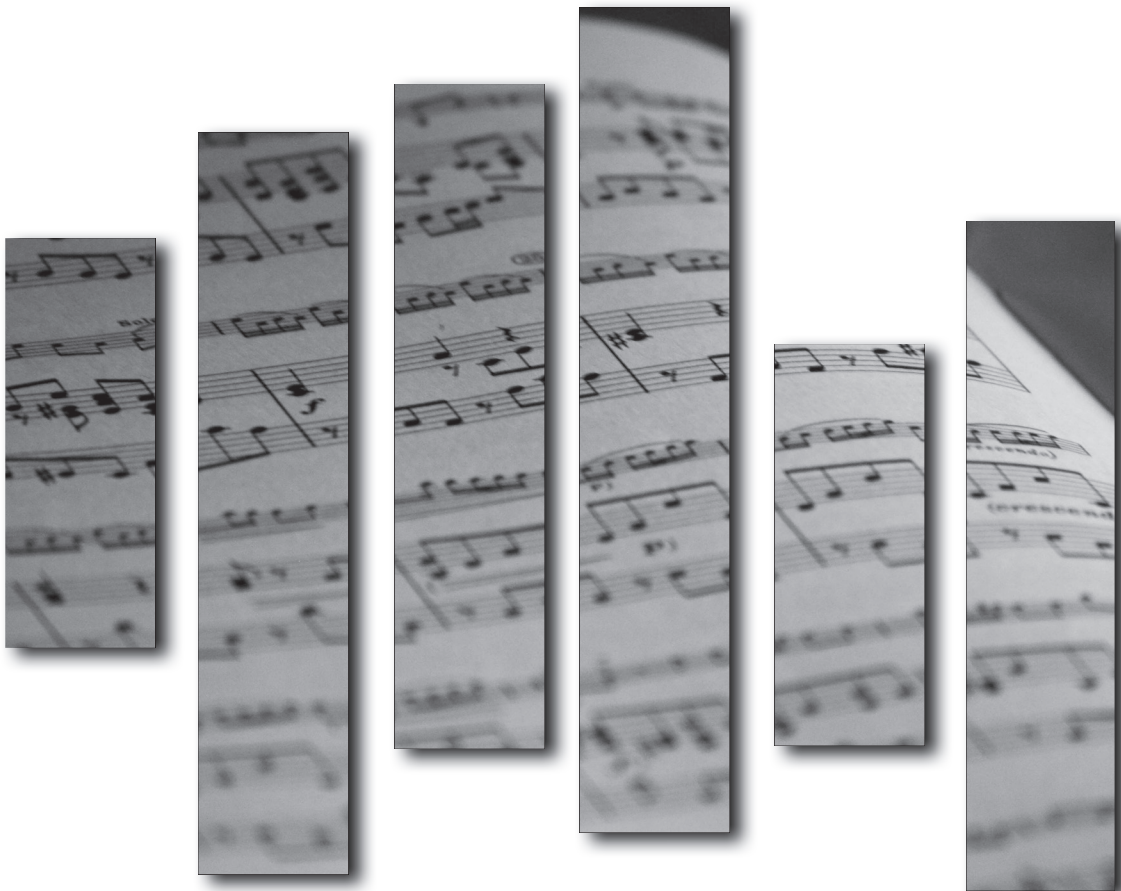


IOWA

School of Music



UI STRING QUARTET RESIDENCY PROGRAM

in collaboration with the **Center for New Music**
presents **JACK Quartet**

Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 7:30pm
Livestream

JACK Quartet

Christopher Otto, *violin*
Austin Wulliman, *violin*
John Pickford Richards, *viola*
Jay Campbell, *cello*

PROGRAM

String Quartet No. 2

Hongwei Cai

“poppies bursting into bloom in the wind and rain”

Poppies, tied deeply to sleep, peace, and death, has long been a symbol to fallen soldiers. My second string quartet, “poppies bursting into bloom in the wind and rain,” is a response to Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae’s war poem *In Flanders Fields*. May the world be at peace forever and may you and my heart be at peace forever. The work is dedicated to those spirits who have suffered from war.

