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San Jose Chamber Music Society 2024-2025 season – our 38th! 6 Subscription Concerts

OUR VENUE

LOCATION, TIME, PARKING & CONCERT PROTOCOL

We welcome you to our accessible venue for the 24-25 season, **St. Francis Episcopal Church**, in the **Willow Glen area of San Jose**, at 1205 Pine Avenue, corner Newport Avenue—with VTA bus stop. Pine Avenue intersects Lincoln Avenue, which connects with CA-87 via Curtner Avenue. Pine Avenue, as Hamilton Ave., intersects Hwy. 17.

This sanctuary has lively acoustics, 244 comfortable, wide seats, and a superior 9'2" Bechstein concert grand piano.

All concerts start at 7:00pm.

The church has 20 on-site parking spaces (4 handicapped-only spaces) accessed via a one-way alley entered from Pine Avenue, and exiting onto Newport Avenue.

Ample parking is available on neighborhood streets.

No food or beverages are allowed inside the church.

We will follow all required health and safety protocols—CDC, State, County, City, Diocesan, and St. Francis Episcopal Church.



7:00 PM - SUN. OCTOBER 13, 2024

Gropius Quartet (Germany) début US tour Performing string quartets of Haydn, Mendelssohn & Dvořák



Wolfgang Emmanuel Schmidt, cello; Indira Koch, violin; Alexia Eichhorn, viola; Friedemann Eichhorn, violin

Program: HAYDN Quartet in E-flat major, Op.33/#2 (1781); MENDELSSOHN String Quartet in F minor, Op.80 (1847); DVOŘÁK Quartet #12 in F major, Op.96, "American" (1893).

Music: Haydn's Op.33 Quartets achieve a synthesis of melodic grace, learned form, and emotional intensity. • Mendelssohn's impassioned F minor Quartet, a dark tour-de-force, is his emotional elegy for his sister's Fanny's death. • The flowing, spacious and bright music of Dvořák's "American" Quartet reflects the tranquility he found summering in the Bohemian farming community of Spillville, Iowa, in 1893.

Artists: The Gropius Quartet, formed by established soloists and chamber musicians who were students together at Menuhin Music Academy Gstaad and the Juilliard School, debuted in Weimar, Germany, in 2018. Their combined intuition and experience produces an electric dynamic, and their playing has the clarity and boldness of their namesake—Bauhaus architect Walter Gropius. "...fascinating inner unity and in perfect balance" (Cellesche Zeitung); "...transporting vitality and elan" (Die Rheinpfalz - Speyer).

7:00 PM - SAT. FEBRUARY 22, 2025

Dalby, Costanza, Yakushev Piano Trio (Bay Area & Russia) Play Rachmaninoff, Martinů, Boulanger, Casarrubios, Shostakovich, Brahms



Owen Dalby, violin



Christopher Costanza, cello



Ilya Yakushev, piano

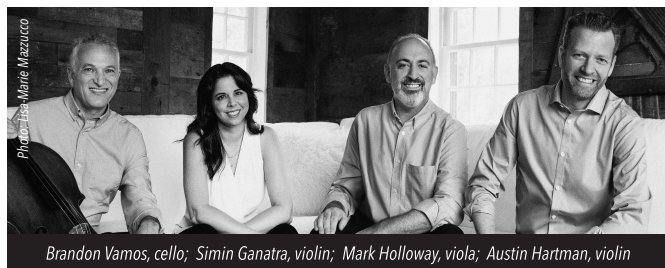
Program: RACHMANINOFF *Vocalise* for Violin & Piano (1915); Bohuslav MARTINŮ Duo #1 for Violin & Cello, H.157; (1927); Nadia BOULANGER Trois pièces pour violoncelle et piano (1914); Andrea CASARRUBIOS *Silbo* (2021); SHOSTAKOVICH Prelude & Fugue #24 in D minor (1950/51); BRAHMS Trio #1 in B major, Op.8 (revised version) (1889).

Music: Rachmaninoff's enchanting *Vocalise*—beloved for its melodic beauty—has been transcribed in many ways. • Martinů's Duo delights in close interplay between violin and cello. • Nadia Boulanger's three pieces have quintessentially French texture and rhythm. • Casarrubios' *Silbo* ("whistle" in Spanish) was inspired by whistled languages which carry long distances. • Shostakovich's Preludes and Fugues were inspired by J.S. Bach. • The revised Op.8 trio reflects both the young and the elder Brahms.

Artists: As members of the St. Lawrence String Quartet from 2015 and 2003, respectively, Owen Dalby and Christopher Costanza performed on all the major chamber series in North America and Europe. • Pianist Ilya Yakushev astounds and mesmerizes audiences at major venues on three continents. *The New York Times* raved, "little short of heroic."

7:00 PM - SUN. NOVEMBER 10, 2024

Pacifica Quartet (Indiana) San Jose début Performing string quartets of Samuel Barber, George Crumb, & Shostakovich



Brandon Vamos, cello; Simin Ganatra, violin; Mark Holloway, viola; Austin Hartman, violin

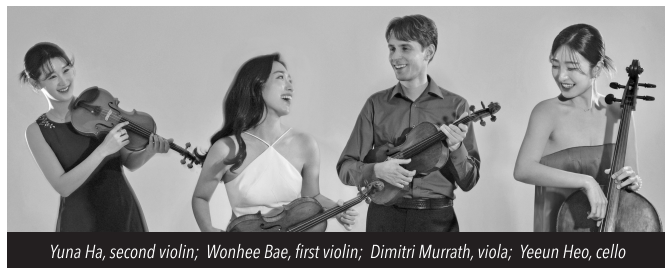
Program: Samuel BARBER String Quartet in B minor, Op.11 (1935); George CRUMB *Black Angels*, "Thirteen images from The Dark Land " for Electric String Quartet (1970); SHOSTAKOVICH String Quartet #2 in A major, Op.68 (1944).

