** | Pioneer
This program features composers who pushed the envelope of string quartet writing. Beethoven’s Op. 18 established him as a composer who, starting under the influence of Haydn, mastered string quartet writing in ways that influenced all those who came after him. Stravinsky’s Three Pieces utilize the four stringed instruments in ways never thought of before, and Ruth Crawford Seeger’s Quartet 1931 is a prime example of the American Modernism movement (also worth noting was her influence on American composer Elliott Carter). The program ends with Mendelssohn, whose rediscovery of Bach and passionate advocacy of Beethoven helped shaped the musical landscape of Europe at the time. His last string quartet, Op. 80, after the untimely death of his beloved sister Fanny, brings tumult and dissonance to the four instruments.

(from Concert Artists Guild, accessed 4/1/15)
**PUBLIQuartet**

In this program, PUBLIQuartet focuses on the hidden connections between several of the world’s most iconic musical figures. Igor Stravinsky and Charlie Parker were great admirers of one another and studied each other’s work. Stravinsky’s Three Pieces are playful and unpredictable, inspired in part by the humorously exaggerated gestures of the famous English music-hall clown “Little Tich.” Similar in nature is Debussy’s Prelude No. 6, inspired by the American clown Edward Lavine. Debussy’s famous String Quartet uses brilliant textures, rhythms and harmonies imbued with the French culture. Thelonious Monk’s Off Minor and Green Chimneys use rhythmic figures and harmonic devices that are heard in the music of Stravinsky and Debussy.

(from Concert Artists Guild, accessed 4/1/15)

**Artemis Quartet | Zankel Hall**

String quartets by two beloved Czech composers frame an intense quartet by a contemporary Latvian master. Dvořák’s “American” Quartet was written shortly after his “New World” Symphony and, like the symphony, reveals his fascination with the Native American music and African American spirituals he heard during his US stay (1892–1895). The young Dvořák played viola in the premiere of Smetana’s String Quartet No. 1, a deeply personal work that Smetana called, “a tone picture of my life, my youthful leanings towards art and the Romantic atmosphere.” While not overtly autobiographical, Pēteris Vasks’s music does speak to the history of his homeland and its struggles.

(from Carnegie Hall, accessed 3/4/15)

**Jasper String Quartet | Weill Recital Hall, Salon Encores, Friday, February 19, 2016**

The beautifully poignant second-movement Adagio duet for viola and cello is just one of many unforgettable moments in Haydn’s String Quartet in G Major, Op. 76 No. 1. This superbly crafted late work delights with its elegant opening, athletic scherzo, and finale that shifts episodes of light and dark before a joyous resolution. Debussy’s String Quartet, one of his first major works, adheres to the traditional four-movement model of Haydn, but that’s where similarities end. Debussy introduced daring textures, chords, and harmonies that were quite novel for 1893 in this intoxicating quartet that foreshadows his later musical style.

(from Carnegie Hall, accessed 3/4/15)

**St. Lawrence String Quartet | Zankel Hall, Thursday, October 29, 2015**

From its serious opening movement to its remarkable concluding fugue, Haydn’s String Quartet in F Minor, Op. 20, No. 5, is emotionally intense and visionary. Beethoven’s String Quartet in C-sharp Minor, Op. 131, goes even further, cast in seven sections and played without pause. This monumental work of shifting moods explores new realms of tonality and form. John Adams’s explorations of new musical territories will also be evidenced in the New York premiere of his String Quartet No. 2.

(from Carnegie Hall, accessed 3/4/15)

**Kelemen Quartet | Weill Recital Hall, Salon Encores, Friday, October 23, 2015**

The young Hungarian quartet performs music by two of its countrymen—Bartók and Kurtág—and a late Haydn quartet. Bartók’s Fifth String Quartet is remarkable for its unconventional harmonies, shifting textures, and energetic pulse; particularly in its Bulgarian folk music–inspired Scherzo. Kurtág modeled his Six moments musicaux on Schubert’s piano pieces of the same name, but also makes references to Bach, Beethoven, and his own music.

(from Carnegie Hall, accessed 3/4/15)