



The Music Department presents

Elisabeth Luce Moore String Festival artists

Pacifica Quartet

Simin Ganatra, violin
Austin Hartman, violin
Mark Holloway, viola
Brandon Vamos, cello

Saturday, April 18th, 2026, 7:30PM
Arthur Zankel Music Center
Helen Filene Ladd Concert Hall

Program

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| Four Diversions for String Quartet, Op. 32 | Louis Gruenberg |
| <i>Allegro moderato</i> | (1884-1964) |
| <i>Moderato ed à capriccio</i> | |
| <i>Andante moderato e delicato</i> | |
| <i>Allegro burlando</i> | |
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| String Quartet in F major, Op. 96, "American" | Antonín Dvořák |
| <i>Allegro ma non troppo</i> | (1841-1904) |
| <i>Lento</i> | |
| <i>Molto vivace</i> | |
| <i>Finale: vivace ma non troppo</i> | |

Intermission

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| String Quartet in B-flat major, Op. 130 | Ludwig van Beethoven |
| with Grosse Fuge, Op. 133 | (1770-1827) |
| <i>Adagio ma non troppo – Allegro</i> | |
| <i>Presto</i> | |
| <i>Andante con moto ma non troppo</i> | |
| <i>Alla danza tedesca. Allegro assai</i> | |
| <i>Cavatina. Adagio molto espressivo</i> | |
| <i>Finale. Allegro</i> | |
| <i>Grosse Fuge, Op. 133</i> | |

With a career spanning three decades, the multiple GRAMMY® Award-winning **Pacifica Quartet** has achieved international recognition as one of the finest chamber ensembles performing today. Known for delivering performances that are “engrossing, characterful...with a luminescent tranquillity [and] spine-tingling intensity” (The New York Times), the Quartet is celebrated for its virtuosity, exuberant performance style, and fearless repertory choices. Its sound, distinguished by “warmth of phrasing, dynamic control and superbly coordinated ensemble balance” (Gramophone Magazine), has solidified the ensemble as one of the most essential voices in American chamber music.

The Pacifica Quartet appears this season across North America and abroad, including a world premiere tour of their newest program, *American Portraits*, with Oscar-nominated film icon Sigourney Weaver at the 92nd Street Y in New York; Washington Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.; and Wigmore Hall in London. *American Portraits* is centered on two world-premiere commissions for narrator and string quartet honoring visionaries who helped shape our nation – champion of justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg is celebrated by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Jennifer Higdon, and environmental trailblazer Rachel Carson by GRAMMY® nominee Gabriela Lena Frank. The 2025-2026 season also brings the Pacifica Quartet to ArtPower at the University of California, San Diego; the Oneppo Chamber Music Series at Yale University; the Calgary Pro Musica Society; Friends of Music; Hillsdale College; Kutztown University Presents; the Eureka Chamber Music Series; and the Linton Chamber Music Series.

Formed in 1994, the Pacifica Quartet quickly rose to prominence, winning chamber music’s top competitions, including the 1998 Naumburg Chamber Music Award. In 2002, the ensemble received Chamber Music America’s Cleveland Quartet Award and was named to Lincoln Center’s Bowers Program (formerly CMS Two). Four years later, it received the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant, affirming

its position among the foremost American quartets. With its powerful energy and captivating, cohesive sound, the Pacifica has established itself as the embodiment of the contemporary American string quartet sound.

An ardent advocate for living composers, the Pacifica Quartet has commissioned and premiered works by Keeril Makan, Julia Wolfe, and Shulamit Ran. Ran's *Glitter, Doom, Shards, Memory* – commissioned in partnership with the Music Accord consortium, Wigmore Hall, and Tokyo's Suntory Hall – received its New York premiere with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. In 2024, the Quartet premiered James Lee III's *Double Standard* – commissioned by Carnegie Hall and Shriver Hall Concert Series – with soprano Karen Slack. Based on a poem by Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, the work was widely acclaimed for its vivid narrative power, with one critic describing the performance's "spine-tingling intensity" (The New York Times).

The Pacifica Quartet has proven itself to be the preeminent interpreter of string quartet cycles, harnessing the group's singular focus and incredible stamina to portray each composer's evolution, often over the course of just a few days. Its acclaimed presentations have included highly praised performances of the complete Carter cycle in San Francisco, New York, Chicago, and Houston; the Mendelssohn cycle in Napa, Australia, New York, and Pittsburgh; the monumental Shostakovich cycle in Chicago, New York, Montreal, and London; and the Beethoven cycle in New York, Denver, St. Paul, Chicago, Napa, and Tokyo, where the Quartet gave an unprecedented presentation of five concerts in three days at Suntory Hall.

The ensemble's acclaimed discography reflects its adventurous spirit. Its GRAMMY® Award-winning recordings of Elliott Carter's *Quartets Nos. 1-5* on Naxos and the complete Shostakovich cycle on Cedille Records – praised by The Telegraph as "nothing short of phenomenal"

– are now reference points for those repertoires. Other notable collaborations include Leo Ornstein’s Piano Quintet with Marc-André Hamelin, the Brahms Piano Quintet with Menahem Pressler, and the Brahms and Mozart Clarinet Quintets with Anthony McGill. Their most recent GRAMMY®-winning album, *Contemporary Voices* (Cedille Records), showcases works by Shulamit Ran, Jennifer Higdon, and Ellen Taaffe Zwilich; the Chicago Tribune named it among the “Best Classical Recordings of 2020,” praising the Quartet’s “unmistakable and apt ferocity.” A second recording with Anthony McGill, *American Stories*, featured world premiere recordings by Richard Danielpour, James Lee III, and Ben Shirley, as well as a piece by Valerie Coleman, and was nominated for a 2024 GRAMMY® Award.

Based in Bloomington, Indiana, the Pacifica Quartet has served as full-time faculty and Quartet-in-Residence at Indiana University’s Jacobs School of Music since 2012. They previously held residencies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2003-2012), the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York (2009-2012), and the University of Chicago, where they served as resident performing artists for 17 years.

Upcoming Events

21st Annual Skidmore String Festival
w/Pacifica Quartet & Skidmore
Sunday, April 19, 2:00pm

Skidmore in Concert: Chorus
Tuesday, April 21, 7:00pm

Skidmore in Concert:
Big Band + Cuban Music Ensemble
Friday, April 24, 7:00pm

Skidmore in Concert: Concert Band
Sunday, April 26, 1:00pm

Skidmore in Concert:
Guitar Ensemble
Sunday, April 26, 4:00pm

Skidmore in Concert:
String Ensembles
Sunday, April 26, 6:00pm

Skidmore in Concert:
Small Jazz Ensembles + Guitar
Saturday, April 25, 12:00pm

Senior Violin Recital:
Sruti Ramaswamy, Aili Teittinen-
Gordon, and Kari Flowers
Saturday, April 25, 4:00pm

Senior Violin Recital: Marlowe Jacques
Saturday, April 25, 7:00pm

Skidmore in Concert:
Global Music Showcase
(Chinese, Indian, +
West African Ensembles)
Monday, April 27, 7:00pm

Skidmore in Concert: Orchestra
Wednesday, April 29, 7:00pm