

Carpe Diem String Quartet

Carpe Diem String Quartet, in residence at Ohio Wesleyan University, is an exciting ensemble that has captured the imagination of audiences, the respect of critics, and is one of the most versatile quartets of their generation. Carpe Diem has earned critical acclaim with innovative programming, electrifying performances, and a passion for audience engagement. The group's musical passion has led them down the paths of gypsy, tango, folk, pop, rock, and jazz inspired music, but the quartet is equally at home with the traditional string quartet repertoire. Carpe Diem has become the premier American "indie" string quartet.

Defying easy classification, the quartet continues to break boundaries and push the limits of the classical string quartet. Carpe Diem writes, arranges and performs music of all styles, and works with artists from many different genres. The quartet recently performed with American songwriter/guitarist Willy Porter, and the CD of their live concert will be available in fall of 2010. Also this year Carpe Diem will be collaborating with Latin Grammy winner Raul Juarena. Carpe Diem was recently featured in Strings magazine, highlighting their unique and innovative vision for chamber music. The quartet has a busy recording schedule, and continues its project of recording the nine string quartets of Sergey Taneyev for the Naxos label. The first CD of this series was selected for the 51st Grammy Awards Entry List (2009) in four categories: Best Classical Album, Best Chamber Music Performance, Best New Artist, and Best Engineered Album-Classical. The quartet is the resident ensemble for Columbus Dance Theater, and their joint project *The String Machine* was aired by WOSU-PBS television through 2007-2008, and nominated for an Emmy award. The quartet is committed to changing the concert experience of chamber music. Using innovative programming, thematic concerts, and popular music for younger generations, cameras and video to assist in the visual presentation, as well as speaking from the stage to better engage the audience, Carpe Diem is bringing new audiences into the concert hall and revitalizing the chamber music experience.

The quartet, violinists Charles Wetherbee and John Ewing, violist Korine Fujiwara and cellist Kristin Ostling, is dedicated to music education and outreach, and regularly performs educational programs specifically designed to relate to students of all ages and establish classical music's relevance to their lives. Carpe Diem has developed three engagement programs by which they accomplish this – *MusiCare*, *Music Goes to School*, and *carpe_diem_kids@harrisonpark*. Carpe Diem recently started a new program with generous support from PNC bank, called *Music from the Start*. Music from the Start will bring the quartet to Central Ohio Head Start programs on a regular basis.

Carpe Diem champions the music of living composers, and has premiered and given first Mid-West performances of works by Frank Bennett, Danny Elfman, Ken Fuchs, Korine Fujiwara, Osvaldo Golijov, Andre Hajdu, Donald Harris, Jennifer Higdon, Jonathan Leshnoff, Nicholas Maw, William Thomas McKinley, Clancy Newman, Carter Pann, Kevin Putts, Eric Sawyer, Gunther Schuller, Richard Smoot, and Bruce Wolosoff, among others.

Carpe Diem String Quartet is represented by:
Lisa Sapinkopf Artists &
Great Lakes Performing Artist Associates



www.carpediemstringquartet.com

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Violinist **Charles Wetherbee** has performed as a soloist and chamber musician throughout the world, including Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Canada, Mexico, and the United States. He has appeared at the Aspen Music Festival, the Garth Newell Center, the Hidden Valley Festival, the Roycroft Chamber Festival, the Nouvelle Academie Internationale d'Été (Nice, France), the Olympic Music Festival, the MidAmerica Music Festival, and at Strings in the Mountains in Steamboat, CO. Charles has been the Concertmaster of the Columbus Symphony Orchestra following his appointment in 1994.

A native of Buffalo, New York, Charles gave his first performances at age six. He made his debut with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra under Symon Bychkov, and since then has performed with the National Symphony under Mstislav Rostropovitch, as well as the Japan Philharmonic, the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, the Minnesota Symphonia, the National Repertory Orchestra, the Orchestra Nacional de Mexico, the Symphony Orchestra of the Curtis Institute, the Virginia Symphony, the Kyoto Philharmonic Orchestra, the State Academic Orchestra of St. Petersburg, the Baltimore Chamber Orchestra, and the Iris Chamber Orchestra, among others. In 1988, he toured Asia, including performances in Seoul, Korea as part of the 88 Olympic Arts Festival. In the same year he also made his New York debut at Carnegie Hall to critical acclaim. In 1990, he traveled to the Persian Gulf to perform for the men and women of the armed services. The Washington Post called Wetherbee “a consummate artist...with flawless technique”. The Virginia Pilot said that he “...gave a performance of great conviction and emotion”.

