

Beo String Quartet Repertoire, 2024-25

Baroque/Classical/Romantic:

Bach - Selections from *The Art of Fugue*, BWV 1080 (the complete *Art of Fugue* is also available)
Brahms - String Quartet No.3
Haydn - String Quartet Op. 55 No. 3 (or other Haydn)
Beethoven - String Quartet Op.59 no.3
Mendelssohn - String Quartet No. 5 in E-flat major, Op. 44 No. 3
Smetana - String Quartet No. 1 in E minor

20th Century:

Debussy - String Quartet
Shostakovich - String Quartet No. 3 in F major, Op. 73

Film Scores:

Yann Tiersen (arr. Jason Neukom) - *La Noyée* (from the film "Amélie"):
www.youtube.com/watch?v=TY5QwFUsSqo

Contemporary (see info below):

Philip Glass - String Quartet No.3 (Mishima)
Missy Mazzoli - Harp and Altar
Marc Mellits - String Quartet No. 3, *Tapas*
Sean Neukom (Beo String Quartet member) - El Balcón
Gabriela Ortiz (b.1964) - *Mictlán (Place of the Dead)*, from "Altar de Muertos"
www.youtube.com/watch?v=jl9ML8XwvR8

Collaborations:

With Ilya Yakushev, pianist (www.ilyayakushev.com): piano quintets by Shostakovich (commemorating the 50th anniversary of Shostakovich's death) and Dvořák. A recording of Ilya playing with the St. Petersburg Piano Quartet can be found here: <https://spaces.hightail.com/receive/osJvptDx2F>

With Cavatina Duo (flute and guitar, www.cavatina duo.com): works by Clarice Assad (works based on Sephardic and "Gypsy" music for string quartet, flute and guitar); Boccherini: Quintet for String Quartet and Guitar; Mozart: Flute Quartet.

With Matt Baker, double bass: quintets by Dvořák and/or Georges Onslow (a rarely performed but wonderful Anglo-French composer who wrote many quintets, all of which Matt Baker is recording for Naxos)

Some information about the contemporary composers and their works:

SEAN NEUKOM (Beo String Quartet member): *El Balcón* (2022) —
<https://spaces.hightail.com/receive/xFgTDTq2I6>

or
www.dropbox.com/s/8uyulgk87nkg35z/EI%20Balcon_July%202023%20FullDemo.wav?dl=0

When Jason and I were young boys, our mother told us a fantastical story that, by her accounts, was true. Set in Mexico, a young girl heard a noise in the alleyway. She looked over her balcony to investigate, and she fell over the railing. As she was holding on with one hand, body dangling, she felt a spirit push her up over the balcony. She, of course, was the girl in the story. *El Balcón* ("the balcony") is a musical depiction of this tale. The quartet is used as four "guitars," as a vocal quartet, and ultimately as a string quartet in the formal sense. This emotional journey has one foot in classical sensibility and the other in a cinematic sound world. —Sean Neukom

MARC MELLITS (www.marcmellits.com) - **String Quartet No. 3: Tapas**

Marc Mellits has a gift for animating his chamber music with funky grooves and driving beats. Sometimes called a miniaturist, he frequently uses small, contrasting sections to create one large, dynamic work with a rich emotional palette.

Mellits' String Quartet No. 3 is subtitled *Tapas* and, like Spanish appetizers, each of its eight movements offers a quick burst of distinct flavor. Though this piece harkens back to traditional classical influences, *Tapas* also finds ways to subvert expectations. Starting with simple motifs, it rearranges and layers these patterns to create intriguing composite rhythms and lush harmonies. The quartet introduces different bowing and plucking techniques over time to create unusual timbres, adding to the rich texture.

Tapas can be heard here, in an arrangement for saxophone quartet: www.marcmellits.com/tapassaxquartet

GABRIELA ORTIZ (www.gabrielaortiz.com) - **MICTLÁN**

Latin Grammy-nominated Mexican composer Gabriela Ortiz is one of the most vibrant musicians emerging on the international scene. Her musical language achieves an extraordinary and expressive synthesis of tradition and the avant-garde, combining high art, folk music, and jazz in novel, refined, and personal ways.

Recent orchestral commissions include *Yanga* for the Los Angeles Philharmonic, *Hominum* for the National Symphony Orchestra of Mexico, and *Antropolis* for the Louisiana Symphony Orchestra. Her recent opera, *Luciérnaga* (Firefly) premiered in 2018 at the Vertice festival. The Royal Scottish National Orchestra recorded and performed her work *Hominum* in Fall of 2018.

In 2019, The Los Angeles Philharmonic, Gustavo Dudamel, and the Tambuco Percussion Ensemble performed the world premiere of *Yanga*; The New World Symphony presented *Hominum*; and the LA Phil presented the UK premiere of *Téenek - Invenciones de territorio* in their London tour. Upcoming commissions include collaborations with the Orchestre symphonique de Bretagne and the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra.

The composer writes:

"The tradition of the Day of the Dead festivities in Mexico is the source of inspiration for the creation of *Altar de Muertos* [of which *Mictlán* is one movement], whose ideas could reflect the internal search between the real and the magic, a duality always present in Mexican culture, from the past to the present." An extremely exciting work, *Mictlán* includes indigenous percussion instruments played by the quartet.

MISSY MAZZOLI (www.missymazzoli.com)

Grammy-nominated composer Missy Mazzoli was recently deemed "one of the more consistently inventive, surprising composers now working in New York" (*The New York Times*) and "Brooklyn's post-millennial Mozart" (*Time Out New York*), and has been praised for her "apocalyptic imagination" (Alex Ross, *The New Yorker*). Mazzoli is the Mead Composer-in-Residence at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and her music has been performed all over the world by the Kronos Quartet, eighth blackbird, pianist Emanuel Ax, Opera

Philadelphia, Scottish Opera, LA Opera, Cincinnati Opera, New York City Opera, Chicago Fringe Opera, the Detroit Symphony, the LA Philharmonic, the Minnesota Orchestra, the American Composers Orchestra, JACK Quartet, cellist Maya Beiser, violinist Jennifer Koh, pianist Kathleen Supové, Dublin's Crash Ensemble, the Sydney Symphony and many others. In 2018 she made history when she became one of the two first women to be commissioned by the Metropolitan Opera.

MISSY MAZZOLI - Harp and Altar

An ode to the Brooklyn Bridge with lyrics by American poet Hart Crane. Featuring electronics designed by the composer.