

# Verona Quartet

Jonathan Ong, violin  
Dorothy Ro, violin  
Abigail Rojansky, viola  
Jonathan Dormand, cello

with UNCSA faculty  
Ulrich Eichenauer, viola  
Oskar Espina-Ruiz, clarinet

Watson Chamber Music Hall  
Tuesday, February 18, 2020 • 7:30 p.m.

*Presented by*

**UNC School of the Arts**  
Brian Cole, Interim Chancellor

**School of Music**  
Tony Woodcock, Interim Dean



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# Verona Quartet

Clarinet Quintet, "Lilurak" (Fascination) (2012).....Isabel Urrutia  
(b. 1967)

String Quintet in C Minor, Op. 104 (1817).....Ludwig van Beethoven  
Allegro con brio (1770 - 1827)  
Andante cantabile con variazioni  
Menuetto quasi allegro  
Finale: Prestissimo

## INTERMISSION

String Quartet in F Major, Op. 135 (1826) .....Ludwig van Beethoven  
Allegretto  
Vivace  
Lento assai, cantante e tranquillo  
Der schwer gefaßte Entschluß: Muß es sein? Es muß sein!  
Es muß sein! (The difficult decision: Must it be? It must be!  
It must be!) Grave, ma non troppo tratto — Allegro

## BIOGRAPHIES

Acclaimed for its bold, interpretive strength and electrifying performances, the **VERONA QUARTET** is the 2020 recipient of Chamber Music America's prestigious Cleveland Quartet Award. The Quartet's members represent four different nations, but their singular approach and unanimity of purpose in both musical and cultural cooperation have quickly earned the group a reputation as an "outstanding ensemble... cohesive yet full of temperament." (The New York Times)

The Verona Quartet is one of the most sought after string quartets of its generation, delighting audiences at venues worldwide such as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, Wigmore Hall and Melbourne Recital Hall, in addition to appearances at La Jolla Summerfest, Chamber Music Northwest, Bravo! Vail and the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. The group's 2019-2020 season includes tours across North America, Asia and South America; upcoming highlights include performances at The Kennedy Center, Library of Congress, Celebrity Series of Boston, Cliburn Concerts' Beethoven@250 festival, Lunenburg Academy of Music Performance and Schneider Concert Series.

Since winning the 2015 Concert Artists Guild competition, the Verona Quartet has cultivated a progressive approach to collaboration and programming including numerous cross-cultural and inter-disciplinary enterprises. Projects include performances with dancers from Brooklyn's Dance Heginbotham, artistic exchange with traditional Emirati poets in the UAE, and collaborations through the Kennedy Center's Direct Current Festival with folk supergroup I'm With Her and cellist Joshua Roman. Other notable collaborators include Anne-Marie McDermott, Orion Weiss, Cho-Liang Lin, Atar Arad, Paul Katz, David Shifrin, Charles Neidich, and Renée Fleming.

The Verona Quartet has developed a consummate reputation for its compelling interpretations of contemporary music and regularly champions and commissions works from composers such as Julia Adolphe, Sebastian Currier, Richard Danielpour, as well as Michael Gilbertson, whose Quartet was a finalist for the 2018 Pulitzer Prize in Music. Forthcoming album releases include Gilbertson's Quartet, as well as the Verona Quartet's debut album, Diffusion, on Azica Records featuring works by Ravel, Szymanowski and Janacek.

The Verona Quartet rose to international prominence by sweeping top prizes at competitions across four continents, including the Wigmore Hall, Melbourne, Osaka and M-Prize International Competitions. The Quartet currently serves as the inaugural Quartet-in-Residence with North Carolina's Chamber Orchestra of the Triangle, where it performs over ten concerts and forty community engagement activities annually. Strongly committed to education, the Verona Quartet is also Quartet-in-Residence for the Indiana University Summer String Academy and New England Conservatory Preparatory School. Further positions include the 2017-18 Ernst Stiefel String Quartet-in-Residence at the Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts as well as guest residencies at numerous institutions worldwide including Oberlin Conservatory of Music, USC Thornton School of Music, The Hartt School, UNC School of the Arts, Syracuse University, Lunenburg Academy of Music Performance and the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music.

