



# CARPE DIEM STRING QUARTET

One of the most unique and sought-after chamber ensembles on the concert stage today, the Carpe Diem String Quartet is a boundary-breaking ensemble that has earned widespread critical and audience acclaim for its innovative programming and electrifying performances. Carpe Diem defies easy classification with programming that includes classical, Gypsy, tango, folk, pop, rock, and jazz-inspired music. The quartet appears on traditional concert series (Jordan Hall, Boston MA, National Gallery of Art, Washington DC; Chautauqua Institute, Chautauqua NY; Asolo Theater, Sarasota FL) as well as unconventional venues (Poisson Rouge, NYC; Bach Dancing and Dynamite Society, Half-Moon Bay, CA; The Redlands Bowl, Redlands, CA; The Mug & Brush, Columbus, OH). Carpe Diem has been awarded four transformative grants from the PNC Foundation for their community outreach in Central Ohio.

Carpe Diem has become one of America's premiere "indie" string quartets without sacrificing its commitment to the traditional quartet repertoire, and continues to rack up accolades and awards:

"Here [Carpe Diem] once again triumphs...with readings that marry cantabile espressivo and tendency towards Beethovenian cross-referencing to memorable effect...The Carpe Diem players perform this music with the same devoted intensity as if they were rediscovering a lost work by Tchaikovsky...The players here communicate such delight in the Russian's quirky inspiration that the ear is led effortlessly on...Well worth investigating." (*The Strad*)

"Carpe Diem's performance of Beethoven's Op.59 No.1 quartet (one of the hardest in the repertoire) had everything: care with dynamics and accents, timing of nuances, clarity of voice-leading and the widest ranges of character in each movement." (Of Beethoven Op.59 No.1) This was one of the finest performances of a quartet standard I've heard in years...fun and sexy...A winsome performance that had the staid Georgetown audience on its feet hooting and cheering...Until Saturday evening, I had never heard a performance by one of these multilingual quartets where the classical repertoire was delivered at a level that was competitive with the finest traditional groups. But the Carpe Diem Quartet, appearing at the Dumbarton Church, was extraordinary. Among these contemporary quartets who speak in different tongues, the Carpe Diem is the best one out there." (*The Washington Post, Washington, DC*)

"This is an accomplished ensemble with a distinctive sound and personality" (*San Diego Union Tribune*)

"One would have to search long and hard to find a more charming and enjoyable chamber music concert... A number of elements contributed to this end result, not the least of which the superb musicianship of the four musicians - Carpe Diem is a seriously talented quartet in the most traditional definition." (*Herald-Tribune, Sarasota, FL*)

Carpe Diem's CD "*Montana*," by composer (and quartet member) Korine Fujiwara, received this rave review in Strings Magazine: Carpe Diem "must be one of the most adventurous groups of its kind. Evidently feeling that attention to living composers begins at home, the players have devoted this entire record to works of its own violist, and with performances of idiomatic empathy and infectious enthusiasm prove that she fully deserves their championship."

Carpe Diem champions the music of living composers, and has commissioned, premiered, and performed works from a broad and stylistically diverse range of various composers including Frank Bennett, Lawrence Dillon, Danny Elfman, Ken Fuchs, Korine Fujiwara, Steven Gerber, 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, Bradley Sowash, Reza Vali, I-Uen Hwang, Charles Wetherbee, and Bruce Wolosoff, among others.

Carpe Diem was selected to receive a 2015 Chamber Music America Classical Commissioning Grant for a new string quartet by Persian composer Reza Vali. This work will be composed using the Dastgah system and Persian polyphony. Twelve grants totaling \$198,100 were awarded through the Classical Commissioning program, which provides support for US-based professional classical and world music ensembles and presenters for the creation and performance of new chamber works by American composers. The CMA Classical Commissioning Grants are supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Aaron Copland Fund for Music, and the Chamber Music America Endowment Fund. Carpe Diem has been invited to the 2016 Fajr Festival in Tehran, Iran and will be the first classical ensemble to perform in Iran since 1979.

The group has completed recording the complete cycle of the nine string quartets of Sergei Taneyev for Naxos (the first three volumes have already been released, the final two CDs are in production). New recording projects include *Claudiel*, the musical score for a ballet commissioned by Columbus Dance Theatre, composed by Korine Fujiwara. *Claudiel* is scheduled to be performed in Philadelphia, New York City and in Paris, France in 2016-17. Other planned recording projects include the complete string quartets by Jonathan Leshnoff.

In 2015-16 Carpe Diem has commissioned and will premiere three new projects/works.

- Native American Artist Leon Littlebird will write a work for string quartet and Native American flutes and percussion, chronicling the Native American experience as seen through his eyes, beginning with pre-contact, then moving forward through first contact, the European expansion/manifest destiny, and modern life. Envisioned as a staged work, the first draft performance will take place in Keystone CO, August 23, sponsored by the Dercum Center for the Arts and Humanities.
- Jazz artist John Gunther will compose a quintet for saxophone and string quartet for Carpe Diem entitled "Anansi and the Sky God", which will be premiered September 4 at the Dairy Center, Boulder CO. Mandolinist
- Jeff Midkiff has been commissioned to write a new work for string quartet and mandolin, to be completed in August 2016.