A devoted chamber musician, Charles is a founding member of the Carpe Diem String Quartet, with whom he tours and performs regularly. Charles is on faculty at Ohio Wesleyan University. He is also the Artistic Director of the Marble Cliff Chamber Players, a music festival based in Columbus, Ohio. He is founding member of Opus 3 piano trio, and with Opus 3 has performed in the French, German, Austrian, and Dutch embassies, as well as the Terrace Theater of the Kennedy Center, the National Gallery, the Corcoran Gallery, Strathmore Hall, and throughout the eastern United States. He is also the artistic director of the Snake River Chamber Players, in Keystone, Colorado.

Charles is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music, where he studied with Aaron Rosand. Other mentors include Sylvia Rosenberg, Karen Tuttle, and Felix Galimir. As a recording artist, he is represented on Naxos, the Vienna Modern Classics, as well as the Cascade labels. In 2002, Charles was fortunate to acquire a violin made by Kurt Widenhouse.

Violinist **John Ewing** is a graduate of the Indiana University School of Music where he studied with Ruggiero Ricci and James Buswell. John also attended the Meadowmount School of Music, studying with Sally Thomas, Paul Mackanowitzky, and Ivan Galamian. Upon graduation from Indiana University, John moved to Brisbane, Australia, where he was the associate concertmaster of the Queensland Symphony Orchestra.

Tearing himself away from the beautiful beaches of Australia, John returned to the US to become the concertmaster of the Fort Wayne Philharmonic in Fort Wayne, Indiana. From Fort Wayne he relocated to Savannah, Georgia, where he was the concertmaster of the Savannah Symphony Orchestra. During this same period, John participated in the Spoleto Festival in Charleston, SC, and Spoleto, Italy. Prior to joining Carpe Diem, John held the position of principal second violinist with the Columbus Symphony Orchestra.

John is married and has one son. His wife Mindy is a flutist in the Columbus Symphony Orchestra. They met while participating in the Spoleto Festival in Italy. Their son Steven is currently a student at Indiana University. John is an avid boater. When not busy with his musical pursuits, you will most likely find him on his boat somewhere in the middle of Lake Erie. John performs on a violin made for him in 2008 by Kurt Widenhouse.

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Montana native **Korine Fujiwara** holds degrees from The Juilliard School and Northwestern University, where she studied violin with Joseph Fuchs and Myron Kartman, respectively. Her other mentors include Harvey Shapiro, Robert Mann, and Joel Krosnik.

Ms. Fujiwara is a founding member of the Carpe Diem String Quartet, a devoted and sought-after chamber musician, and a gifted composer and arranger. She is a member of the Duvall Piano Trio, the ensemble-in-residence at Ohio Wesleyan University, where she is also Instructor of Violin and Viola. She is a founding member of the Marble Cliff Chamber Players, based in Columbus and Delaware, Ohio. She has also been heard throughout the Northwest United States on public radio as a performer at the Olympic Music Festival in Seattle, Washington with members of the Philadelphia String Quartet. Critics have described her performances as “engaging” and “with finesse and perfection.” Korine performs annually with the Snake River Chamber Players in Keystone, Colorado.

She has been invited to participate in numerous music festivals, including the MidAmerica Chamber Music Festival, the Victoria International Festival, the Aspen Music Festival, the Focus! Festival of 20th Century Music at Lincoln Center, and the Summergarden Festival at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, where she collaborated with composer John Cage. She was an Artist/Teacher-in-residence with the Icelandic Youth Orchestra in Reykjavik, Iceland.

Ms. Fujiwara has received many awards and prizes, including the Hjalmer and Emma Kivekas Award, the Raymond Cerf Memorial Scholarship in Violin, and the Fetzer Prize for outstanding performance. She is a member of the music honorary society Pi Kappa Lambda.

A well known and sought-after teacher, students of Ms. Fujiwara have been accepted into the performance programs of such institutions as Indiana University, Cincinnati College Conservatory, and Northwestern University, to continue their musical studies. Korine began her orchestral career with the Brooklyn Philharmonic. She has been a member of the Columbus Symphony Orchestra since 2001, and prior to that, she was a principal player and soloist with ProMusica Chamber Orchestra. Korine performs on a viola made for her in 2004 by Kurt Widenhouse.

Cellist **Kristin Ostling** comes to the Carpe Diem String Quartet as a veteran of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, a 1995 appointee of then conductor David Zinman.

Kristin is a graduate of both the Curtis Institute of Music and the Mannes College of Music, where she received the Mannes College Performance Award. Her teachers have included Orlando Cole, Paul Tobias, Susannah Onwood, and Robert Story.

