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Fry Street Quartet: Celebrating 10 Years at USU

The Fry Street Quartet

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Author

The Fry Street Quartet, Robert Waters, Rebecca McFaul, Brad Ottesen, Anne Francis Bayless, and USU String Program

Program

The Fry Street Quartet

Robert Waters, violin
Rebecca McFaul, violin
Bradley Ottesen, viola
Anne Francis Bayless, cello

Welcome Dean Craig D. Jessop,
Caine College of the Arts

Remarks President Stan L. Albrecht
Utah State University

String Quartet in C Minor, Op. 51, no. 1 Johannes Brahms
I. Allegro (1833 – 1897)
II. Romanze poco adagio
III. Allegretto molto moderato e comodo
IV. Allegro

Cypresses Antonin Dvořák
I. I Know That on My Love to Thee (1841 – 1904)
IX. Thou Only Dear One, but for Thee

Waltz, Op. 54, no. 4 Antonin Dvořák
II. Allegro vivace (1841 – 1904)

Intermission

Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 in G Major, BWV 1048 Johann Sebastian Bach
I. Allegro (1685 – 1750)
II. Adagio
III. Allegro

Violin I: Robert Waters Nathan Southwick Emily Miner*	Violin II: Rebecca McFaul Corie Schofield McKenzie Clawson	Violin III: Jesse Massey Kristen Phillips Trista Schuster
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Viola I: Bradley Ottesen Alexandra Wilson Sunny Johnson*	Viola II: Katie Bradford Nichelle Probst Mallory Todd*	Viola III: Ellyn Thornton Sarah Knight Ryn Haubner
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Cello I: Anne Francis Bayless Sophie Spreier Suebin Jin	Cello II: Alexis Haviland* Colin Mitchell Stephen Mitton	Cello III: Megan Richards* Holly Morgan Smith* Isaac Hales
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*Denotes String Program Alumni

A Note from The Fry Street Quartet

In 2002, at the invitation of Utah State University and the Caine Foundation, the Fry Street Quartet arrived in Logan. Our task was undefined, but we resolved to mobilize our creative resources to apply a performance-based approach to a fledgling string program. In 2012-13, the landscape is much transformed. This year marks the tenth season for what has become an extraordinary collaboration. What was once a very small and undeveloped area is now the premier program for string performance in the Intermountain Region. What was an emerging group of performers is now an established and internationally recognized ensemble. What was once a collection of artistic departments is now the Caine College of the Arts.

Our work here has been sustained by the steadfast support of the university in collaboration with the vision and generosity of the Caine Foundation, Caine Foundation - Russell Family, and Dan and Manon Russell. We are profoundly grateful for this trust and encouragement, and it has inspired our efforts and investment. Cultivating educational work alongside sustained artistic pursuits has produced remarkable results. The Fry Street Quartet's residency is a unique and distinguishing element of USU's Caine College of the Arts and has become one of Utah State University's most recognized artistic endeavors.

We feel fortunate for the confidence and support that we have received, and are continually looking for ways to steer our string program and music-making towards relevance, innovation, and vibrancy. The Crossroads Project, the new collegium musicum course, upcoming commissions by composers Michael Ellison and Clarice Assad, initiatives to cultivate an exchange program with North Ossetian State University in Russia, and a program of theosophically-inspired music slated for multiple performances in England (in conjunction with our colleague and resident scholar Dr. Christopher Scheer) are all underway, to name just a few of these efforts.

Our lives as performers inform our teaching, connect us and our students to a larger world, and keep us in touch with the ever-changing world of our profession.

Our lives as teachers keep us asking important questions, learning from our students and fellow faculty both here and abroad, and deeply feeling the weight of practicing what we preach!

Thank you for listening, supporting our efforts, and being a part of this vibrant and inspiring community.

The USU String Program

By all traditional measures (numbers, graduate school admissions, job placements, competition wins, summer festival study) the Utah State University String Program in the Music Department at the Caine College of the Arts is flourishing. While we are pleased to see these benchmarks of success, we believe that they spring fundamentally from a vibrant university experience. It is the time and space to study, think, practice, observe, question, and perform that is the gift of these irreplaceable four years. We, in the FSQ, enjoy the privilege of molding this experience for the young people in our program.

