



Western Music

Don Wright Faculty of Music

FRIDAYS AT 12:30 SERIES VIANO QUARTET

Friday, September 15, 2023

12:30 p.m., von Kuster Hall and [via livestream](#)

Lucy Wang, *violin*

Hao Zhou, *violin*

Aiden Kane, *viola*

Tate Zawadiuk, *cello*

With guest musicians:

Scott St. John, *viola*

Sharon Wei, *viola*

David Liam Roberts, *cello*

Verklärte Nacht, Op. 4

(Transfigured Night)

Sehr Langsam

Breiter

Schwer betont

Sehr breit und langsam

Sehr ruhig

Arnold Schoenberg

(1874-1951)

Viano Quartet, Scott St John, viola, David Liam Roberts, cello

String Quintet in B flat major, Op. 87

“Allegro vivace”

“Andante scherzando”

“Adagio e lento”

“Allegro molto vivace”

Felix Mendelssohn

(1809-1847)

Viano Quartet, Sharon Wei, viola

*This concert is supported in part by the Parsons and Poole Concert and Masterclass Fund,
Undergraduate Gift Fund and the Ivey Business School Culture office.*

THE ARTISTS

Viano Quartet

Praised for their “virtuosity, visceral expression, and rare unity of intention” (Boston Globe), the [Viano Quartet](#) are one of the most sought-after performing young ensembles today and currently in-residence at the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center Bowers Program from 2024-2027. Since winning First Prize at the 2019 Banff International String Quartet Competition, they have traveled to nearly every major city across the globe, captivating audiences in New York, London, Berlin, Vancouver, Paris, Beijing, Toronto, Lucerne, and Los Angeles.

The quartet was named the inaugural June Goldsmith Quartet-in-Residence for the Music in the Morning series in Vancouver until 2025, where their focus will be to commission new works and lead extensive community engagement initiatives. The quartet has also held residencies at the Curtis Institute, Colburn Conservatory, Northern Michigan University, and Meadows School of the Arts at Southern Methodist University.

The quartet achieved incredible success in their formative years, with an unbroken streak of top prizes at major competitions. In addition to their career-defining achievement at the 2019 Banff International String Quartet Competition, they also received the Grand Prize at the 2019 ENKOR International Music Competition and second prize at the 2019 Yellow Springs Chamber Music Competition. At the 2018 Wigmore Hall International String Quartet Competition they received Third Prize, the Haydn Prize for the best performance of a Haydn quartet, and the Sidney Griller Award for the best performance of the compulsory work, Thomas Ades’ “The Four Quarters”. They received the Silver Medal at the 2018 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition and Third Prize at the 9th Osaka International Chamber Music Competition in 2017. The name “Viano” was created to describe the four individual instruments in a string quartet interacting as one. Each of the four instruments begins with the letter “v”, and like a piano, all four string instruments together play both harmony and melody, creating a unified instrument called the “Viano”.

Scott St. John, viola

Violinist [Scott St. John](#), from London Ontario, is known for his joyful style of music-making and inspiring chamber music coaching. Scott is Concertmaster and Artistic Partner of the innovative ROCO Chamber Orchestra in Houston, Texas, and teaches Chamber Music at University of Toronto. He performs frequently with the St. John – Mercer – Park Piano Trio, and returns often to the summertime Marlboro Music Festival in Vermont. Recently Scott was appointed as “Chamber Music Artist-in-Residence” at Western University in London Ontario.

Early violin success with teacher Richard Lawrence in London Ontario gave Scott a path to the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia and the chance to work with David Cerone, Arnold Steinhardt and Felix Galimir. After winning the Alexander Schneider Competition and playing a Carnegie Hall debut, NYC pulled Scott into its orbit, where Young Concert Artists gave him fabulous opportunities for performance. In addition to a magical year of working at the Disney Store in Times Square, Scott has been Associate Professor at the University of Toronto, and Artist-in-Residence at Stanford University as part of the St. Lawrence String Quartet. From 2018 to 2021 he was Director of Chamber Music at The Colburn School in Los Angeles.

Scott has received an Avery Fisher Career Grant and won a Juno Award for recording Mozart with his sister Lara St. John. He founded the Felix Galimir Award for chamber music students at University of Toronto. Scott loves chamber music, Dvorak, new music, music by less-known composers, and a great espresso. He has been to all the Canadian provinces, 49 of the United States, and would prefer to travel by train when practical.

David Liam Roberts, cello

A [2022-23 Debut Atlantic Touring Artist](#), [David Liam Roberts](#) is recognized as one of the leading early-career musicians in Canada. Named one of Canada's "[30 Hot Classical Musicians under 30](#)" by the CBC in [2019](#), Roberts has been described as a "[deeply thoughtful and soft-spoken artist](#)" ([Winnipeg Free Press](#)). Roberts was the 2021 winner of the prestigious [Canada Council for the Arts' Michael Measures 1st Prize](#), as well as the 2021-22 recipient of the Hnatyshyn Foundation's Developing Artist Grant for Canadian instrumentalists. Most recently, he was awarded 1st Prize of the 2022 biennial WMC McLellan Competition, following a performance of the Schumann Cello Concerto with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra conducted by Maestro Daniel Raiskin.

Upcoming engagements include the Prince Edward County Chamber Music Festival as the festival's 2023 Young Artist in Residence. David Liam is Red River Métis and is originally from Winnipeg. He currently studies with Hans Jørgen Jensen and Andrés Díaz at the Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto. For many years, Roberts was a leader of the "Back to BACH" Project, a global non-profit organization to inspire and encourage children to learn musical instruments and instill in them a love of music. Passionate about educational outreach, he continues to give online presentations to children around the world as a Back to BACH Soloist.

Sharon Wei, viola

Canadian violist [Sharon Wei](#) is a dynamic and multi-faceted musician, establishing herself as one of the most respected violists on the scene today. She has appeared as concerto soloist with orchestras such as Symphony of the Redwoods, Kingston Symphony, Sinfonia Toronto, Orchestra of Southern Utah, San Francisco Chamber Orchestra and Connecticut Valley Chamber Orchestra and recently premiered Richard Mascal's "Ziigwan" viola concerto with the London Symphonia. She has performed recital tours with pianist Angela Park under the auspices of Debut Atlantic and Prairie Debut.

As a chamber musician, she regularly takes part at international festivals such as Verbier, Marlboro, Prussia Cove, Banff, Seattle and Ravinia. She is the violist of the award-winning New Orford String Quartet and has performed with renowned musicians including James Ehnes, Lynn Harrell, Peter Wiley, Gary Hoffman, Claude Frank, Joseph Silverstein, James Campbell, the Amernet, and St. Lawrence String Quartets. Sharon co-founded Ensemble Made in Canada in 2006. Their Mosaïque Project won a 2021 JUNO for Classical Album of the Year.

Sharon was on faculty at Yale and Stanford University and is currently Associate Professor of viola at Western University. She is a regular faculty violist at Curtis Summerfest, Scotia Festival, Toronto Summer Music and Orford Academy. Sharon won the viola prize at Yale University, is a Western Faculty Scholar and has been the recipient of grants through the Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, and FACTOR. She was nominated for the 2023 Ontario Arts Council's Oskar Morawetz Award for Excellence in Music Performance.

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