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Carpe Diem seeks out, and is sought after by, artists from many different genres for collaborations. Carpe Diem's diverse musical partnerships include American singer/songwriter/ guitarist Willy Porter -- the CD of their live concert debut continues to receive accolades -- as well as Latin Grammy winner/bandoneón player Raul Juarena, klezmer clarinetist David Krakauer, cellist Yo Yo Ma, banjo virtuoso and Canadian Folk Music "Artist of the Year" Jayme Stone, the band Get The Led Out -- The American Led Zeppelin, Shannon Heaton, Celtic flautist, mandolinist Jeff Midkiff, Dixieland trumpeter Tom Battenberg, classical guitarist Nicolo Spera, Chinese pipa player Yihan Chen, and world master of the Persian santoor Dariush Saghafi. The quartet is the resident ensemble for Columbus Dance Theatre, and their joint project The String Machine was aired by WOSU-PBS television through 2007-2008, and nominated for an Emmy award.

Carpe Diem is the resident ensemble for Columbus Dance Theatre and has two productions planned for 2015-16, including the premiere of a new string quartet by composer Korine Fujiwara titled "Hamlet". The quartet is participating in the Finnish Festival in Buffalo NY in October 2015 and will subsequently add new works by Sibelius and Melartin to their touring repertoire.

The quartet is dedicated to community engagement, and regularly performs programs specifically designed to relate to audiences of all ages and establish chamber music's relevance to their lives. Carpe Diem's continuing community engagement projects include:

- **Music from the Start** - This program brings the Carpe Diem String Quartet into Head Start centers for instructional visits. The programs include interactive concerts, sing-along participation, and hands-on opportunities with actual preschool-sized stringed instruments introduced into each classroom and placed in the hands of every child. In addition, **Music from the Start** brings the Carpe Diem String Quartet to any K-12 classroom, supplementing existing music programs, and bringing music into schools where no program currently exists, with custom-designed concerts for these widely-varied demographics to suit each audience.
- **Music Goes to School** - Carpe Diem provides unique, tailor-made programs for schools throughout the academic year, including interactive concerts for general assemblies, chamber ensemble coaching, orchestral sectionals, full orchestra coaching, and side-by-side rehearsals and performances with music students. This is accomplished through extensive communication with local teachers and instructors. Post-program questionnaires for teachers and students are distributed after each event.
- **Carpe Diem MusiCare** - Music is a healing art form. **Carpe Diem MusiCare** is designed to create free performances by Carpe Diem String Quartet in nursing facilities, hospitals, hospices, and similar institutions in which the population is unable to leave. Carpe Diem believes that it can provide a valuable healing experience for a population that otherwise would not be able to attend or hear concerts. Free performances allow facilities from all socio-economic levels to take advantage of this program. **Carpe Diem MusiCare/MusicAccess** also provides visits to the Franklin County (Ohio) Juvenile Detention Center (JDC). JDC is a facility designed to house up to 132 juveniles in a maximum-security environment, a population with virtually no arts or music access. Carpe Diem has designed special programs both to appeal to, and educate, these young people.
- **Performance Series** - Carpe Diem has created two performance series for Columbus audiences--**Seize the Music** and the **Free Family Concert** series. The programs are provided at the McConnell Arts Center (MAC). The MAC was chosen for several reasons, including its location, free parking, accessibility for handicapped and elderly patrons, first class acoustics, and kitchen/meeting room for receptions. **Seize the Music** features elements that put audiences at ease and encourage people who are unfamiliar with classical music to attend. We begin our events with a free reception, so audience members have a chance to meet and socialize. Every concert features guest artists chosen for artistic merit and their appeal to a wider audience base. The **Free Family Concert** series is a series designed for families with hands-on, interactive, and lively programs that are less than one hour in length and completely free.
- **Carpe Diem eStage** is an innovative way of using available technology to exponentially increase the number of people who can experience a series of free, educational 30-minute programs that are specially designed for all ages. At the same time Carpe Diem is presenting a concert in one venue for a physical audience, the event is streamed live by **Carpe Diem eStage** to unlimited audiences. Requiring only an Internet connection, even rural and economically disadvantaged areas have equal access to participate. This technology is two-way interactive; viewers react with questions and comments, and performers respond instantly to that feedback. It functions with any smart phone, tablet, laptop, or desktop computer. All viewers have free access. Login information and schedules for the broadcasts are forwarded directly to area schools, and access information is also available through the Carpe Diem website, Facebook, Twitter, Instant Encore, and Google+.

Carpe Diem is committed to pushing the limits of the classical string quartet and to changing the concert experience of chamber music. Using innovative programming, thematic concerts, 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.

Carpe Diem String Quartet is represented by:  
Lisa Sapinkopf Artists & Great Lakes Performing Artist Associates.  
For further information, please visit  
[www.carpediemstringquartet.com](http://www.carpediemstringquartet.com).