



# THE NEW ORFORD STRING QUARTET

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JONATHAN CROW, VIOLIN | ANDREW WAN, VIOLIN  
ERIC NOWLIN, VIOLA | BRIAN MANKER, CELLO

OCTOBER 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2013



## THE NEW ORFORD STRING QUARTET

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*"...Canada's top string quartet...  
they've taken our chamber  
music scene by storm...."* (CBC 2013).

Since its creation in 2009, **the New Orford String Quartet** has seen astonishing success; giving annual concerts at the Orford Arts Centre for national CBC broadcast and receiving unanimous critical acclaim, including two Opus Awards for Concert of the Year. Hailed for their "ravishingly beautiful tone" and "extraordinary technical skills and musicianship" the members of the quartet are all principal players in the Montreal and Toronto Symphony Orchestras. Their debut cd of the final quartets of Schubert and Beethoven (Bridge Records) received international acclaim. "One of the top cds of 2011" (La Presse and CBC In Concert); "a performance of true greatness and compelling intensity... stunning!" (Audio Video Club of Atlanta); "flawless... a match made in heaven!" (Classical Music Sentinel); "a performance of rare intensity" (Audiophile Audition); "nothing short of electrifying... listen and weep" (The Toronto Star). Their White Rock engagement is part of an extensive fifteen concert Western Canadian tour.

A native of Prince George, BC, **Jonathan Crow (violin)** studied at the Victoria Conservatory of Music and McGill University. In 2002, he was appointed Concertmaster of the Montreal Symphony, is currently Concertmaster of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and is a frequent performer at chamber music festivals throughout North America, South America and Europe. Recently, Jonathan joined the Canadian string trio Triskelion. In contemporary music he has premiered works by Michael Conway Baker, Eldon Rathburn, and Barrie Cabena; and includes in his repertoire major concertos by such composers as Ligeti, Schnittke, Brian Cherney and Bernstein. Jonathan plays the ex-Wm. Kroll Guarneri del Gesù 1738 violin, made available to the Concertmaster of the TSO by a generous donor.

Equally at home as a soloist, chamber musician, and concertmaster, **Andrew Wan (violin)** was named Concertmaster of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra in 2008 after his acclaimed performances of Elgar's Violin Concerto. Accepted into the prestigious Artist Diploma Program at the Juilliard School, Mr. Wan is currently on the faculty of the Schulich School of Music at McGill University. He has concertized extensively, appearing in Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, the Kennedy Center, Jordan Hall and Salle Gaveau with artists such as the Juilliard Quartet, the Sejong Soloists, the New Zealand Trio, and Gil Shaham. He performs on a 1744 Michel'Angelo Bergonzi violin, and gratefully acknowledges its loan from the David Seal Collection.

## About the Artists (Continued)

**Eric Nowlin (viola)** has performed extensively throughout the USA as well as abroad and his orchestral solo appearances include the Juilliard Orchestra, the Springfield Symphony in Missouri, the Santa Cruz and Peninsula Symphonies in California, and the Kumamoto Symphony in Japan. He has given recitals in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, and Mexico. Mr. Nowlin currently serves as Associate Principal Violist of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. A frequent prizewinner in past international string competitions, Mr. Nowlin currently teaches for the Young Artist's Performance Academy at the Royal Conservatory of Music, as well as the University of Toronto. He received his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from The Juilliard School as a student of Samuel Rhodes.

Principal Cellist of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra (OSM) since 1999, **Brian Manker (cello)** enjoys a diverse and varied musical career as a performer and teacher. Currently on the faculty of McGill University, he is a frequent concerto soloist with the OSM, and has performed throughout North America as a member of the Adorno Quartet, the Harrington String Quartet, the Cassatt Quartet and the Atlanta Chamber Players. A Grand Prize winner at the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition, Mr. Manker received a special commendation from Sir Yehudi Menuhin at the Portsmouth Int. String Quartet Competition. In 2007, Mr. Manker launched *The Beethoven Project*, which aims to perform all the quartets of Beethoven in the context of the private salon. He enjoys a critically acclaimed recital partnership with pianist André Leplante and is the co-director of Festival Alexandria. Mr. Manker plays on a cello made by Samuel Zygmuntowicz in 2005.



Our Next Concert

**Simone Osborne, soprano**  
with Members of the Vancouver Opera Orchestra

conducted by VSO Assistant Conductor, Gordon Gerrard

Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013

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## THURSDAYS (2013/2014)

- OCTOBER 3** Guest: Ariel Barnes, cello
- NOVEMBER 7** Guest: Joan Blackman, violin
- DECEMBER 5** Solo: Sarah Hagen
- JANUARY 16** Guest: Marcus Takizawa, viola
- FEBRUARY 13** Guest: Robyn Driedger-Klassen, soprano
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Andrew Dawes, O.C., founder and first violinist of the original Orford String Quartet, is joining us this evening to introduce his colleagues. Mr. Dawes is the recipient of the 2012 Governor-General's Award for Lifetime Artistic Achievement.