Hongwei Cai (b. 1988), a Chinese composer and pianist, is currently a Ph.D. candidate in music composition at the University of Iowa. He has composed for various ensembles and has been active as both a composer and a pianist in the Midwest Graduate Music Consortium, the Midwest Composers’ Symposium, and the Exchange of Midwest Collegiate Composers. Hongwei Cai received his M.M. in composition at Oklahoma City University and a B.A. in composition and theory from Shenyang Conservatory of Music (China). His teachers have included David Gompper, Josh Levine, Edward Knight, and Shenglin Jiang (China).

“Seung-mu” (Buddhist Dance) for String Quartet

Sanggeun Choi

“*Seung-mu*” is a traditional dance for Korean Buddhist nuns. It was originally for a Buddhist ritual ceremony and increasingly developed to a solo dance by professional dancers. The dance has a distinct characteristic which is the mixture of flowing movements and stillness. A dancer wears long and white sleeves to express those movements with a breathtaking pause, creating a stirring soul. Those subtle nuances are expressed with unconventional textures and timbres from a string quartet.

Sanggeun Choi is a Korean composer. His primary identity for music is based on Korean traditional musical themes and materials, which shows an aesthetic sense in Korean music, using Western musical techniques. Sanggeun is currently pursuing his Ph.D. degree in music composition at the University of Iowa with Dr. Sivan Cohen Elias and Dr. David Gompper. He holds the Master of Music degree in composition from Mannes School of Music The New School in New York City where he studied with Dr. Paul Moravec.

Rondo, warmly dedicated to the JACK

A. Emrich

This piece embodies many different feelings one can experience through life. I hope you will enjoy listening to the musical laughters, cries, and dreams that appear throughout this Rondo.

A. Emrich is currently a senior majoring in composition at the University of Iowa, and has written music for classical ensembles, dance, and theatre, with a first electro-acoustic composition premiered in December 2020.

Light and Dust

Wenxin Li

"Harmonize your inner light, and become one with the dust."

- Tao Te Ching: Chapter 56

Wenxin Li is a native of Chongqing, China, and is currently pursuing her Ph.D. degree in composition at the University of Iowa, studying with Jean-Francois Charles and Sivan Cohen Elias. Li's music has been featured in a variety of festivals, including Aspen Music Festival and School, Composers Conference, TURN UP Multimedia Festival, National Student Electronic Music Event, Midwest Graduate Music Consortium, SCI Student National Conference, FSC New Music Festival, Midwest Composers Symposium, and Caroga Lake Music Festival. Her music has also been performed by JACK Quartet, Accroche Note, Western Percussion Ensemble, and Sound Out Loud Ensemble. Li received her master's degree in composition from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and bachelor's degree from Sichuan Conservatory of Music.

Mono//Logic III

Matt A. Mason

- I. Auld Lang Syne
- II. The Bird Feeder
- III. Champagne Before Midnight

I: Every year, I promise to be better and every year I am made a fool.

II: I don't much care for birds.

III: 3..2..1. Happy New Year, I suppose. Sorry that I couldn't wait.

Matt Mason is a composer, pianist, and educator from Illinois. He is pursuing a Ph.D. in composition from the University of Iowa and holds a Master of Music in piano performance and music composition from Butler University. His compositions represent an intersection of poetry, theater, and music creating a psychogramm where melodic, harmonic, and intervallic elements are dictated by tense constellations and brooding undertones. Matt's current work emphasizes research into dissociation, mental health, nostalgia, and ethics in contemporary performance.

verged

Ramin Roshandel

verged is an attempt to explore the harmonic capabilities of Persian music in an abstract way.

Ramin Roshandel's compositional work is based around incorporating "experience" as a fundamental concept through a non-experimental approach in performance. Considering phenomena such as instability, cultural identity, and communicational language on one hand, and being inspired by Iranian music microtones as a *setār* (an Iranian instrument) player on the other, has led him to consider indeterminate, improvisatory, and abstract structures in his music to contrast or converge with post- or non-tonal forms.