Encouraging our students to reach beyond their comfort zones, synthesize new, different, and sometimes conflicting information, and, ultimately pull together the skill and artistry to become musicians in their own right is the task. The transformation from gifted high school student to artist involves a relentlessly demanding journey; discipline, self-awareness, listening skills, interpersonal sensitivity, scholarly demands, and performance skills all come into play. An environment that offers support, competition, challenge, and stimulation is critical to the integrity of this learning process.

In addition to the many guest artists who visit USU, we've enjoyed the advantage of the wonderful Chamber Music Society of Logan, which has regularly and generously provided master classes for our students as well as a fantastic series of concerts. We always enjoy watching our freshmen students hone their listening skills to become chamber music connoisseurs by the end of their first year as subscribers. This partnership has been invaluable in expanding the scope of what we offer.

The string quartet residency at USU represents a unique model of pedagogy in higher education. The fact that we, as faculty, come together in rehearsal every day as a quartet offers a model of cooperation, awareness, and flexibility. Our constant engagement with each other means that we're also continually assessing, adjusting, and trying new things with our program. This forum allows us to stay dynamically in touch with our students' experiences. The students are at the heart of all of our investments, and their performances in recitals, chamber ensembles, and symphony orchestra create a musical community all on its own. We encourage all of you to come and listen.



Dan C. and Manon Caine Russell

It would be impossible to overestimate the impact of Dan and Manon Russell's philanthropy in Cache Valley. Their stewardship of the arts in this community leaves us enriched and transformed in countless ways. Some obvious things to point to include the Manon Caine Russell Kathryn Caine Wanlass Performance Hall, student scholarships, support for guest artists, and a new endowment for the string quartet residency. However, these represent only some of their most visible efforts.

Perhaps what is more astonishing is what goes on behind all of that. Manon has been known to point out that the level of the concerts has risen to something considerably more appealing than in "the early years" of their attendance. Nevertheless, Manon and Dan have been stalwart in their presence and support for years — despite a performance here and there that might challenge senses and sensibilities (!). Their active and sincere engagement with this university's artistic programs has sustained it through different administrations, priorities, and economic changes. This longtime commitment and stewardship has given roots to a vibrant cultural life enviable to communities twice the size.

Dan and Manon's magnum opus stands on the sincerity of their connection to the value of the arts — their belief that the act of studying and making great music means engaging with some of the grandest aspects of humanity; that there is a reason that listening to Beethoven's Ninth Symphony is riveting, playing it is transcendent, and coming together to experience it is to experience human virtue and expression at a truly awesome level. Supporting and creating the routes that take us to these places — these experiences that make us live more fully, more humanely, more empathetically — is the gift of a cultural prosperity for us all.

It is with great affection, admiration, and respect that we thank Dan C. and Manon Caine Russell for this extraordinary gift that insures the future of the string quartet residency at Utah State University's Caine College of the Arts.

10 Years of FSQ at Utah State University

Tour to Austria, the Czech Republic, France and Slovenia

"Voices of Modernism and the String Quartet" (recording) released

Haydn String Quartets Op. 9 #4 and Op. 77 #2 (recording) released

Inaugurates residency with the NOVA Chamber Music Series, Salt Lake City

American String Teacher Association, Utah Artists of the Year

Beethoven Op. 18 #4 and Op. 130 with Grosse Fugue (recording) released

Beethoven Quartet Cycle in the Performance Hall sells out

Residency established at the Oficina de Música de Curitiba, Brazil

Dan C. and Manon Caine Russell Resident Quartet Endowment established

2002

Fry Street arrives at Utah State University

2004

• Top prizewinners in the Banff International String Quartet competition

2005

Awarded the "Caine Young Scholar" Award

2006

• The number of USU string majors reaches 40+

2008

• Tour to Austria, Slovenia and Italy

2009

HASS "Creative Artists of the Year"

'09-'11

Awarded Utah's "Best in State"

2010

2012



frystreetquartet

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS AT USU

February 7, 2013 | 7:30PM | Performance Hall

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of the ARTS
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