

2024 Spring Concert Series

The Salaff String Quartet

*Thomas Rodgers and Molly Werts
McDonald, violin; Aika Ito, viola;
Benjamin Krug, cello*

April 10, 2024
12:10PM



LIVE *from*
HOCHSTEIN


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PROGRAM

<i>Stædelil</i>	Danish/Faroese Traditional
<i>Unst Boat Song</i>	Shetland Traditional
<i>Dromer</i>	Danish Traditional
<i>Death and Maiden</i> II. Andante con moto	Franz Schubert (1797 - 1828)
String Quartet No. 19 in C Major, K. 465 " <i>Dissonance</i> " IV. Allegro molto	W. A. Mozart (1756 - 1791)

Thomas Rodgers, violin
Molly Werts McDonald, violin
Aika Ito, viola
Benjamin Krug, cello

The Hochstein School is grateful to Sidney & Barbara Sobel for generously providing continuous underwriting support for *Live from Hochstein* since 1993.

Today's *Live from Hochstein* performance is broadcast live and in stereo on  FM, 91.5 with host Mona Seghatoleslami.



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Hochstein programs are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature. Hochstein programs are also made possible by the Monroe County Legislature; Adam Bello, Monroe County Executive.

PERFORMERS

The **Salaff String Quartet** was founded in 2014 by four members of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra: Thomas Rodgers and Molly Werts McDonald (violin), Aika Ito (viola), and Benjamin Krug (cello). They all attended the Cleveland Institute of Music and studied chamber music with beloved teacher Peter Salaff, for whom the quartet is named. They specialize in classical music but also perform a wide variety of music for educational performances and events. The quartet has a passion for outreach in the community, serving as outreach ambassadors for the Society of Chamber Music in Rochester from 2017 to 2019.

Thomas Rodgers joined the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra in 2012 as a member of the first violin section. During the 2014-2015 season, he served as principal second violin. Rodgers is a faculty member at the Kanack School of Musical Artistry. He holds degrees in violin performance from the Cleveland Institute of Music and Indiana University, where he won the Jacobs School of Music Concerto Competition and Kuttner Chamber Music Competition. His primary teachers include William Preucil and Alexander Kerr.

Molly Werts McDonald joined the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra in 2013 as acting assistant principal second violin, and in 2014 became a permanent member of the first violin section. Prior to joining the RPO, she was assistant principal second violin of the Canton Symphony Orchestra, and had also performed with the Kansas City Symphony, the Cleveland Orchestra, and the New World Symphony. McDonald is passionate about teaching and chamber music, and joined the faculty of The Hochstein School in 2017 as a string chamber music coach. McDonald holds a Bachelors of Music Degree and a Certificate in World Music from The Eastman School of Music, where she studied with RPO Concertmaster Juliana Athayde. McDonald then continued on to complete a Master of Music degree at the Cleveland Institute of Music with William Preucil.

Prior to joining the second violin section of the Buffalo Philharmonic in 2024, **Aika Ito** was a member of the Rochester Philharmonic, Canton Symphony, and Akron Symphony Orchestras. Ito completed her studies at the Toho School of Music in Tokyo and the Cleveland Institute of Music. Her notable mentors have been Tsugio Tokunaga, Stephen Rose, Mayumi Ohira, Kumi Iguchi, Akihiro Miura, and Asako Urushihara.

Benjamin Krug is a tenured cellist with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. In recent summers, he has performed with the Santa Fe Opera Orchestra, the Chautauqua Festival Orchestra, and the Finger Lakes Opera. Prior to his position in the RPO, Benjamin was a member of both the Akron and Canton Symphonies. Beyond performing, Benjamin is a dedicated pedagogue. Krug is a former faculty member at The Hochstein School and currently teaches at the Kanack School of Musical Artistry. He recently completed Suzuki Books 1-4 teacher training, as well as Creative Ability Development training with Alice Kanack. Benjamin holds degrees from the Cleveland Institute of Music and St. Olaf College. His primary teacher was Stephen Geber.

Hochstein would like to thank its donors and patrons for their support of our mission to provide people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities with access to excellent music and dance education in a community that nurtures and encourages personal achievement.

To learn more about The Hochstein School, visit our website at www.hochstein.org. For information on how to support Hochstein, please contact Gwen Parker, Assistant Director of Development, at gwen.paker@hochstein.org or 585.454.4403 x223.

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If you wish to support future *Live from Hochstein* performances for the Rochester community, please consider making a donation in the baskets provided at the exits or at <https://hochstein.org/Support>. Any checks can be made out to The Hochstein School with *Live from Hochstein* in the memo. THANK YOU!

JOIN US NEXT WEEK

Hochstein Merit Scholarship Winners

Lillian Brickman, guitar; Noah Busch and Julian Chumacero, violin

April 17, 2024 at 12:10PM

AUDIENCE REMINDERS

- Please enter and exit the hall only during applause.
- Food and beverages are not allowed in the Performance Hall.
- Please turn off cell phones and other devices that may sound or light up during the performance. The use of cameras/recording devices is strictly prohibited.
- Restrooms are located downstairs and can be accessed from the back of the Performance Hall. Wheelchair accessible/gender neutral restrooms are in the School; please ask an usher for directions.
- Fire exits are located along the sides and rear of the Performance Hall.