

icarus Quartet

2022-2023

Full Bio:

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.

Member Bios:

Winner of the 2019 NYCA Worldwide Debut Audition and a laureate of the 2016 Queen Elisabeth International Piano Competition, **Larry Weng** has been described in The New York Times as playing with “steely power and incisive rhythm.” Of his 2014 New York debut at Weill Hall, the New York Concert Review described him as “an extremely sensitive musician and mature interpreter,” and “mature beyond his years.”

Larry has been featured in concert in France, Switzerland, Belgium, the Netherlands, China, Japan, Brazil, and Venezuela, and has performed in many of the world’s renowned halls, including Boston’s Symphony Hall, Weill Recital Hall, Merkin Hall, SubCulture, the Salle Cortot, the Sala São Paulo, Carnegie Stern Auditorium, and the Berlin Philharmonie Kammermusiksaal. An avid chamber musician and collaborator, Larry is a full-time member of the icarus Quartet.

Larry graduated from the highly selective joint degree program between Columbia University and The Juilliard School under the tutelage of Professors Jerome Lowenthal and Matti Raekallio. He continued his studies with Professor Boris Berman at the Yale School of Music, completing the doctoral program in 2019. During his time at Yale, Larry served as an instructor in undergraduate piano and secondary piano. As of the 2021-2022 academic year, Larry serves on the faculty of the Wake Forest University Department of Music.

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Noted for his “rhetorical grandeur, romantic warmth, and surefire technique,” (Dallas Morning News), pianist **Christopher Goodpasture** has a growing reputation as a recitalist, chamber musician, and orchestral soloist. Winner of Astral Artists 2019 National Auditions in Philadelphia, Christopher has performed to great acclaim at venues such as the Kennedy Center, Koerner Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Merkin Hall, Weill Recital Hall, as well as the festivals of Ravinia, Aspen, Sarasota, Banff, and Port Townsend.

Forthcoming and recent orchestral performances include Gershwin Concerto in F with the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra, Mozart Concerto No. 23 with the Chamber Orchestra of New York, Franck Symphonic Variations with the Northumberland Orchestra in Toronto, and Beethoven Concerto No. 2 with the Joven Orquesta Leonesa in León, Spain. In recent seasons, he has made multiple appearances with the Oakville Symphony, Dallas Chamber Symphony, Sioux City Symphony, Acadiana Symphony Orchestra, and the Riverside Symphonia. Christopher has been the recipient of top prizes at international competitions including the Washington, Seattle, Iowa, and Dallas International Piano Competition, as well as the Serge and Olga Koussevitzky Competition for Pianists in New York.

From 2018-20, Christopher was a member of the New York-based Ensemble Connect, a fellowship program of Carnegie Hall, the Juilliard School, and the Weill Institute, emphasizing audience engagement, teaching and performing chamber music. He holds degrees from the Yale School of Music, The Juilliard School, and the University of Southern California, where his

teachers included Hung-Kuan Chen, John Perry, and Peter Frankl. Currently, he is a doctoral candidate at the Peabody Institute, working with Richard Goode. Christopher is a Young Steinway Artist and a full-time member of the 2 percussion/2 piano icarus Quartet.

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In an art form that cherishes and longs for divergences from normalcy, **Matt Keown's** artistry is defined by a unique duality. At the core of his creativity remains the technique of a rudimental percussionist and the sensibility of a classical musician. The idiosyncrasies of this relationship afford him a unique musical perspective characterized by precise execution and thoughtful interpretation.

When prioritizing his various creative endeavors, Matt defines himself primarily as a chamber musician. He is a founding member of icarus Quartet, praised by composer Paul Lansky for “music making of the highest order.” He is also a founding member of The Percussion Collective, an ensemble that “transcends the medium of percussion through uncommon performance experiences that surprise and engage audiences at a profound emotional level.”

Matt is honored to be the fourth percussionist to have ever been granted acceptance to Yale University's prestigious Doctor of Musical Arts program. He completed the residency of this degree in 2018 and is currently based in Maryland. Matt is a Guest Lecturer of Percussion at the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University and Professor of Percussion at Lebanon Valley College in Pennsylvania. He proudly endorses Vic Firth Sticks and Mallets, Zildjian Cymbals, Remo Drumheads and Pearl/Adams Percussion Instruments. Matt was born and raised in Oregon and currently resides in Maryland.

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Known for performing “with precision and an impressive attention to timbral detail” (Boston Musical Intelligencer), percussionist **Jeff Stern** has developed a voice to listen for in today's contemporary music scene. He has performed extensively throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia, and has collaborated with a number of the world's most prominent composers. Recent premieres include Alejandro Viñao's *Stress and Flow* with The Percussion Collective, James Wood's *Secret Dialogues* for solo marimba, and John Luther Adams' *Sila* at Lincoln Center's Out of Doors Festival.

Jeff is the executive director, co-artistic director, and founding percussionist of icarus Quartet, a 2 piano/2 percussion group and winner of the 2019 Chamber Music Yellow Springs Competition. As a member of The Percussion Collective, his concert highlights include a concerto appearance with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra in Chris Theofanidis' *Drum Circles*, a headlining performance at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention, and a live broadcast for WXQR's Midday Masterpieces. Jeff has appeared at the Eighth Blackbird Creative Lab, the Yellow Barn, Bang on a Can, Lake George, and Norfolk Chamber Music

festivals, and can be heard on the Albany, Furious Artisans, Elm City, Bright Shiny Things, figureight, and Cantaloupe record labels.

Jeff serves as Lecturer in Percussion at the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University as well as on the faculty of the Luzerne Music Center. He holds degrees from UMass Amherst, the Peabody Conservatory, and the Yale School of Music. Jeff is a proud artist endorser of Vic Firth sticks and mallets, Zildjian cymbals, Evans drumheads, and Pearl/Adams drums and percussion.

Short Member Bios:

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Noted by the Dallas Morning News for his “rhetorical grandeur, romantic warmth, and surefire technique,” pianist **Christopher Goodpasture** has a growing reputation as a recitalist, chamber musician, and orchestral soloist. Winner of the Astral Artists 2019 Auditions, he is also a top prize winner at the Washington, Seattle, and Dallas International Piano Competitions, as well as the Serge and Olga Koussevitzky Competition. A native of Los Angeles, Christopher is an alumnus of Ensemble Connect (a fellowship program of Carnegie Hall), the Yale School of Music (MMA), The Juilliard School (MM), and is currently a doctoral candidate at the Peabody Institute.

In an art form that cherishes and longs for divergences from normalcy, **Matt Keown** possesses artistry defined by a unique duality. At the core of his creativity remains the technique of a rudimental percussionist and the sensibility of a classical musician. He was the fourth percussionist to complete Yale’s prestigious DMA program, and currently serves as Guest Lecturer at the Peabody Conservatory and Professor of Percussion at Lebanon Valley College in Pennsylvania.

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