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770 - 1827)

## String Quartet No. 6 in B flat major, Op. 18 No. 6

Allegro con brio

Adagio, ma non troppo

Scherzo (Allegro)

La Malinconia (Adagio - Allegretto quasi allegro - Adagio -  
Allegretto - Poco adagio - Prestissimo)

R. Murray Schafer (1933 - )

## String Quartet No. 1

~INTERMISSION~

Johannes Brahms (1833 - 1897)

## String Quartet No. 2 in A minor, Op. 51 No. 2

Allegro non troppo

Andante moderato

Quasi Minuetto, moderato

Finale. Allegro non assai

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## *Programme Notes*

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**Ludwig Van Beethoven: String Quartet Op.18 No.6** The first movement of this work is in the spirit of Haydn and is followed by a slow second movement that resembles a Mozart aria. The Scherzo is a quirky movement, full of syncopations and rhythmic surprises. The Finale is entitled *La Malinconia* (The Melancholy). A slow introduction grows more tortured before launching into a carefree character. The slow music returns, only to give way again to the faster tempo, and eventually ends in a manic *prestissimo*, the fastest tempo marking used by Beethoven in any of his compositions. Some commentators have inferred that the unusual use of a descriptive title refers to the crisis of Beethoven's growing deafness. Perhaps it could be considered the first burgeonings of the "darkness into light" method present in many of his works during a time of great personal challenge.

**R. Murray Schafer: String Quartet No. 1** Written in 1970 for the Purcell String Quartet, R. Murray Schafer's first quartet is the work of a young and ambitious composer whose musical language was marked by a strong personality and much originality. It contains dramatic intensity contrasted with lyricism, exciting rhythmic motives, and the expressive use of quarter tones and glissandi. Time is an element that is used in a very original way. Schafer's metrical structures are at moments absolutely precise, and at other times marked by tremendous freedom. This work helped to lay the foundation for Schafer's subsequent string quartets, and was awarded the 1980 Arthur Honegger Prize. The first quartet begins with searing intensity in all four voices and each one tries as best it can to free itself from the clutches of the group. Finally it is the second violin that breaks loose, and the rift leads to a calmer and more lyrical section. After some hesitation (described by quarter-tone glissandi), the first violin starts up on a melody played overtop a microtonal sequence of eight notes, played by the other instruments. An expressive dialogue between the violins frames the two microtonal sections, the second of which is adorned with chromatic scales. Next begins a rhythmic interplay which gives the impression of clocks increasingly out of phase with each other - the breach has become inevitable. However, the four instruments then converge anew for a long unison sequence which starts very softly. Each musician attempts once again to free himself from the clutches of the group, as if trying to jump from a train speeding ever more out of control. A new break leads to the coda, which takes the form of snapshots recalling the various episodes of the quartet.

**Johannes Brahms: String Quartet in a minor Op.51 No.2** Brahms' lyrical and expressive quartet begins with the initial notes, F-A-E, most likely in reference to the motto "Frei, aber einsam" (Free, but lonely) of Brahms' close musical friend, Joseph Joachim. The answering theme exhibits an amiable version of the Brahms' quintessential 'two against three' rhythmic technique. The second movement's two-piece texture gives way to a full-blooded quartet sound; and the turbulent middle episode, characterized by tremolos in the middle voices and large leaps in the outer instruments, serves as a somewhat operatic outburst. The third movement minuet is perhaps a nostalgic return to the 18th century form, with a sprightly Mendelssohnian scherzo as contrast material. Much of the conflict in the Finale is derived from metric variances. The main line in the first violin is clearly in a duple feel, while the enthusiastic chordal accompaniments insist on a triple meter. The tension resolves and the once headstrong theme dissolves into a gentle waltz, just prior to a wild and accelerated conclusion.

# 2013 SURREY CIVIC TREASURES

ARTS AND HERITAGE

## Mayor Dianne Watts and Council Congratulate the 2013 Surrey Civic Treasure Award Recipients

Four recipients were honoured as Surrey Civic Treasures at the 10th annual Business and the Arts reception held on October 8th at the Surrey Arts Centre. This award recognizes and celebrates Surrey's highest achievers in the cultural sector, demonstrating that Surrey values arts and heritage and those people who achieve success in these fields.

ELLIE KING



Ellie King has devoted her life to the arts and has earned an enviable reputation as a writer, director, producer, choreographer and performer appearing on stage, television and in film. Currently the theatre artist-in-residence at the Newton Cultural Centre, Ellie has been instrumental in re-fitting the garage space in the former Fire Hall into a fully functioning studio theatre venue. Don't miss her up-coming panto production of "Cinderella". Congratulations Ellie!

KELLY KONNO



Kelly Konno grew up in Surrey and now bases herself here and in Los Angeles. Her successful dance and choreography career has taken her all over the world with such artists as Janet Jackson, Michael Jackson, Justin Timberlake, Prince, Pink, Deborah Cox and N'Sync. "She is an outstanding individual and an incredibly dedicated and talented artist and mentor". This unique individual is worthy of the title Surrey Civic Treasure.

MAXINE LLOYD HOWCHIN



Maxine has worked behind the scenes with the Fraser Valley Gilbert & Sullivan Society and earned the title "Queen of Props". She organized the first Surrey Film Festival and spent ten years co-producing "Surrey Sings". Maxine serves on the Arts Council of Surrey Board where she is appreciated for her dedication and commitment to the community. She brings enthusiasm and optimism to everything she pursues; she truly is a Treasure.

PATRICIA DAHLQUIST



A celebrated Juno award winner, Patricia Dahlquist has been singing professionally for almost half a century in coffee houses, jazz clubs, concert halls and hundreds of musical theatre shows across Canada and the United States. Her commitment to the Young People's Opera Society of BC and many contributions to the arts in Surrey are exceptional. She is a constant advocate of the arts and currently serves on the Board of the Arts Council of Surrey.

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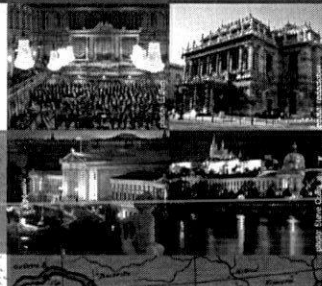
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