

# CHIARA STRING QUARTET

*PLAYS BY HEART*

*“energetic and sophisticated”*

—THE NEW YORKER

*“precision and an involving vitality”*

—THE STRAD



[WWW.CHIARAQUARTET.NET](http://WWW.CHIARAQUARTET.NET)



JENSEN ARTISTS

MANAGEMENT & PR:

**CHRISTINA JENSEN**, [CHRISTINA@JENSENARTISTS.COM](mailto:CHRISTINA@JENSENARTISTS.COM)

**GINA MEOLA**, [GINA@JENSENARTISTS.COM](mailto:GINA@JENSENARTISTS.COM)

646.536.7864

# 2016–2017 PROGRAMS

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Now in its 16th season performing together, the Chiara String Quartet has adopted a new way of performing: from memory, without printed sheet music. For almost all of the Quartet's upcoming concerts, they will be performing entirely by heart.

## Bartók by Heart

Béla Bartók's six string quartets are iconic works, straddling the divide between Romanticism and Modernism. Put together, they represent one of the great achievements in 20th century music, and the performance of them as a complete cycle is a milestone for any string quartet. The Chiara performs the six quartets from memory over two concerts. The group's recording, the world's first *Bartók by Heart*, will be released by Azica Records in late summer 2016.

Bartók:  
String Quartets Nos. 1, 3, and 5 (concert one)

Bartók:  
String Quartets Nos. 2, 4, and 6 (concert two)

## Inspired by Beethoven

Experience three works linked to Beethoven, the heroic 19th-century composer. The first by an 18-year-old Mendelssohn, written in the year of Beethoven's death; the second, Shostakovich's great string quartet written for and dedicated to the Soviet-based Beethoven Quartet; and finally, Beethoven's own epic Quartet in Eb Major, Op. 127.

Mendelssohn:  
String Quartet No. 2 in A minor, Op. 13

Shostakovich:  
String Quartet No. 5 in Bb Major, Op. 92

Beethoven:  
String Quartet No. 12 in Eb Major, Op. 127

## Character Sketches

Benjamin Britten's quirky Divertimenti and Beethoven's colossal String Quartet in Bb Major Op. 130 both contain short movements that highlight a specific musical character. With the addition of Schubert's String Quartet in A minor or Ravel's String Quartet in F major, this program provides a diverse offering of musical characters.

Britten:  
Three Divertimenti

Schubert:  
String Quartet No. 13 in A minor, Op. 29 or

Ravel:  
String Quartet in F Major

Beethoven:  
String Quartet No. 13 in Bb Major, Op. 130  
with The Grosse Fugue Op. 133

## Chiaroscuro

From the blinding joy of Mendelssohn's String Quartet in D Major quartet to the jagged intensity of Pierre Jalbert's new string quartet written for the Chiara, this program provides the audience with heart-pounding excitement.

Mendelssohn:  
String Quartet No. 3 in D Major, Op. 44 No.1

Pierre Jalbert:  
world premiere season for String Quartet No. 6

Brahms:  
String Quartet No. 1, Op. 51 No. 1 in C minor

## Brahms and Friedman with pianist Simone Dinnerstein

A concert of music made by and for old friends, this program features premiere performances of Jefferson Friedman's new piano quintet for the Chiara and pianist Simone Dinnerstein. Composed in six short movements, the combination of the individual movement titles form a six-line poem written by Margaret LeMay. Each movement is a poetic work unto itself as well as a portrayal of a shifting mental state.

Jefferson Friedman:  
Piano Quintet, *The Heart Wakes Into*

Brahms:  
Piano Quintet in F minor, Op. 34

### **Plus one of the following:**

Mendelssohn:  
String Quartet No. 2 in A minor, Op. 13 (fall 2016)

Schubert:  
String Quartet No. 13 in A minor, Op. 29  
(spring 2017)

Gabriela Lena Frank:  
*Leyendas: An Andean Walkabout* (written for the Chiara in 2001)

Jefferson Friedman:  
String Quartet No. 2 (written for the Chiara in 1999)

### RECENT RELEASE:



### AVAILABLE 2016:

## Bartók by Heart

## 2017-2018 SNEAK PEEK

World premiere performances of Philip Glass' new Piano Quintet with pianist Paul Barnes (from fall 2017)

Schubert by Heart, featuring his String Quartet No. 12 in C minor (Quartettsatz); String Quartet No.13 in A minor, Op. 29 (Rosamunde); and String Quartet No. 15 in G Major, Op. 161

# CHIARA STRING QUARTET

Renowned for bringing fresh excitement to traditional string quartet repertoire as well as for creating insightful interpretations of new music, the Chiara String Quartet (Rebecca Fischer and Hyeyung Julie Yoon, violins; Jonah Sirota, viola; Gregory Beaver, cello) captivates its audiences throughout the country. The Chiara has established itself as among America's most respected ensembles, lauded for its "highly virtuosic, edge-of-the-seat playing" (*The Boston Globe*). They are currently Hixson-Lied Artists-in-Residence at the Glenn Korff School of Music at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and were the Blodgett Artists-in-Residence at Harvard University from 2008-2014. For the 2015-2016 season, the Chiara will be the quartet-in-residence at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

Now in its 16th season, the Chiara is moving forward by taking a cue from the past. Harkening back to a tradition that is centuries old and still common among soloists, the Chiara Quartet has adopted a new way of performing: from memory, without printed sheet music. After memorizing a work, the Quartet is rewarded with deeply gratifying performances where each member feels fully present in the moment, truly performing with heart, by heart. The Chiara is currently recording *Bartók by Heart*, a 2-CD set featuring Bartók's six string quartets, played entirely from memory, slated for release in 2016 on Azica. The quartet's latest album, *Brahms by Heart*, was released on Azica in March 2014.

In addition to the Chiara Quartet's regular performances in major concert halls across the country, including Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall, Carnegie Hall, Philadelphia's Kimmel Center, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the National Gallery in Washington DC, the

ensemble was one of the first string quartets to perform in alternative venues for chamber music performance. Recent highlights of the Chiara Quartet's international performances include extensive tours of China, Korea, and Sweden.

In addition to *Brahms by Heart* and the forthcoming *Bartók by Heart*, the complete Chiara discography includes a Grammy-nominated recording of Jefferson Friedman's String Quartets Nos. 2 and 3 on New Amsterdam Records, the Mozart and Brahms clarinet quintets for SMS Classical, and the world premiere recordings of Robert Sirota's *Triptych* and Gabriela Lena Frank's *Leyendas: An Andean Walkabout* on the Quartet's own New Voice Singles label.

The Chiara has been committed to the creation of new music for string quartet since its inception, and has commissioned composers including Gabriela Lena Frank, Jefferson Friedman, Nico Muhly, Daniel Ott, Robert Sirota, among others. Recent collaborators in performance include The Juilliard String Quartet, Joel Krosnick, Roger Tapping, Todd Palmer, Robert Levin, Simone Dinnerstein, Norman Fischer, Nadia Sirota, and Paul Katz, as well as members of the Orion, Ying, Cavani, and Pacifica Quartets.

In the summer, the Chiara Quartet is in residence at Greenwood Music Camp as well as the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Chamber Music Institute. The Chiara trained and taught at The Juilliard School, mentoring for two years with the Juilliard Quartet, as recipients of the Lisa Arnholt Quartet Residency.

*Chiara* (key-ARE-uh) is an Italian word, meaning "clear, pure, or light."