

VERONA QUARTET

Hailed by *The New York Times* as an "outstanding ensemble of young musicians", the Verona Quartet is a winner of the 2015 Concert Artists Guild Competition, and in just three years, has earned a stellar reputation for delivering a "sensational, powerhouse performance" (*Classical Voice America*) every time they take the stage. *Musical America* recently selected the group as "New Artists of the Month" for May 2016, further setting the Verona Quartet apart as one of the most compelling young quartets in chamber music.

The Verona Quartet had a busy 2016-17 season with nearly fifty performances spread across fifteen States and Canada. Select highlights include: In New York, the Quartet's Carnegie Hall debut at Weill Recital Hall (CAG Presents series) and the Tilles Center for the Performing Arts at Long Island University; Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall (NY); California concerts at La Jolla SummerFest, Pepperdine University Center for the Arts, and Chico Performances at CalState/Chico; Purdue Convocations (IN); Market Square Concerts (PA); and in Illinois at Rockford Coronado Concerts and the Dame Myra Hess Series (simulcast live on WFMT radio). Also in 2016-17, the Verona Quartet enjoyed its second year as Graduate Resident String Quartet at The Juilliard School, where they work closely with members of the Juilliard String Quartet and also teach as Lisa Arnhold Fellows. Among numerous performances on behalf of Juilliard, the Quartet completed their residency with a May 2017 concert at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall.

The Verona Quartet has performed across four continents in venues such as Wigmore Hall (London, UK), Izumi Hall (Osaka, Japan), the National Theatre (Abu Dhabi, UAE), the Melbourne Recital Hall (Melbourne, Australia), Carnegie Hall and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (Washington, DC). They have also appeared on National Public Radio, *The Weekly Special* on PBS, and Abu Dhabi Classical FM.

At the 2015 CAG Competition, the Verona Quartet was also awarded the BMI Commissioning Prize, resulting in a brand new work by American composer Michael Gilbertson being premiered at the ensemble's Carnegie Hall debut in February 2017. In addition, the group has recently garnered top prizes at numerous prestigious competitions worldwide: abroad at the Wigmore Hall International String Quartet Competition (née London International String Quartet Competition), the Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition and the 8th Osaka International Chamber Music Competition; and in the US at the Coleman, Fischhoff, and Chesapeake Chamber Music Competitions; and the M-Prize International Chamber Arts Competition.

In summer 2016, the Quartet joined the faculty of the Indiana University Summer String Academy as Quartet-in-Residence. Previously, the ensemble has served as visiting artists and teachers at several leading international institutions for music education, including the Beethoven-Haus (Bonn, Germany), Oberlin Conservatory of Music, New York University – Abu Dhabi, and the Summer String Academy at Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music. In April 2015, they were quartet-in-residence at the Abu Dhabi Chamber Music Festival which featured a multi-venue concert tour and collaborations with composers at New York University-Abu Dhabi and local Emirati poets at Khalifa University.

The Verona Quartet members are strong proponents of community engagement and education. From 2013-2015, the quartet established a relationship with the city of Danville, Illinois, where they curated a concert series and gave outreach performances and master classes across elementary, middle and high schools in the city, resulting in an increase in public school music class enrollment to almost double the average of the State of Illinois.

The Verona Quartet's members hail from the USA, Canada and Singapore, and hold degrees from Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music, Cleveland Institute of Music, Oberlin

Conservatory, Rice University's Shepherd School of Music and Eastman School of Music. Originally founded as the Wasmuth Quartet in 2013, they were the inaugural Graduate Quartet-in-Residence at Indiana University, where they were mentored chiefly by the Pacifica Quartet, as well as Alexander Kerr, Atar Arad and Eric Kim. The Quartet has collaborated with celebrated artists such as David Shifrin, Cho-Liang Lin, Burt Hara, Atar Arad, Orion Weiss, Pedja Muzijevic, Jean-Michel Fonteneau, and has worked with members of the Alban Berg, American, Brentano, Cavani, Cleveland, Emerson, Fine Arts, Guarneri, Tokyo, Vermeer and London Haydn Quartets.

ARTISTS' BIOGRAPHIES



Singaporean-born violinist **Jonathan Ong** is an Artist Diploma candidate at The Juilliard School as a member of the Verona Quartet. He has performed on four continents in international venues such as Carnegie Hall, Wigmore Hall, Lincoln Center, Beijing and Shanghai Concert Halls, The Esplanade in Singapore, Melbourne Recital Hall, and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Jonathan has been recognized with top prizes at numerous international competitions, including the Concert Artists Guild International Competition, London's Wigmore Hall International String Quartet Competition; the M-Prize, Osaka, Melbourne and Chesapeake International Chamber Music Competitions; the Fischhoff and Coleman National Chamber Music Competitions; the Singapore National Violin Competition and the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Young Artists Competition. As a member of the Verona Quartet, he was featured as Musical America's "New Artist of the Month" in May 2016.

Jonathan has served as concertmaster of orchestras at the Music Academy of the West and Aspen Music Festival, and was Concertmaster of the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic and Terre Haute Symphony Orchestra for two seasons. He has collaborated with eminent artists such as Renee Fleming, Cho-Liang Lin, Orion Weiss, Pedja Muzijevic, Eric Kim, David Shifrin, Jorja Fleezanis, Atar Arad, as well as musicians of the New York and LA Philharmonic.