BIOGRAPHIES



Christopher Otto



Austin Wulliman



John Pickford Richards



Jay Campbell

JACK Quartet

Hailed by *The New York Times* as “our leading new-music foursome,” the JACK Quartet is one of the most acclaimed, renowned, and respected groups performing today. JACK has maintained an unwavering commitment to their mission of performing and commissioning new works, giving voice to underheard composers, and cultivating an ever-greater sense of openness toward contemporary classical music. Over the past season, they have been selected as Musical America’s 2018 “Ensemble of the Year,” named to WQXR’s “19 for 19 Artists to Watch,” and awarded an Avery Fisher Career Grant.

Through intimate relationships with today’s most creative voices, JACK embraces close collaboration with the composers they perform, leading to a radical embodiment of the technical, musical, and emotional aspects of their work. The quartet has worked with artists such as Philip Glass, Steve Reich, Julia Wolfe, George Lewis, Chaya Czernowin, and Simon Steen-Andersen, with upcoming and recent premieres including works by Tyshawn Sorey, Georg Friedrich Haas, Clara Iannotta, John Luther Adams, Catherine Lamb, and John Zorn. JACK also hosts JACK Studio, which expands the ensemble’s community of collaborative artists by offering composers opportunities to develop new work, hear their music performed by JACK, consult with mentors in the field, and receive recorded documentation. In its second year, JACK Studio has expanded to offer three distinct programs: commissions, workshops, and recording projects.

Committed to education, JACK is the Quartet-in-Residence at the Mannes School of Music, who will host JACK’s new Frontiers Festival, a multi-faceted festival of contemporary music for string quartet. They also teach each summer at New Music on the Point and at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity. JACK has done educational programs at the University of Iowa String Quartet Residency Program, the Lucerne Festival Academy, Harvard University, NYU, Princeton University, Stanford University, and more.

Comprising violinists Christopher Otto and Austin Wulliman, violist John Pickford Richards, and cellist Jay Campbell, JACK operates as a nonprofit organization dedicated to the performance, commissioning, and appreciation of new string quartet music.

Christopher Otto performs with ensembles including Ensemble Signal, The Cellar and Point, Alarm Will Sound, Talea Ensemble, International Contemporary Ensemble, The Theatre of Eternal Music String Ensemble, Ne(x)tworks, and The Knights. He has premiered and recorded several chamber works by John Zorn and has performed and recorded as soloist in Zorn's violin concerto *Contes de Fées*. Christopher has also performed as soloist in Brian Ferneyhough's *Terrain* with Ensemble Signal. His violin teachers include Cyrus Forough and Timothy Ying. He is a founder, along with his wife Emily DuFour, of Hutchins East, an ensemble performing on a set of eight proportionally-sized string instruments made by Carleen Hutchins, and has written and arranged several works for the ensemble. He studied composition at the Eastman School of Music with Robert Morris, David Liptak, Martin Bresnick, and James Willey as well as mathematics at the University of Rochester. Christopher has written works in just intonation for string quartet, violin duo, violin octet, violin with electronics, and ensembles of Hutchins instruments. His violin duo was recorded by Erik Carlson and is available on SoundCloud along with his violin octet. An article on his violin octet appears in *Arcana VII*, an anthology edited by John Zorn. Christopher serves on the faculty of the Mannes School of Music, where JACK is Quartet-in-Residence.

Praised as a “gifted, adventuresome violinist” by the *Chicago Tribune* and as a “remarkable, unbelievable violinist/violist extraordinaire” by the syndicated radio program *Relevant Tones*, **Austin Wulliman** has gained critical and audience attention through his “wide technical range and interpretive daring” (*New Music Box*) as a soloist and chamber musician. He first forged his reputation in Chicago with the collective Ensemble Dal Niente, serving as the group's program director, and winning the Kranichstein Music Prize (the grand prize for interpretation) at the Darmstadt Summer Course in 2012. Austin was also a founding member of Spektral Quartet, serving as Ensemble-in-Residence (as well as adjunct instructor of violin) at the University of Chicago from 2011–2016. Consistently in search of new musical pathways through ensemble work, Austin has collaborated with a wide range of musical voices, from artists like Deerhoof and Julia Holter, to Miguel Zenon and Billy Childs, or Brian Ferneyhough and Kaija Saariaho. Furthermore, he has also been a guest artist with groups such as Eighth Blackbird, and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's MusicNow Ensemble. His debut solo release *Diligence Is to Magic as Progress Is to Flight* was released in 2014 in collaboration with bassoonist/composer Katherine Young. Austin holds degrees from the University of Michigan and Northwestern University, as well as having held fellowships at the Aspen Music Festival and Lucerne Academy. Austin serves on the faculty of the Mannes School of Music, where JACK is Quartet-in-Residence.

