



ICARUS QUARTET

WWW.ICARUSQUARTET.ORG

WHO IS iQ?

Like the mythological figure from which it draws its name, the half piano/half percussion **icarus Quartet** dares to fly towards the sun, aspiring to new heights of artistry. Following their Carnegie Hall debut, composer Paul Lansky simply remarked, "This is music making of the highest order." The Wall Street Journal hailed icarus Quartet's 2022 album, **BIG THINGS**, as "a beautifully immersive recording...an impressive calling card."

Winner of the 2019 Chamber Music Yellow Springs Competition, icarus Quartet has given new life to old masterpieces as well as the future of their instrumentation. The quartet was chosen as Chamber Music Northwest's 2020 Protégé Project Ensemble and was subsequently the first ensemble to hold the Klinger ElectroAcoustic Residency at Bowling Green State University. Past engagements include appearances at the Kennedy Center's REACH, the Vienna Summer Music Festival, the Horowitz Piano Series, the Queens New Music Festival, the Adalman Chamber Series, and at Princeton University for a Lansky tribute concert held in honor of the emeritus professor's 75th birthday.

Fostering the development of new works through commissioning and collaborating lies at the core of the group's mission, inspiring partnerships with titans of the classical contemporary field, established artists of electronic and indie music scenes, as well as gifted student composers through their annual "iQ Tests" program. Recent and upcoming collaborators include Nick Zammuto, Michael Laurello, Liliya Ugay, Douglas Knehans, Natalie Dietterich, Scott Lee, and Amy Beth Kirsten as well as 2022-23 iQ Test Scholars Matiss Čudars and Sam Wu. The ensemble's work often extends beyond the realm of music; Wilderness Suite, an ongoing intermedia project combining icarus Quartet with the forces of composer Ruby Fulton, video artist Benjamin James, and geographer Teresa Cavazos-Cohn, examines the unique anti-development of the 2.4 million-acre Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness site through still imagery, data, film, recorded interviews, natural sound samples, and live music.

Passionate about educating and engaging with the next generation of musicians, icarus Quartet thrives in school and university settings. They have given classes on chamber music and composition seminars on writing for their instruments at institutions including the Peabody Conservatory, the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Bridgeport University, the University of Florida, the University of Northern Iowa, Florida State University, Lebanon Valley College, Yale College, Wright State University, and the University of Idaho's Lionel Hampton School of Music, in addition to presentations for grade school and Pre-K students.

Larry Weng, Christopher Goodpasture, Matt Keown, and Jeff Stern are all celebrated soloists in their own rights, and together they have found a special chemistry and inimitable joy playing chamber music. They are dedicated to the discovery, creation, and performance of new music, but what distinguishes their approach to contemporary music is a strong training and background in the classical genre. icarus Quartet is committed to performing new works with a studied and convincing interpretation that mirrors the validity of works with performance practices developed over centuries.



PROGRAM OFFERINGS

Lost and Found

Natalie Dietterich: Entrelac*

Douglas Knehans: Colored Wave*

Thomas Kotcheff: and more and more and more and this*
~intermission~

Amy Beth Kirsten: little things lost*

Steve Reich: Quartet

"Lost and Found" explores permutations and combinations of timbre, highlighting the multifarious and ever changing dynamic of the piano/percussion quartet. Through interweaving lines, turning found junk objects into musical instruments, and echoing melodies until euphoria erupts, this program's curiosity is well rewarded.

Mobile

Stephen Downing: the sky, paler than yesterday*

Sam Wu: Ocean Moons*

Matīss Čudars: Spark*

~intermission~

Liliya Ugay: Sleep n Play*

Scott Lee: Split Screen*

Christian Quiñones: [AL]PATRÓN*

Two pianos and percussion can take up a lot of space. "Mobile" allows iQ to play music just as exciting, but with only ONE grand piano, occasionally played four-hands or augmented by a synthesizer or toy piano. This program also features baby toys (including an actual mobile), lo-fi hip hop beats on a drum pad, and a Dominican güira.

Bartók Reborn (available in Fall 2024)

Béla Bartók: Sonata for Two Pianos and Percussion

Witold Lutosławski: Variations on a Theme by Paganini

~intermission~

Martin Bresnick: new work*

Viet Cuong: new work*

Jennifer Higdon: new work*

The history of icarus' instrumentation begins with Bartók's Sonata for Two Pianos and Percussion. In "Bartók Reborn," this seminal work is paired with a virtuosic caprice from fellow European titan Lutosławski, and followed by three brand new approaches to its "orchestral" setup by living legends with vastly different musical aesthetics. iQ also offers the concerto version of the Bartók.

