

“A quartet engraved in eternity.” - Die Zeit
AMERICAN STRING QUARTET

Internationally recognized as one of the world's finest quartets, the American String Quartet has honed its luxurious sound for decades. The Quartet celebrates its 45th anniversary in 2019, and, in its years of touring, has performed in all fifty states and has appeared in the most important concert halls worldwide. The group's presentations of the complete quartets of Beethoven, Schubert, Schoenberg, Bartók, and Mozart have won widespread critical acclaim, and their MusicMasters Complete Mozart String Quartets, performed on a matched quartet set of instruments by Stradivarius, are widely considered to have set the standard for this repertoire.

The Quartet's 2017-18 season featured a major project with the National Book Award-winning author Phil Klay and the poet Tom Sleigh in a groundbreaking program combining music and readings that examines the effects of war. Since 2014, the Quartet has collaborated with the renowned author Salman Rushdie in a new work for narrator and quartet by the film composer Paul Cantelon built around Rushdie's novel The Enchantress of Florence. Such imaginative projects have established the American String Quartet's reputation as one of the most adventurous string quartets performing today.

The Quartet's diverse activities also include numerous international radio and television broadcasts, including a recent recording for the BBC; regular tours of Asia; and performances with the New York City Ballet, the Mark Morris Dance Company, the Montreal Symphony, and the Philadelphia Orchestra. Recent highlights include return tours to South America, performances of the complete Beethoven cycle of string quartets at the Cervantes Festival in Mexico and the Tel Aviv Museum in Israel, and its forty-first European tour.

The American's extensive discography can be heard on the Albany, CRI, MusicMasters, Musical Heritage Society, Nonesuch, and RCA labels. NSS Music released the group's CD "Schubert's Echo," which pairs Schubert's monumental last quartet with works reflecting its influence by Second Viennese masters Alban Berg and Anton Webern. This repertoire posits that the creative line from the First to the Second Viennese Schools is continuous –and evident when these works are heard in the context of each other.

As champions of new music, the American has given numerous premieres, including George Tsontakis's 2015 Quartet No. 7.5, "Maverick," Richard Danielpour's Quartet No. 4, Quartets No.s 2, 3, & 4 by Kenneth Fuchs, and Curt Cacioppo's *a distant voice calling*. The premiere of Robert Sirota's *American Pilgrimage* took place in September 2016, and will be performed around the U.S. in the cities the work celebrates. In January 2009 the Quartet premiered Tobias Picker's Quartet No. 2 in New York City in celebration of the 90th anniversary of the Manhattan School of Music.

Formed when its original members were students at The Juilliard School, the American String Quartet's career began with the group winning both the Coleman Competition and the Naumburg Award in the same year. Resident quartet at the Aspen Music Festival since 1974 and at the Manhattan School of Music in New York since 1984, the American has also served as resident quartet at the Taos School of Music, the Peabody Conservatory, and the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition.