



# ***Tesla Quartet***

## **Long Biography (721 Words)**

The **Tesla Quartet** is known the world over for their “superb capacity to find the inner heart of everything they play, regardless of era, style, or technical demand” (*The International Review of Music*). From cutting edge contemporary works to established masterpieces, the Tesla Quartet’s emotive and thoughtful interpretations reveal the ensemble’s deep commitment to the craft and to their ever expanding repertoire. The quartet recognizes the power of their platform to amplify underrepresented voices and to encourage the proliferation of an equitable and just future for society as well as a hospitable climate for posterity.

Now in its 16th season, the quartet performs regularly across North America and Europe, with recent highlights including their debut at New York’s Lincoln Center, a return to London’s Wigmore Hall, and performances at Stanford University’s Bing Concert Hall as winners of the prestigious John Lad Prize. Other recent international engagements include tours of Brazil, China, and South Korea. Notable festival appearances include the Banff Centre International String Quartet Festival; the Joseph Haydn String Quartet Festival at the Esterházy Palace in Fertőd, Hungary; the Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Festival in Germany; and the Festival Sesc de Música de Câmara in São Paulo, Brazil. Having served as the Marjorie Young Bell String Quartet-in-Residence at Mount Allison University in New Brunswick, Canada from 2016-2017, the Tesla Quartet also recently completed a four-year community residency in Hickory, North Carolina that included performances and workshops at local colleges, universities, and in the public school system, as well as a dedicated chamber music series.

Remaining true to their ethos, the Tesla Quartet has proved unwavering and resilient in the face of recent global issues. From the safety of their own homes, they overcame technological hurdles in order to cheer on the healthcare heroes of the New York Presbyterian Hospital network with weekly virtual concerts throughout the darkest hours of the pandemic. Addressing the needs of those within the music community, the Quartet commissioned 12 works by composers from across North America in 2020 for their online series *Alternating Currents*, an homage to Beethoven and a celebration of diverse voices. Tesla Quartet has also helped pioneer ImmerSphere, an immersive augmented reality virtual concert experience, bringing familiar community stages directly into the homes of concert-starved audiences. With renewed hope for a brighter future, the Tesla Quartet is focusing its efforts in the coming seasons on inspiring climate action with the commissions of several works for string quartet that touch on different aspects of the climate crisis and recovery, in addition to premiering Jeff Nytech’s multidisciplinary work decrying deforestation, *For the Trees*.

In 2018, the Tesla Quartet released its debut album of *Haydn, Ravel, and Stravinsky* quartets on the Orchid Classics label to critical acclaim. *BBC Music Magazine* awarded the disc a double 5-star rating and featured it as the “Chamber Choice” for the month of December and *Gramophone* praised the quartet for its “tautness of focus and refinement of detail.” They released their second disc on the Orchid Classics la-

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bel in October 2019, *Joy & Desolation*, a collaboration with clarinetist Alexander Fiterstein featuring quintets by Mozart, Finzi, John Corigliano and Carolina Heredia. *The Classic Review* raved, "From the outset, the quartet plays as a single instrument. Their sound is balanced across registers, their timbres and articulations matched" and *The ArtsFuse* called it "a compelling, diverse album from one of the best chamber ensembles (and clarinetists) out there."

The Tesla Quartet builds upon years of early success at numerous competitions including multiple top prizes at the prestigious 2016 Banff International String Quartet Competition, 2015 International Joseph Haydn Chamber Music Competition, and 2012 Wigmore Hall London International String Quartet Competition. The group originally formed at The Juilliard School in 2008 and quickly established itself as one of the most promising young ensembles in New York, winning Second Prize at the J.C. Arriaga Chamber Music Competition only a few months after its inception. From 2009 to 2012, the quartet held a fellowship as the Graduate String Quartet-in-Residence at the University of Colorado-Boulder, where they studied with the world-renowned Takács Quartet. They have also held fellowships at the Aspen Music Festival's Center for Advanced Quartet Studies, the Britten-Pears Young Artist Program, and the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival.

The Tesla Quartet is Ross Snyder (violin), Michelle Lie (violin), Edwin Kaplan (viola), and Austin Fisher (cello). Learn more at [www.teslaquartet.com](http://www.teslaquartet.com).

## Short Biography (365 Words)

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quintets by Mozart, Finzi, John Corigliano and Carolina Heredia with clarinetist Alexander Fiterstein.

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### **Micro-Biography (28 Words)**

From cutting edge contemporary works to established masterpieces, the **Tesla Quartet**'s emotive and thoughtful interpretations reveal the ensemble's deep commitment to the craft and to their ever-expanding repertoire.

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