

BIOGRAPHY

CECILIA STRING QUARTET

Min-Jeong Koh | Sarah Nematallah | Caitlin Boyle | Rachel Desoer
www.ceciliastringquartet.com

First prize-winners of the 2010 Banff International String Quartet Competition (BISQC), Canada's Cecilia String Quartet has quickly attracted the attention of the chamber world at home and internationally. Praised for their "extraordinary commitment and maturity" (*Gazette*) and "talent, passion and mastery" (Jacques Robert, JR Multimedia), this young quartet is one of Canada's most exciting young ensembles today. They are currently the Graduate Resident String Quartet at The Royal Conservatory's Glenn Gould School.

The CSQ has performed for some of the most respected chamber series internationally, such as Music Toronto (Toronto, Canada), The La Jolla Music Society (San Diego, USA), ProQuartet (Paris, France), and the Ottawa International Chamber Music Festival. They also toured Ontario, Quebec, and British Columbia with Jeunesses Musicales Canada on their Desjardins Concert Series. In addition to their prize at the 2010 BISQC, they were prize-winners at the Bordeaux (2010), Osaka (2008), and Rutenberg (2008) International Chamber Music Competitions. Committed to teaching and outreach, the CSQ has taught and performed at the Austin Chamber Music Festival in Texas and at QuartetFest at Laurier University in Waterloo, and has presented educational programs for elementary and high schools across the USA, Canada, and France.

The CSQ enjoy taking on large-scale projects. In 2009, they embarked on the project 'BLiM' (Breathing Life into Music), a month-long residency in France, through the Odyssee program that was generously supported by ProQuartet and the Centres Culturels de Rencontre Association in France and Europe (ACCR). The project culminated in the performance of two quartets by Théodore Dubois that were lost for the past century, as well as a new piece written for them by American composer Liam Wade. In 2010, the CSQ was involved with another project at The Banff Center, where they were an integral part of the collaborations with Common Sense Composers Collective and the Afiara String Quartet, culminating in the premiere of four new quartets written for them.

Prior to their appointment at The Glenn Gould School, the CSQ was Quartet-in-Residence at the Schulich School of Music, McGill University, where they studied with Andre Roy. They were also the Joseph Fisch and Joyce Axelrod Resident-String-Quartet at San Diego State University in association with the La Jolla Music Society. Since their inception in 2004, the quartet has held residencies at Laurier University, The Glenn Gould School, and the University of Toronto, where the quartet was formed. Their debut performance at the Arts and Letters Club in Toronto was met with high praise, and their first season culminated in the receipt of the Felix Galimir Award for Chamber Music Excellence after only 6 months as a quartet. Since that time, they have participated in many prestigious summer festivals, such as the Juilliard String Quartet Seminar in New York, the Stanford Chamber Music Seminar in California, the Deer Valley Music Festival in Utah, the Schleswig-Holstein Chamber Music Festival in Germany, the Great Lakes Music Festival in Michigan, and the Aspen Music Festival's Advanced String Quartet Studies program.

The Cecilia String Quartet takes its name from St. Cecilia, the patron saint of music. Members of the CSQ have attended the University of Toronto, The Glenn Gould School, The Juilliard School, Oberlin Conservatory, New England Conservatory, and the Hochschule fur Musik und Theatre Munchen in Munich, Germany. CSQ's performances have been broadcast on Classical 96.3 FM, CBC Radio 2, KUT 90.5 FM (Austin, Texas), and ABC Classical FM (Melbourne, Australia). Min-

Jeong Koh currently plays on the ca. 1767 Joannes Baptista Guadagnini violin on loan from the Canada Council for the Arts and an anonymous donor, and Sarah Nematallah currently plays on the 1851 Jean Baptiste Vuillaume on loan from an anonymous donor. The quartet would like to thank the anonymous donor and the Canada Council for the Arts for their generous support.

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