This superlative and versatile artist is enjoying a varied career as chamber musician, soloist, symphony cellist, and rock musician. She has been featured as a soloist with the Baltimore Symphony, as well as in chamber music roles with some of the world's most prominent musicians, a roster that includes Pinchas Zukerman, Ralph Kirschbaum, and BSO concertmaster Jonathan Carney. In addition, she serves as principal cellist with the Emmy-winning Baltimore Choral Arts Society, a post she has held since 2002. In addition, she has found time to make guest appearances with the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Concerto Soloists of Philadelphia, and the Baltimore Chamber Orchestra.

Ms. Ostling began her cello studies in Louisville, KY where, as a winner of the Young Artists Competition, she appeared as a soloist with the Louisville Orchestra. Since then she has appeared as soloist and chamber musician at countless venues and festivals throughout the world, including Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, the German and Icelandic Embassies in Washington, D.C., the U.S. State

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Department, ”Bargemusic,” the La Jolla Chamber Music Society’s “ SummerFest,” the Pensacola Chamber Music Festival, the Academia Musicale Chigiana in Siena, Italy, the Baltimore Symphony’s “Chamber Music by Candlelight,” Concert Artists of Baltimore, the UMBC Chamber Music Series,” “Sundays at Three” of Columbia ,MD, the Pennsylvania Academy of Music, and The Snake River Chamber Players. She recently gave the world premiere of composer Larry Hoffman’s *Blues Suite for Solo Violoncello*.

In addition to playing the traditional classical repertoire, Kristin is also one of a handful of cellists exploring the genre of rock cello. She can be heard on the Rock Album **Southern Barber Supply** by the *Cashmere Jungle Lords*, and recently joined the rock cello band *Primitivity*, whose first album was greeted with rave reviews. Footage from *Primitivity*’s concerts has been featured on many top websites. An honorary member of *The Sofa Kings of Pittsburgh*, Kristin can also be heard on a rare Wednesday night off playing “open mike” night at *Hula ’s Bar* in California, MD.

Kristin plays a cello by Giacomo Rivolta (Milan,1828),as well as a bow by J. Arthur Vigneron, c 1908.

What people are saying about Carpe Diem String Quartet

“The Carpe Diem String Quartet gave a flawless performance of music that challenged and surprised. Fresh from recording the music, the quartet was completely connected, understood the music and flew with it to rock the house with an emotionally expressive and kick-ass concert.”

Pat Rogers, East Hampton Press

“The Carpe Diem String Quartet is to be commended for its adventurousness in rescuing these appealing works from neglect. The playing is excellent, unanimous in spirit, homogeneous in tone, with fine give-and-take between leading and supporting.”

Edith Eisler, Strings Magazine

“The Carpe Diem Quartet brings clear enthusiasm for the music and obvious commitment.”

Roderic Dunnett, The Strad

“They play magnificently. Beautiful tone, lots of Slavic passion, perfect ensemble – they are living proof that one need not be a part of a national tradition to perform it.”

Kenneth Keaton, American Record Guide

“Direct comparison shows the American Carpe Diem Quartet to be every bit as closely in touch with the idiom – if anything, they bring rather more emotional weight, never inappropriately applied – and just as well recorded.”

David Fanning, Gramophone

“This album marks the beginning of a cycle of Taneyev’s quartets, and the first release is auspicious in its quality. Above all, I am impressed by the group’s dark, beautiful tone, which hearkens back to some of the great Soviet quartets of yore.”

Barry Brenesal, Fanfare

“Carpe Diem is lighter, cleaner, more lyrical, and more rhythmic, an approach that works wonderfully well.”

James Leonard, All Media Guide

“The Carpe Diem String Quartet plays with firmness and commitment. They can phrase very plaintively.”

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Johnathan Woolf, MusicWeb International

“High spirited and good natured playing... considerable assurance... confident and urgent playing... With assured playing and impressive unity from the Carpe Diem, the disc is a valuable addition to Taneyev’s expanding discography.”

Michael Cookson, MusicWeb International

“The young Carpe Diem Quartet really sells these pieces. They help persuade me that Taneyev just might be the most underrated composer of the late 19th century.”

Lawson Taitte, The Dallas Morning News

“The Carpe Diem Quartet plays both works here with exceptional sensitivity and attention to detail.”

Bob McQuiston, Classical Lost and Found

“Beautiful blend, nice sense of rhythm and solid technical assurance.”

New Klassik Reviews, Atlanta Audio Society

“Carpe Diem’s new recording project is a blessing for anyone looking to explore under-served repertoire. The performances are first rate and the recorded sound a fat, rich delight.”