*denotes iQ commission and/or work
written expressly for icarus Quartet



EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS

Chamber Music Strategies and Analysis

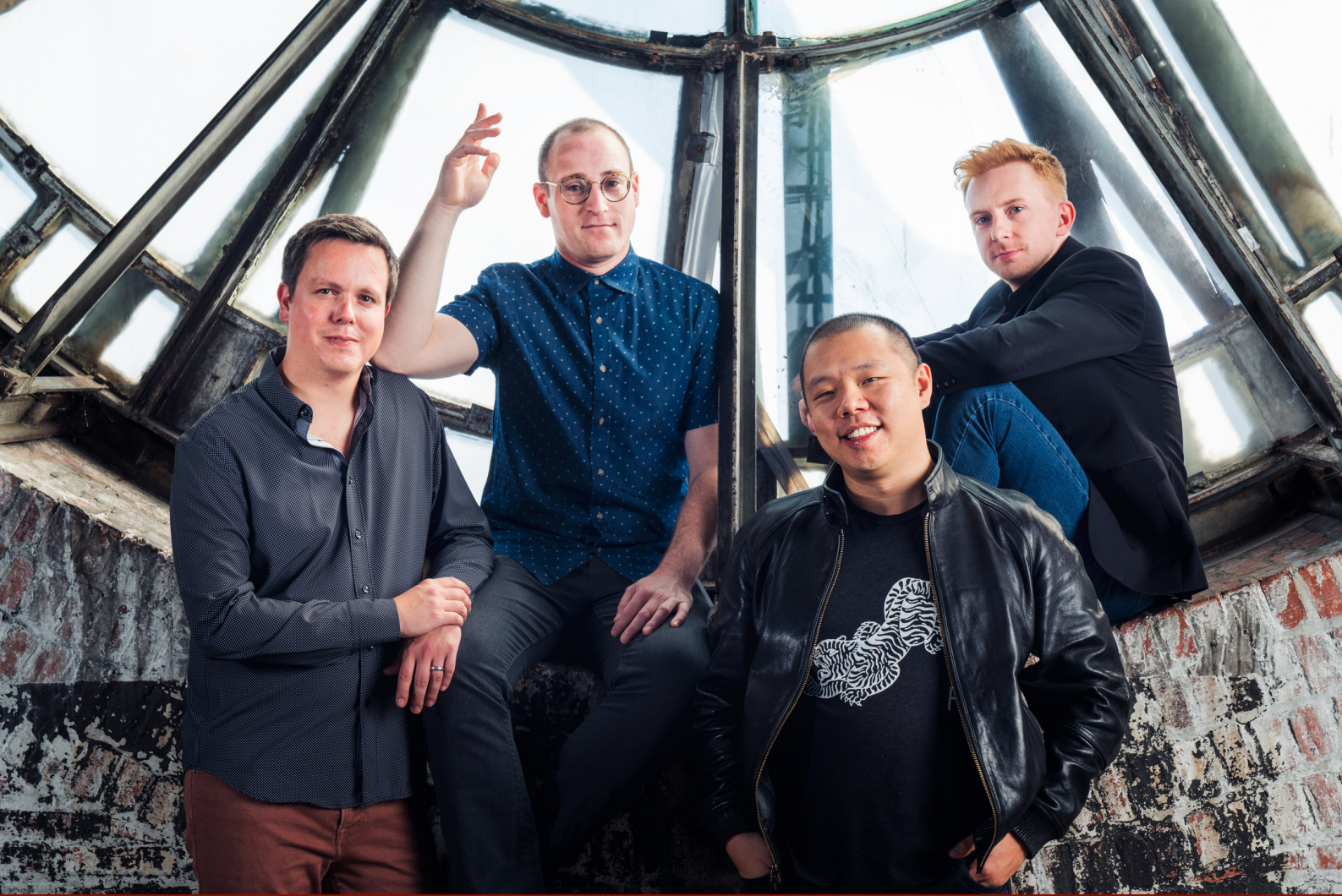
In this clinic, icarus addresses eight facets of chamber music preparation that contribute to a performance-ready product and ongoing success as an ensemble. These principles serve as a jumping off point, demonstrated via excerpts of iQ repertoire, yet applicable to all instrumentations and formats. icarus will then coach students on their prepared pieces, and in the special case where students are working on iQ repertoire, the quartet members can join them for a side-by-side experience which often serves as the most impactful form of teaching.

Composition Tutorials, Workshops, and Readings

A large part of icarus' work as a quartet is engaging with composers and helping to bring new works to life. Even with established composers, they aim to have several meetings spanning from before any sketches are made, all the way through the completion of the score, and including the revision process following the initial performances. For student composers, iQ has several essential topics of discussion to present, ranging from instrument selection, technical concerns and limitations, idiomatic writing, extended techniques, and more. icarus also can arrange for reading sessions of student works for two pianists and two percussionists.

Little Flyers

icarus Quartet is committed to making an impact on the lives of young people, hoping not only to develop better artists but better citizens. The Little Flyers series is a set of virtual and in-person experiences aimed at children aged 6 through 14, with topics drawn from music that can open doors and widen perspectives. Videos with accompanying teacher and student materials are available for rent at affordable prices, and the quartet works to include at least one live local workshop for children in conjunction with each performance of their season tour.



Booking:
admin@icarusquartet.org

Download hi-res photos:
icarusquartet.org/epk

ICARUS  QUARTET

WWW.ICARUSQUARTET.ORG