Music on the Hill

Sunday, November 10, 2024 at 3pm Trinity Chapel, Bethany Lutheran College





With thanks to our generous sponsor:



String Quartet No.15 in D minor, K.421/417b Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart | 26'

> Allegro moderato Andante Menuetto and Trio. Allegretto Allegretto ma non troppo

Italian Serenade Hugo Wolf | 8'

Levendas: An Andean Walkabout Gabriela Lena Frank | 22'

- 1. Toyos
- 2. Tarqueada
- 3. Himno de Zampoñas
- 4. Chasqui
- 5. Canto de Velorio
- 6. Coqueteos

Maureen Nelson, violin Cece Belcher, violin Daniel Orsen, viola Richard Belcher, cello



For a complete program including artist bios and program notes, visit MankatoSymphony.org/program

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Meet the Artists



Maureen Nelson has been a violinist in the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra since 2016. As former founding member of the Ensō String Quartet, she led the Grammy-nominated ensemble for nearly two decades, captivating audiences from major concert stages of the world, regularly concertizing throughout North America and abroad. Founded at Yale University in 1999, the quartet has been described by Strad magazine as "thrilling" and praised by the Washington Post for its "glorious sonorities...half honey, half molten lava." The quartet quickly went on to win top prizes at the Concert Artists Guild competition and the Banff International String Quartet Competition. Classical Voice praised the ensemble as "one of the eminent string quartets of our era." Along with a busy touring and teaching schedule, Maureen made numerous critically acclaimed recordings on the Naxos label with the Enso.

A native of Pennsylvania, Maureen was enrolled in Temple University's Center for Gifted Young Musicians at the age of 12, and began attending the Curtis Institute of Music shortly thereafter. As a winner of the Greenfield Competition, Maureen appeared as soloist with the Philadelphia Orchestra when she was 16. While studying in Germany, she was concertmaster of the Detmolder Kammerochester and has been a member of the Houston-based River Oaks Chamber Orchestra since 2010. During summers, Maureen spends her time away from SPCO visiting family, performing at chamber festivals and is a member of Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra. She is married to percussionist Matthew McClung and together they enjoy a daily coffee & crosswords ritual.



Violinist Cecilia Belcher joined the Minnesota Orchestra in 2014 and won the position of Assistant Principal Second Violin in 2017. She has played with the Minnesota Bach Ensemble since 2015, and began leading the ensemble as concertmaster in 2024. Previously, she performed with the St. Louis Symphony from 2008-2014, and also frequently performed with the Houston Symphony Orchestra and the New York City chamber orchestra The Knights. She has been Principal Second Violin of ROCO in Houston and, as concertmaster, she led the New World Symphony, Reno Philharmonic, Aspen Music Festival Opera Orchestra and the Mississippi Valley Orchestra. She has enjoyed traveling the world for festivals and performances, including to Aspen, Tanglewood, Verbier, Banff, Beijing, the BBC Proms, South Africa, New Zealand and throughout Europe.

From St. Louis, Missouri, Belcher began violin studies at the age of three, and was a student of the renowned Suzuki pedagogue Winifred Crock. She earned a bachelor's degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music, studying with Paul Kantor, and a master's degree from the Shepherd School of Music, studying with Kathleen Winkler. She and her husband Richard Belcher, a cellist in the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, live in Minneapolis with their two children.



Daniel Orsen is a member of the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. Prior to joining the SPCO, Daniel lived for six years in Boston, where he performed with A Far Cry, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Fermata Chamber Soloists, and the Phoenix Chamber Orchestra, and founded and directed Jamaica Plain Chamber Music from 2019-2022.

As soloist, Daniel has performed Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante and Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 6 with the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Stamitz Viola Concerto with the Fermata Chamber Soloists, Vaughn William's Christmas Suite with the Pittsburgh Civic Orchestra, and Thea Musgrave's Lamenting Ariadne with the Oberlin Contemporary Music Ensemble. His chamber festival credits include Oak Hill, Krzyzowa, Ravinia, Verbier, Prussia Cove, Taos and the Perlman Music Program. Daniel is one half of the long-distance viola-piano duo, Wagner's Nightmare, which occasionally roasts Richard Wagner. The duo's eponymous album, Wagner's Nightmare, released this past April. Every piece on the album is connected in someway to something or someone whom Wagner did not like, and features the rarely heard Viola Alta, a massive 19-inch viola Wagner specified for use in his orchestra at Bayreuth.

In addition to his private studio, Daniel teaches viola and chamber music at the St. Paul Conservatory of Music. Daniel is a native of Pittsburgh, PA. He was taught and mentored by members of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Credo, and the Perlman Music Program before his studies at the Oberlin Conservatory with Peter Slowik and the New England Conservatory with Kim Kashkashian. He plays on a 2013 Philip Injeian viola and a 2014 Benoit Rolland bow, both specially made for him.



New Zealand cellist **Richard Belcher** joined the SPCO in 2019 after a twenty-year career as founding cellist of the Grammy-nominated Enso String Quartet. With the quartet he earned highly critical accolades from recording and concertizing in many of the world's major concert halls such as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and Kennedy Center in the United States, as well as abroad in Europe, South America, Australia and New Zealand.

Richard is the Artistic Director of Music on the Hill in Mankato, Minnesota, and since 2008 has been Principal Cellist of River Oaks Chamber Orchestra in Houston, Texas. He has taught and performed at many festivals including St. Bart's, Festival d'Aix en Provence, Prussia Cove, Madeline Island, Campos do Jordao International Winter Festival, SummerFest La Jolla, and the San Miguel de Allende International Chamber Music Festival. In demand as a teacher and chamber music coach, Richard has previously served as Adjunct Faculty at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music and has given numerous masterclasses around the world.

Richard moved to the United States in 1998 to study with Aldo Parisot at Yale University, and it was while there that he founded the Enso String Quartet. Richard's other principal teachers include Norman Fischer, Marc Johnson, and Alexander Ivashkin. He plays an N.F. Vuillaume cello made in 1856, and is married to Cecilia Belcher, Assistant Principal 2nd Violin of the Minnesota Orchestra.

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