

Carpe Diem String Quartet

Carpe Diem String Quartet, in residence at Ohio Wesleyan University, is an exciting group that has captured the imagination of audiences, the respect of critics, and is becoming one of the most versatile ensembles of their generation. Carpe Diem has earned critical acclaim with innovative programs, electrifying performances, and a passion for audience engagement.

This season, Carpe Diem continues several ambitious projects, including a newly completed recording of "Songs without Words" written expressly for Carpe Diem by composer Bruce Wolosoff. These energetic, refreshing and accessible pieces are based on popular music, and will be available in 2009. Carpe Diem continues its project of recording the nine string quartets of Sergey Taneyev on 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 continues its collaboration with Columbus Dance Theater, and their joint project "*The String Machine*," was aired by WOSU-PBS television through 2007-2008. Carpe Diem has created an exciting program with international Accordion and Bandoneon performer Peter Soave, "*Viva Piazzolla!*" This program was featured in June 2008 at the prestigious Fontana Music Festival. This season, Carpe Diem is launching a dynamic new concert series in Columbus called "Seize the Music."

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 recital.

The quartet, violinists Charles Wetherbee and John Ewing, violist Korine Fujiwara and cellist Diego Fainguersch, 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. Their concerts are interactive and hands-on for the students, and relate to core academic classes. Carpe Diem is launching two new programs, *MusicCare*, and *Music Goes to School*, that will enable Carpe Diem to bring music to everyone in the Central Ohio area, regardless of their means or circumstances. All of Carpe Diem's concert tours are paired with outreach and educational activities.

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

The Carpe Diem String Quartet is represented by:
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 International 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 Alexandria Symphony, the Concerto Soloists of Philadelphia, the Minnesota Synphonia, 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 the first violinist 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 Oliver Buswell IV. 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 and weather 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 time, John participated in the Spoleto Festival in Charleston, SC, and Spoleto, Italy. In 1984 he moved to Columbus. He currently holds the position of principal second violinist with the Columbus Symphony Orchestra.

John is married and has one son. His wife Mindy is the principal piccolo player of the Columbus Symphony Orchestra. They met while participating in the Spoleto Festival in Italy. Their son Steven is currently a student at the Indiana University Kelley School of Business. John is an avid boater. When not busy with his musical pursuits, you can most likely find him out 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.

One of Central Ohio’s most sought-after teachers, 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 **Diego Fainguersch** is a passionate chamber and orchestral musician, having played in the Cincinnati Symphony, Chamber, and Ballet Orchestras, among others.

He has appeared at some of the world's top music festivals, including the Curitiba Music Academy (Brazil), Roman sur Isere (France) and Music Theater and Opera Festival of Lucca (Italy). First prize winner of both the CCM Chamber Music and Concerto Competitions in 2006-2007, Fainguersch is also the recipient of numerous prestigious scholarships, including the Fulbright and the Antorchas Foundation Music Scholarships.

Mr. Fainguersch holds degrees from Carnegie Mellon University, the Lyon Conservatory (France), the National Conservatory of Buenos Aires (Argentina), and is currently working toward a Doctoral degree at the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music under the guidance of Yehuda Hanani.

As a teacher, Fainguersch is currently a faculty member at the Preparatory Department, the Starling Program, and the Cello Teaching Assistant at Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music. Thanks to the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Hale Oliver, Diego performs on a cello made by George Gemunder in 1887.

Carpe Diem String Quartet

What people are saying about Carpe Diem String Quartet

“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 Dunnnett, 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.”

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 Classik 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

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"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."

Michelle Schumann, Director, The Austin Chamber Music Center

"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