Vanderbilt University
Blair School of Music

Presents

The Blair String Quartet
Stephen Miahky and Cornelia Heard, violins,
Christina McGann, viola, Felix Wang, cello

Friday, October 2, 2020
8:00 p.m.
Steve and Judy Turner Recital Hall

Presented with gratitude to the Sartain Lanier Family Foundation for its generous support of the Blair School
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Break Away (2013) Jessie Montgomery
   Lilting (b. 1979)
   Songbird
   Smoke
   Quick Pass
   Break Away

Fantasiestücke, Op. 5 (1898) Samuel Coleridge-Taylor
   Prelude (1875-1912)
   Serenade
   Humoresque
   Minuet and Trio
   Dance

Quartet in E-flat major, Op. 127 (1825) Ludwig van Beethoven
   Maestoso-Allegro (1770-1827)
   Adagio ma non troppo e molto cantabile
   Scherzo: Vivace
   Allegro

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They have been praised for combining “technical expertise and emotional fire.” *The Washington Post* calls them simply “a marvelous ensemble.” Following a contemporary music concert at Rice University, *The Houston Post* stated, “The Blair String Quartet is a composer’s dream.”

Widely acclaimed in performances across the country, the Blair String Quartet has enhanced its national reputation through appearances at the Library of Congress, the Kennedy Center, New York’s 92nd Street Y and Merkin Concert Hall. In April 2012, the Blair String Quartet performed at Carnegie Hall’s Weill Recital Hall in New York City, which included a premiere of Michael Hersch’s quartet *Images from a Closed Ward*, a work that was commissioned by the quartet.

Some of the group’s residencies have been at the Aspen Music Festival, the Sedona Chamber Music Festival, and Dartmouth College, as well as appearances at the Colorado Music Festival, the Meadowmount School of Music, the Sewanee Music Festival, Music Mountain in Connecticut and the Maverick Concert Series in Woodstock, N.Y. They have been the Quartet-in-Residence for the Classical Fellowship Awards competition of the American Pianists Association, and the Irving S. Gilmore International Keyboard Festival.

The Blair String Quartet has performed widely on National Public Radio and was featured for a number of years on a public television series called *Recital Hall*. The ensemble’s recordings have been praised internationally by such publications as *Gramophone*, *Stereo Review*, *American Record Guide* and the *BBC Music Magazine*. They have recorded for labels including Warner Brothers and New World Records, and Naxos Records recently released their recording of the string quartets of Charles Ives, a recording that has been widely praised in reviews and was the selected CD of the Month by Naxos.

Well-known as interpreters of the standard repertoire, the Blair String Quartet has also championed music by contemporary American composers, including works written for them by George Tsontakis, Morton Subotnick, Ellsworth Milburn, Michael Alec Rose, Rodney Lister, and Michael Kurek. The ensemble has worked with many outstanding composers, including Elliott Carter, Alan Hovhaness, John Harbison, George Rochberg, Ezra Laderman, Leon Kirchner, Steven Mackey, Steven Stucky, Joan Tower, and Robert Sirota. The Quintet for Banjo and String Quartet, composed for them by Edgar Meyer and Béla Fleck, has been featured nationally on the PBS series *Lonesome Pine Special*, and remains in their touring repertoire. The Blair String Quartet has presented cycles of the complete quartets of Beethoven and Bartók. The group has appeared with many
renowned artists, including pianists Leon Fleisher, Lee Luvisi, Rolf Gothoni, David Owen Norris, Christopher Taylor, and Frederic Chiu, clarinetist David Krakauer, violinists Robert Mann and Joseph Silverstein, violists Walter Trampler and Samuel Rhodes, cellist Norman Fischer; bassist Edgar Meyer; and virtuoso of the banjo, Béla Fleck. The Blair Quartet has received grants and awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Southern Arts Federation, the Tennessee Arts Commission and Chamber Music America’s C. Michael Paul Residency Program.

The Blair String Quartet is in residence at the Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt University. The members of the ensemble are Stephen Miahky and Cornelia Heard, violins, Christina McGann, viola, and Felix Wang, cello.
Upcoming Blair Events

Living Sounds
Friday, October 9, 2020
8:00 p.m.
Live Streaming on Blair School of Music Website

Presented with gratitude to an anonymous friend for generously supporting the Blair School

Faculty Recital: Jeremy Wilson, trombone
Saturday, October 17, 2020
8:00 p.m.
Live Streaming on Blair School of Music Website

Presented with gratitude to Barbara Engelhardt and Justin P. Wilson for their generous support of the Blair School