Jonathan is a graduate of Indiana University, the Cleveland Institute of Music and the Eastman School of Music, where he was one of the youngest-ever recipients of the Performer's Certificate. His principal teachers include Alexander Kerr, Paul Kantor, Fredell Lack, Lynn Blakeslee and Lynette Lim. As the first-ever Singaporean to be accepted into The Juilliard School's prestigious Artist Diploma program, he also serves as teaching assistant to the Juilliard String Quartet. Jonathan is on the chamber music faculty at the Indiana University Summer String Academy. He is a recipient of scholarships and grants from numerous organizations, including the Dorothy R.

Starling Foundation, Lee Foundation, Shaw Foundation, and the National Arts Council of Singapore.

Jonathan plays on the c. 1728 “ex-Artot” Stradivarius violin and a French bow on generous loan from the Juilliard Rare Instrument Collection, as well as a c. 1686 Joseph Guarneri filius Andreae violin on generous loan from the Rin Collection.



Canadian violinist **Dorothy Ro** is currently pursuing an Artist Diploma at the Juilliard School as a member of the Verona Quartet where they hold the Graduate Resident String Quartet position and teach as Lisa Arnhold fellows. Previously, she studied at the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University, Shepherd School of Music at Rice University, and the Cleveland Institute of Music. Her professors include Paul Kantor, David and Linda Cerone, and Alexander Kerr.

Her violin training began at age of five in Halifax, Nova Scotia, studying with her early mentors, Myung-Hae Yoon and Philippe Djokic. Ms. Ro participated in many competitions growing up that include the OSM Standard Life Competition in Montreal, the 2012 Eckhardt-Gramatte Competition where she received the second prize, as well as winning top prizes at the Canadian National Music Competition and awards from the Nova Scotia Talent Trust and the Debut Atlantic RBC Award for Musical Excellence.

Ms. Ro has been a fellowship student at the Aspen Music Festival and School and has spent summers at the Perlman Music Program Chamber Music Workshop, the Robert Mann Quartet Institute, the Banff Centre Music Program, and the Montreal International String Quartet Academy.

As a member of the Verona Quartet, she is a winner of the Concert Artists Guild Competition along winning top prizes at several international competitions. She is on faculty at the Indiana University Summer String Academy and has also coached chamber music at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and given masterclasses at the La Jolla Summefest. Ms. Ro is currently playing on a 1734 Francesco Goffriller, generously on loan from the Juilliard Instrument Collection.



Abigail Rojansky is the violist of the Verona Quartet, the current Graduate Resident String Quartet at the Juilliard School in New York City. As a part of the Verona Quartet, Ms. Rojansky was also Graduate Quartet in Residence at the IU Jacobs School of Music.

Originally a violinist, Ms. Rojansky began her studies at the age of eight in the San Francisco Bay Area, California under Patricia Drury and Erika Miranda. Just two years later upon being accepted to the Crowden School of Music, a unique secondary school for promising young musicians, she took up the viola alongside the violin and maintained both until pursuing a Bachelor of Music in viola performance from Oberlin Conservatory studying with Karen Ritscher between 2007-2011. While at Oberlin, she also received a minor in Musicology and a Focus in Conducting. Ms. Rojansky has pursued viola studies with Helen Callus, and Madeline Praeger as well. In 2013, Ms. Rojansky completed her Master of Music from Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music under the tutelage of Atar Arad and is currently pursuing an Artist Diploma from the Juilliard School.

Ms. Rojansky has performed as soloist with the Youth Music International Festival Orchestra and the Diablo Valley Chamber Orchestra. She has also participated in several festivals including the Mannes Beethoven Institute and the Domaine Forget International Music Festival in Quebec, Canada. She has performed chamber music recitals with Eric Kim, Don Ehrlich, Miles Graber, Jean-Michel Fonteneau, Chih-Yi Chen, Atar Arad and James Campbell.

Ms. Rojansky's work with the Verona Quartet has included numerous television and radio appearances and more than ten top prize wins at national and international chamber music competitions including the Wigmore Hall International String Quartet Competition, the Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition and the Osaka International Chamber Music Competition. As a part of the Verona Quartet, Ms. Rojansky is currently represented by Concert Artists Guild Management having won the Victor Elmaleh Concert Artists Guild Competition in 2015. She has performed across the United States and in the U.K., Australia, the United Arab Emirates, China, Singapore, Japan, Germany, and Quebec in venues such as Wigmore Hall, the Melbourne Recital Centre, Walt Disney, Davies Symphony, Beijing, Izumi and Esplanade concert halls.

Ms. Rojansky plays on a c.1699 Giovanni Grancino viola, on generous loan from the Juilliard Rare Instrument Collection.



Cellist **Warren Hagerty** is currently pursuing an Artist Diploma Degree at the Juilliard School as a member of the Verona Quartet, which is the school's Graduate Resident String Quartet. The quartet is mentored by the Juilliard Quartet, and also serve as their teaching assistants.

Warren has performed on four continents, in venues including Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, London's Wigmore Hall, and the Sydney Opera House. As a member of the Quartet, he has been awarded top prizes in many of the world's foremost chamber music competitions, including the Wigmore Hall International String Quartet Competition, Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition, Osaka International Chamber Music Competition, Concert Artists Guild's Victor Elmaleh Competition, Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition, Chesapeake International Chamber Music Competition, and Coleman National Chamber Music Competition.

The Verona Quartet was previously Graduate String Quartet in Residence at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, where they studied with the Pacifica Quartet. Warren completed a Bachelor of Music Degree at the Jacobs school, where he studied with Eric Kim and Sharon Robinson. In December of 2010, he played two concerts in Carnegie Hall as principal cellist of the New York String Orchestra Seminar, under the baton of Jaime Laredo.

Warren plays on the "ex-Willeke" Nicolo Amati cello and a Hill & Sons bow, on generous loan from the Juilliard Rare Instrument Collection.