Music: Three memorial works: Barber's String Quartet includes his *Adagio for Strings* which has brought a cathartic calm in times of grief and mourning. • George Crumb's revolutionary work *Black Angels* is a threnody (ode or lament) for the Vietnam War and "a kind of parable on our troubled contemporary world" (Crumb 1971). • Shostakovich's Op.68 is his first great Quartet—vividly original in style, bold in design, and individual in character—and dedicated as a memorial to a fellow composer.

Artists: With a three-decade career and multiple Grammy Awards, the Pacifica Quartet has achieved international recognition as one of the finest chamber ensembles performing today. The Quartet is known for its virtuosity, exuberant performance style, and often-daring repertory choices—and is in residence at Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music. "The playing is nothing short of phenomenal." (The Daily Telegraph, London).

7:00 PM - SUN. MARCH 16, 2025

Esmé Quartet (South Korea & Bay Area) Performing string quartets of Beethoven, Ravel, Kui Dong & Juri Seo



Yuna Ha, second violin; Wonhee Bae, first violin; Dimitri Murrath, viola; Yeeun Heo, cello

Program: Kui DONG: "Spring" from *Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter* (2006); Juri SEO "Fall – Winter" from *String Quartet Infinite Season* (2017-18); RAVEL String Quartet (1903); BEETHOVEN String Quartet #14, in C# minor, Op.131 (1826).

Music: Dartmouth Professor Kui Dong's "Spring" pulsates with nature's energy of re-growth. • Princeton Professor Juri Seo's *Infinite Season* portrays nature's annual cycle of changes from season to season, sound by sound. • Ravel's Quartet is prized for classical sense of form, modern yet tonal melody and harmony, and vital and subtle rhythmic motion. • Beethoven's C# minor Quartet Op.131 was his favorite and is for many the greatest of his late quartets.

Artists: The Esmé Quartet, formed in 2016 by four friends from Korea at Cologne's Hochschule für Music, tours worldwide to international acclaim. In 2023, violist Dimitri Murrath, San Francisco Conservatory's Chair of Chamber Music, joined Esmé. Their March 2023 concert for us was a hit! "They play with depth and maturity..." (Süddeutsche Zeitung); "Lyricism and airy limpidity,...profundity and unexpected allure." 5 stars. (Diapason. France).

7:00 PM - SUN. JANUARY 12, 2025

Trio Bohémo (Czech Republic) début US tour Performing piano trios of Schubert, Dvořák, & Marios Christou



Matouš Pěruška, violin; Jan Vojtek, piano; Kristina Vocetková, cello

Program: SCHUBERT Piano Trio #2 in E-flat major, Op.100, D.929 (1827); DVOŘÁK Piano Trio in E minor, Op.90 "Dumky" (1891); Marios CHRISTOU *Dvořák on Cyprus* (2022).

Music: Schubert's E-flat major Trio is gigantic in length and filled with thematic ideas and constant transformations, intensity and passion, as well as joy, grace and beauty. • Dvořák's beloved "Dumky" Trio captures the melodic freshness and rhythmic verve of Czech folk music in six dumka [poetic ballad] movements of yearning, melancholy and wild gaiety. • Cyprian-born composer Marios Christou playfully imagines how Dvořák, upon visiting Cyprus, might incorporate its folk music in his compositions.

Artists: In the years since its founding, the Trio Bohémo's talent and deep musicality have been recognized and validated by numerous awards. The London reviewer of their 2023 Wigmore Hall debut said: "Trio Bohémo were on fire. The connection between the musicians was symbiotic. They are the music that this world needs."; "Precision, dedication and a spark of magic." (Göttingen critic)

7:00 PM - SAT. MAY 17, 2025

Quinteto Latino woodwind quintet (Bay Area) Celebrating their 20th anniversary – demonstrates the variety in Latino music



Kyle Bruckmann, oboe; Leslie Tagorda, clarinet; Jamael Smith, bassoon; Diane Grubbe, flute; Armando Castellano, French horn

Program/Music: The quintet's repertoire—and this concert's music—spans the full spectrum of Latino musical heritage from traditional compositions to cutting-edge works. Paquito D'RIVERA's *Wapango* (1996); Ronaldo MIRANDA's *Variações Sérias sobre um tema de Anacleto de Medeiros* (1991); Tango Suite - music of Gerardo Matos RODRIGUEZ & Astor PIAZZOLLA; Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Tania LEÓN's *De Memorias* (2000); Júlio MEDAGLIA's *Belle Epoque en Sud-America* (2002); the folk song *Son de la Bruja*; and PIAZZOLLA's fiery masterpiece *Libertango* (1974).

Artists: Founded in 2004 by hornist Armando Castellano, Quinteto Latino is a dynamic ensemble of top Bay Area musicians which showcases classical and contemporary music of Latin America and Latina/o/e composers everywhere, while engaging diverse communities through music. Quinteto Latino is strongly committed to new music, commissioning many works over the years. Notable successes include their 2011 CD *100 Años de Música Mexicana para Quinteto de Alientos*, their May 2024 premiere of Carla Lucero's opera *Chicanísima* (QL commission), and concerts across the U.S. "Consummate virtuosity" (Maria Nockin, Fanfare Magazine)

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delights

taps and evokes
emotions...

intimate

cooperation

inspires

variety
community

takes you deep
within...

and richly beyond
yourself.

For Tickets & Information:
www.sjchambermusic.org

All programs are subject
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