

# Verona Quartet

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

with guest  
Oskar Espina-Ruiz, clarinet

Watson Chamber Music Hall  
Tuesday, October 26, 2021 • 7:30 p.m.

*Presented by*

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

**School of Music**  
Saxton Rose, Dean



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# Verona Quartet

Quartettsatz in C Minor, D. 703 (1820).....Franz Schubert  
(1797 - 1828)

Leyendas: An Andean Walkabout (2001) .....Gabriela Lena Frank  
(b. 1972)  
Toyos  
Tarqueada  
Himno de Zampoñas  
Chasqui  
Canto de Velorio  
Coqueteos

## INTERMISSION

Quintet for Clarinet and Strings, Op. 115 (1891).....Johannes Brahms  
(1833 - 1897)  
Allegro  
Adagio  
Andantino—Presto non assai, ma con sentimento  
Con moto

## BIOGRAPHY

Acclaimed for its “bold interpretive strength, robust characterization and commanding resonance” (Calgary Herald), the **VERONA QUARTET** has firmly established itself amongst the most distinguished ensembles on the chamber music scene today. The group’s singular sense of purpose most recently earned them Chamber Music America’s coveted 2020 Cleveland Quartet Award and a reputation as an “outstanding ensemble...cohesive yet full of temperament” (The New York Times). The quartet serves on the faculty of the Oberlin College and Conservatory as the quartet-in-residence, in addition to holding residences at the Lunenburg Academy of Music Performance, Indiana University Summer String Academy and North Carolina’s Chamber Orchestra of the Triangle.

The Verona Quartet has appeared across four continents, enchanting audiences at venues such as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, Library of Congress, Jordan Hall, Wigmore Hall and Melbourne Recital Hall. The quartet has performed at festivals including La Jolla Summerfest, Chamber Music Northwest, Caramoor and Bravo! Vail, and with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center.

Drawing from the mentorship of the esteemed Cleveland, Juilliard and Pacifica quartets, the Verona Quartet’s rapid rise to international prominence was fueled by top prize wins at the Wigmore Hall, Melbourne, M-Prize and Osaka International Chamber Music competitions. Their debut album, “Diffusion,” featuring works by Janáček, Ravel and Szymanowski, was released on Azica Records in June 2021. Their second album, “SHATTER,” will showcase the works of American composers Julia Adolphe, Michael Gilbertson and Reena Esmail, in collaboration with Hindustani vocalist Saili Oak.

The ensemble’s “thoughtful, impressive” (Cleveland Classical) performances emanate from the spirit of storytelling; the name “Verona” pays tribute to William Shakespeare, one of the greatest storytellers of all time.

**OSKAR ESPINA-RUIZ** is associate professor of clarinet at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. Described by the press as a “masterful soloist” (La Nación, Costa Rica) and a “highly expressive clarinetist” (Nevskoye Vremia, Russia), he has performed at major concert halls and festivals to high critical acclaim, including concerto performances at the Philharmonic Hall in St. Petersburg, Russia, and recitals in New York City, Washington DC, Moscow, Madrid, Tokyo, Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong. Espina-Ruiz has appeared as soloist with the St. Petersburg State Academic Symphony (Russia), St. Petersburg Chamber Philharmonic (Russia), Orquesta Sinfónica de la Ciudad de Asunción (Paraguay) and Bilbao Symphony (Spain). His chamber music collaborations include the American, Argus, Ariel, Cassatt, Daedalus, Escher, Shanghai and Verona quartets, the Quintet of the Americas, pianists Benjamin Hochman, Ursula Oppens and Anthony Newman, and Metropolitan Opera Orchestra artists. He has recorded for the Bridge, Kobaltone and Prion labels, receiving high critical acclaim by fellow clarinetists Richard Stoltzman and Charles Neidich for his solo recording “Julián Menéndez Rediscovered.” He holds a Doctor of Musical Arts from Stony Brook University.

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## UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

### **“Indecent” by Paula Vogel**

October 28-30 & November 4-6, 2021 • 7:30 p.m.

October 31, 2021 • 2 p.m.

Catawba Theatre

“Indecent,” by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Paula Vogel, is a deeply moving play inspired by the true events surrounding the controversial 1923 Broadway debut of Sholem Asch’s “God of Vengeance” that depicted the first lesbian kiss on a Broadway stage. The producer and cast of Asch’s play were arrested and convicted on the grounds of obscenity. “Indecent,” which won two Tony Awards, charts the history of this incendiary drama and the path of the artists who risked their careers and lives to perform it. The work is Acadia Barrengos’ fourth-year directing thesis. Director’s note: recommended for mature audiences.

### **Matthew Vaughn, Trombonist in Concert**

Tuesday, November 2, 2021 • 7:30 p.m.

Watson Chamber Music Hall

Matthew Vaughn, co-principal trombonist with the Philadelphia Orchestra, performs works from the trombone repertoire, including compositions by Camille Saint-Saëns, Johannes Brahms, Sergei Prokofiev and Antonio Vivaldi.

### **UNCSA Wind Ensemble and Chamber Winds: Inspiration, Imitation and Flattery**

Friday, November 5, 2021 • 7:30 p.m.

Stevens Center for the Performing Arts

Mark. A Norman, music director and conductor

Karen Ní Bhroin, guest conductor

Timothy Heath, graduate conductor

Jaren Atherholt, oboe

Premier ensembles of selected high school, undergraduate and graduate students, the Wind Ensemble and Chamber Winds perform “Pantomime,” which composer Gary Carpenter describes as “the shadowy and half-forgotten world of smoky music halls, vaudeville, burlesque, and their later, often televisual incarnations.”

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