Formed at Indiana University under the tutelage of the Pacifica Quartet and Atar Arad, the Verona Quartet went on to complete residencies at The Juilliard School with the Juilliard String Quartet, as well as the New England Conservatory with Paul Katz. The group also counts among its principal mentors Alex Kerr, David Finckel, Donald Weilerstein, Martha Katz, Merry Peckham, Miriam Fried, Kim Kashkashian and Nicholas Kitchen. The ensemble's "thoughtful, impressive" performances (Cleveland Classical) emanate from the spirit of storytelling; the Quartet believes that the essence of storytelling transcends genre and therefore the name "Verona" pays tribute to William Shakespeare, one of the greatest storytellers of all time.

Joining the Verona Quartet for tonight's performance are UNCSA faculty artists **ULRICH EICHENAUER** and **OSKAR ESPINA-RUIZ**. For more information about these and other UNCSA faculty artists, please visit [uncsa.edu/music](http://uncsa.edu/music).

## DEAN'S COUNCILS FOR UNCSA

The Dean's Councils support each of UNCSA's five arts schools – Dance, Design & Production, Drama, Filmmaking, and Music. Dean's Council members support the school of their choosing with an annual gift of \$5,000 or more, work closely with the Dean to advance that school's mission and fundraising priorities, and enjoy a deeper relationship with the Dean and students of the school. If you are interested in joining one of these groups of committed individuals, please contact Vice Chancellor for Advancement Ed Lewis at 336-770-3330 or lewise@uncsa.edu.

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### We Believe

**Artists** enrich our culture, enlighten our society, lift our spirits, and feed our souls.

**Integrative arts education** from an early age sparks a lifetime of creative thinking, powerful self-expression, and innovative problem solving.

**Rigorous artistic training** empowers our students and graduates to engage our communities, advance local and global creative industries, and inspire the world.

**Arts organizations** improve the quality of life and place in big cities and small communities, transforming them from merely livable to truly lovable.

**UNC School of the Arts** nurtures the talent, hones the craft, and develops the unique voices of emerging artists. We realize the full potential of exceptionally creative and passionate students to do their best work and become their best selves.

## UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

### **nu Ensemble in Concert**

Saturday, February 22, 2020 • 7:30 p.m.  
Watson Chamber Music Hall

Featuring art music that reflects current trends and cultural thinking, student ensembles perform pieces centered on the 21st century repertoire. The nu Ensemble also engages with composers from the recent past who have had a profound effect on contemporary music. Through intensive rehearsals, background readings and studies, the members of nu come to grips with the work of our time, giving them the tools and experience to have a positive impact on the music of the future.

### **New Music for Orchestra**

Sunday, February 23, 2020 • 3:00 p.m.  
Crawford Recital Hall

The orchestral world of 2020 is on display with Mark Norman leading the UNCSA Symphony Orchestra in music by UNCSA composers.

### **Winter Dance**

Thursday, February 27, 2020 • 7:30 p.m.  
Friday, February 28, 2020 • 7:30 p.m.  
Saturday, February 29, 2020 • 7:30 p.m.  
Sunday, March 1, 2020 • 2 p.m.  
Stevens Center for the Performing Arts

With a program spanning the traditional to cutting edge, this year's riveting Winter Dance is an abundance of riches. Enjoy the elegance of the classic "The Sleeping Beauty, Act III" from the well-loved Petipa/Tchaikovsky ballet including variations for Bluebird, Puss in Boots and the Lilac Fairy. Be the first to see a new contemporary ballet by award-winning Chicago-based guest artist Stephanie Martinez, a new contemporary work staged by Dutch choreographer and CounterTechnique founder Anouk Van Dijk, and experience the enthralling modern dance classic "Battlefield" by Robert Battle, current director of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

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