



Western
Music

Don Wright Faculty of Music

**ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE CONCERT
NEW ORFORD STRING QUARTET**

Thursday, October 9, 2025

12:30 p.m., von Kuster Hall

Andrew Wan, *violin*

Jonathan Crow, *violin*

Sharon Wei, *viola*

Joseph Johnson, *cello*

String Quartet no. 2 in a minor Op. 13

Adagio - Allegro Vivace

Adagio non lento

Intermezzo. Allegretto con moto - Allegro di molto

Presto - Adagio non lento

Felix Mendelssohn

(1809-1847)

New Orford String Quartet

Piano Quintet in E flat major op. 44

Allegro Brillante

In moda d'una marcia: Un poco largamente – Agitato

Scherzo

Allegro ma non troppo

Robert Schumann

(1810-1856)

New Orford String Quartet

Michael Kim, piano

The New Orford String Quartet residency is funded by the [Moscovich Fund for Innovation in Music](#), established with a visionary gift from Jim and Barbara Moscovich.

Four musicians with equally stellar pedigrees formed the **New Orford String Quartet** with the goal of developing a new model for a touring string quartet. Their concept – to bring four elite orchestral leaders and soloists together on a regular basis over many years to perform chamber music at the highest level – has resulted in a quartet that maintains a remarkably fresh perspective while bringing a palpable sense of joy to each performance. The Toronto Star has described this outcome as “nothing short of electrifying.

The New Orford String Quartet has seen astonishing success, giving annual concerts for national CBC broadcast and receiving unanimous critical acclaim, including two Opus Awards for Concert of the Year, and a 2017 JUNO Award for Best Classical Album. Recent seasons have featured return engagements in Chicago, Montreal and Toronto, as well as their New York City debut on Lincoln Center’s Great Performers series.

The New Orford is dedicated to promoting Canadian works, both new commissions and neglected repertoire from the previous century. New Orford String Quartet projects have included performances of major Canadian string quartets from the 20th century including works by Glenn Gould, Sir Ernest MacMillan, Jacques Hétu, R. Murray Schafer, and Claude Vivier, as well as commissions of new works from composers such as Ian Cusson, Dean Burry, Francois Dompierre, Gary Kulesha, Airat Ichmouratov and Tim Brady. The Quartet thrives on exploring the rich chamber music repertoire; recent collaborations include those with pianists Marc-André Hamelin and Menahem Pressler.

The Quartet regularly tours in the major cities of North America, including Washington, D.C., Toronto, and Los Angeles; at the same time, the members feel strongly about bringing this music to areas that don’t often hear it, and as a result perform frequently in remote rural locations and smaller Canadian communities. The New Orford String Quartet are Artists-in-Residence at Western University in London, ON.

Dean of the Don Wright Faculty of Music at Western University in London, Ontario, Canada, Dr. **Michael Kim** enjoys a distinguished, multi-faceted career as an academic administrator, professor, and concert artist.

Formerly Director of the School of Music at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, he served as Dean of Music and Vice-President External at Brandon University, Canada, where he led both the School of Music and BU’s advancement programs (overseeing its integrated offices of fundraising, alumni relations, marketing, communications, and web design). Dr. Kim was also Chair of the Keyboard Department and Faculty Associate to the President at Lawrence University (Appleton, WI).

A veteran of the concert circuit with a wide-ranging concerto repertoire, Dr. Kim has performed repeatedly as soloist with numerous orchestras (including the Boston and Cincinnati Pops, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, BBC Scottish Symphony, Manitoba Chamber Orchestra, Orchestra London, the Florida Orchestra, the Calgary Philharmonic, and the symphonies of Toronto, Vancouver, CBC Vancouver, Vancouver Island, Victoria, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Regina, Saskatoon, Milwaukee, Green Bay, Oklahoma City) under the baton of such distinguished conductors as Yannick Nezet Seguin, Hans Graf, Jerzy Maksymiuk, Sian Edwards, Mario Bernardi, and Georg Tintner. He also performed extensively under the baton of pop icons as Mitch Miller (Sing Along with Mitch), Skitch Henderson of the Tonight Show, and Richard Kaufmann.

He has toured extensively as solo recitalist throughout Canada, the U.S., the U.K., and South Korea, and with the Music as Theatre productions The Schumann Letters and Nadia. As a chamber musician and collaborative artist, he performs frequently with his wife pianist Dr. Kyung Kim and sister violinist Helen Kim, also collaborating with the Bakken Trio, James Ehnes, Edgar Meyer, James Campbell, members of the Canadian Brass, and the Ceclia, New Orford, Fine Arts, New Zealand String Quartets. Summer festival performances have included Ottawa’s Chamber fest, Festival of the Sound, Colors of Music, Agassiz, Brevard, Aspen, Banff, Clear Lake, Huntsville, Heifetz (Annapolis, MD), and Niagara. Michael appears regularly in subscription performances with the members of the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, also performing with legendary clarinetist Martin Frost.

He holds the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the Juilliard School, and was silver medalist in the 1992 Scottish International Competition in Glasgow, a prizewinner in the Leeds and Ivo Pogorelich International Piano Competitions, and grand prizewinner of the Canadian Music and Canadian Broadcasting Corporation National Radio Competitions. Dr. Kim can be heard on critically acclaimed recordings for Arktos, CRI, Summit, and Orpheum Masters.

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