Chris Purdy, WOSU FM 89.7

“The Carpe Diem String Quartet demonstrates a true mastery of the difficult compositions with solid intonation throughout, and performs with a homogenized, warm ensemble sound.”

Dr. Stefan Drees, Klassik

“These beautifully crafted works are marked by technical assurance at every turn, as well as dramatic inspiration and intense lyricism. The sound is great: absolutely recommended.”

The Riviera Reviewer

“...plays with warmth and affection.”

Robert E. Reilly, Inside Catholic

“This performance was distinctive and well conceived. An unexpected, introverted reading of the first movement of the Shostakovich, with its dark colors, gave way to the nostalgia heard in the second movement, which was played with special care and attention, as if it were something that could be broken easily, and the chemistry between the musicians made this movement unforgettable.”

Dina Lentsner, Classical Music in Columbus

“It’s obvious from the inventive program that Carpe Diem has committed itself to forging a unique Identity.”

Mark Striker, Detroit Free Press

“The premiere... played by the sensitive and tightly matched Carpe Diem String Quartet.”

Tim Smith, The Baltimore Sun

“This was music making at its finest.”

Lyman Leathers, The Delaware Gazette

“I am pleased to recommend the Carpe Diem String Quartet. The members of the Carpe Diem Quartet are outstanding musicians with terrific excitement, energy, and beauty in their playing. Their performances are consistently engaging and imaginative and they are entirely committed to ‘going the extra mile’ in each moment of their music making. In the five performances for which I engaged the quartet, audiences were overwhelmingly enthusiastic for their presentations and requested they return again and again.”

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Michelle Schumann, Director, The Austin Chamber Music Center

“The musicians in Carpe Diem String Quartet are terrific and their concert was outstanding. Our patrons loved the show. I also saw them at a showcase in New York when they played a totally different repertoire and they were again, outstanding and very entertaining. Carpe Diem String Quartet is also a joy to work with. I highly recommend them.”

Grant Andre, Music Director, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville

“I have had the pleasure of presenting Carpe Diem in my venue, The Pavilion at Keystone, for 4 of the last 5 summers, and look forward to another great concert this August 8, 2010. Carpe Diem features amazing music that appeals to my Keystone cross-section of patrons, including second homeowners, vacationing families, and locals. They display incredible talent and music, as well as an inviting atmosphere for music lovers of all levels to enjoy and appreciate their repertoire. The musicians are highly professional but also friendly and approachable, and their love for the music transcends during their brief descriptions of song selections, composers, instruments, etc. I would recommend Carpe Diem to any venue looking for an exciting, unique, and fun night of Chamber music.”

Josh Blanchard, Events Manager, Keystone Neighbourhood Company

“Carpe Diem String Quartet has been the ensemble-in-residence at Ohio Wesleyan University for the past two years. Carpe Diem is an incredibly versatile and captivating ensemble. Whether they are performing the standard quartet literature, new music, jazz, crossover, fiddle tunes, pop music, or even their own arrangements and compositions, they breathe a special life and vitality into every performance. Their concerts on campus and in the community are events not to be missed!

“I recommend Carpe Diem String Quartet whole heartedly. Their performance will be the highlight of your season!”

Cameron Bennett, Chair & Professor of Music, Ohio Wesleyan University

“I would like to convey to all of you, the members of the Carpe Diem String Quartet, my most sincere congratulations for a stellar performance of my fourth String Quartet. It was a wonderful experience: this was quartet playing of the highest caliber, my work receiving a virtually perfect performance. Carpe Diem plays with a keen attention to detail, and with and through that gets to the deepest expressive essence of the music.”

Gunther Schuller, Composer

“It was a great pleasure for me to work with the members of the Carpe Diem Quartet as they rehearsed my Second String Quartet. They were thoroughly professional in their approach to the piece, so much so that I knew as soon as the rehearsal began that I would receive a stellar performance at the concert. Each member of the ensemble is a consummate artist and it showed in their complete understanding of what I wrote.”

Donald Harris, Composer

“For many years Columbus Dance Theatre has enjoyed an ever developing relationship with the Carpe Diem String Quartet. Our patrons have come to look forward to not only great dancing from our Company but live music of the highest caliber at all of our concerts. Carpe Diem has become a fixture at CDT both playing for our concerts and performing in concert series of their own. Simply put — it is a thrill each time they put bow to string and our enthusiastic audiences relish their music.”

Tim Veach, Artistic Director and Founder, Columbus Dance Theatre