Called “wholesome-looking” by the *New York Times*, violist **John Pickford Richards** has gained a reputation for performing new and unusual music around the globe. He was a founding member of the ensemble Alarm Will Sound, and has appeared with artists including Björk and Grizzly Bear and has performed as soloist with the Pasadena Symphony, Armenian Philharmonic, Wordless Music Orchestra, OSSIA, and with the Lucerne Festival Academy Orchestra playing the solo part to Luciano Berio's *Chemins II* under the direction of Pierre Boulez. He holds degrees from the Interlochen Arts Academy and Eastman School of Music where his primary teachers were David Holland and John Graham. John serves on the faculty of the Mannes School of Music, where JACK is Quartet-in-Residence.

Cellist **Jay Campbell** has been recognized around the world for approaching both old and new works with equally probing curiosity and emotional commitment. His performances have been described as “brilliant and insatiably inquisitive,” “electrifying,” and “prodigious” by the *New York Times*, and “gentle, poignant, and deeply moving” by the *Washington Post*. A recipient of the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant, Jay performed with the New York Philharmonic in 2013 and was a curator for the New York Philharmonic’s 2016 Biennale. He has soloed in major venues around the globe including Carnegie Hall’s Stern Auditorium, Avery Fisher Hall, and Lucerne’s KKL and performed recitals in Carnegie’s Weill Hall, the Kennedy, Mondavi, and Krannert centers. Dedicated to introducing audiences to the music of our time, Jay has worked closely with some of the most creative minds of the 20th and 21st centuries including Pierre Boulez, Elliott Carter, Matthias Pintscher, Kaija Saariaho, and countless others from his own generation. His close association with John Zorn has resulted in over a dozen works written for him including *The Aristos*, a Pulitzer Prize runner up resulting in the release of *Hen to Pan* (Tzadik), listed in the *New York Times* Best Recordings of 2015. Jay is the cellist of Junction Trio with violinist Stefan Jackiw and pianist Conrad Tao. He has been a guest at the Marlboro, Chamber Music Northwest, Moab, Heidelberger-Fruhling, DITTO, and Lincoln Center festivals. Jay serves on the faculty of the Mannes School of Music, where JACK is Quartet-in-Residence.

UPCOMING EVENTS

For the most up to date listing of concerts and recitals please visit arts.uiowa.edu
All events are FREE unless otherwise indicated.

View livestreamed concerts at <https://music.uiowa.edu/about/live-stream-concert-schedule>

MARCH		2021
11	7:30 p.m.	Johnson County Landmark Livestream
12	7:30 p.m.	Graduate Jazz Combo Recital Livestream
13	3:00 p.m.	Jazz Repertory Ensemble Livestream
13	5:30 p.m.	Student Recital: Ben Stone, <i>percussion</i> Livestream
17	7:30 p.m.	UI Symphony Orchestra Livestream
18	7:30 p.m.	DMA Recital: Andrew René, <i>voice</i> Livestream
21	3:30 p.m.	Senior Recital: Karen Fox, <i>piano</i> Livestream
21	5:30 p.m.	Student Recital: Dean Wibe, <i>cello</i> Livestream
27	5:30 p.m.	Student Recital: Jason Lee, <i>piano</i> Livestream
28	7:30 p.m.	CNM Concert 9: Composers Workshop III Livestream
APRIL		2021
01	5:30 p.m.	Senior Recital: Katie Chalstrom, <i>trumpet</i> Livestream
10	3:00 p.m.	Iowa Percussion Spectacular: Legacy! Livestream
10	5:30 p.m.	Student Recital: Emily Swanson, <i>soprano</i> Hailey Nelson, <i>alto/soprano</i> Livestream
10	7:30 p.m.	Student Recital: Carlos López, <i>bassoon</i> Livestream

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