

The Calder Quartet

The **Calder Quartet**, The Juilliard School's graduate resident string quartet, began its residency in September 2005. The members of the Calder String Quartet, who are recipients of Lisa Arnholt Fellowships at Juilliard, are violinists Andrew Bulbrook and Benjamin Jacobson; violist Jonathan Moerschel; and cellist Eric Byers.

As part of their residency, the Calder Quartet assist the Juilliard String Quartet with their quartet and chamber music instruction and assist with the first-year quartet survey course. Each semester, the Calders have lessons with two members of the Juilliard String Quartet, and they will perform in the annual Lisa Arnholt Memorial Concert on Tuesday, November 28, 2006 at 8 PM in Alice Tully Hall. Residencies are one year in length; quartets are eligible to return once, for a maximum residency of two years.

Juilliard has offered residency to graduate string quartets since 1981, when the Colorado Quartet became the first to complete a two-year residency. Since the advent of the program, the graduate resident quartets have included the Avalon, Cassatt, Chiara, Corigliano, Essex, Lark, Maia, Magellan (now called the Whitman String Quartet), Miró, Shanghai, and St. Lawrence String Quartets.

Aptly named after the great American visual artist Alexander Calder, the **Calder Quartet** continues to explore and push the boundaries of chamber music with a keen acumen for combining the best of the traditional and the avant-garde. The group has been praised for its "splendor and substance," (Alan Rich, *LA Weekly*) and, taking a cue from its namesake, boldly searches for new ways to stretch the capabilities, combinations, and definition of a string quartet.

The group highlights its 2006-07 season as The Juilliard School's graduate resident string quartet, one of the school's highest distinctions. The group will debut with the Orange County Performing Arts Center in the new Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall.

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The group also continues its relationship with the Colburn School in Los Angeles, where they participate in the Colburn Chamber Artists Series of concerts and outreach events, and the Carlsbad Music Festival, an alternative classical music festival in Carlsbad, California that the group co-founded with composer Matt McBane.

Recent milestones for the Quartet include graduating from the Colburn School after serving for two years as the School's graduate quartet-in-residence, performing the music of Christopher Rouse at the Aspen Music Festival after two summers as fellows in the Aspen Music Festival and School's Advanced String Quartet Studies program, and participating in La Jolla Music Society's SummerFest 2005. The group has enjoyed debuts with the Washington Performing Arts Society's Kreeger String Series at the Kennedy Center, the Mostly Mozart Festival at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, UCLA Live, and San Francisco Performances. Last season they participated in the Los Angeles Philharmonic's *Minimalist Jukebox* festival and had the opportunity to work with composer Terry Riley. Their performance of Riley's early string chamber music garnered the attention of *Los Angeles Times* critic Mark Swed, who wrote, "the Calder Quartet was stunning."

The Quartet has been featured in the *Los Angeles Times* and *San Diego Union Tribune*. Radio appearances include performances and commentary on NPR's *Performance Today*, WQXR and WNYC in New York, WGBH in Boston, and KMozart in Los Angeles.

The Calder Quartet has appeared with guest artists such as pianists Claude Frank and Anne-Marie McDermott, cellist and mentor Ronald Leonard, double-Grammy Award-winning guitarist Sharon Isbin, flutist Ransom Wilson, harpist Nancy Allen, violinist Robert McDuffie, and mandolinist Mike Marshall.

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