

# Euclid Quartet

*Resident String Quartet, Indiana University South Bend*

**JAMESON COOPER**

Violin

**LUIS ENRIQUE VARGAS**

Viola

**JACOB MURPHY**

Violin

**SI-YAN DARREN LI**

Cello

## PROGRAM

- String Quartet in g minor, Op. 27 ..... Edvard Grieg  
I. Un poco andante - Allegro molto ed agitato (1843-1907)  
II. Romanze (Andantino)  
III. Intermezzo (Allegro molto marcato-Più vivo e scherzando)  
IV. Finale (Lento - Presto al saltarello)

## INTERMISSION

- String Quartet No. 12 in c minor, D. 703 ..... Franz Schubert  
("Quartettsatz") (1797-1828)
- Graceful Ghost Rag.....William Bolcom  
(b. 1938)
- Hellbound Highball.....Wynton Marsalis  
(b. 1961)
- Tango, "Por Una Cabeza" ..... Carlos Gardel  
(1890-1935)

*With grateful thanks to an anonymous friend of Abbey Church Events,  
and for special services provided by Alpha Sigma Chi.*

Recordings: Artek, Centaur Records

21<sup>st</sup> February 2015  
8:00 p.m.

Saint Martin's Abbey  
Lacey, Washington

## About the Artists

The **Euclid Quartet** is one of the most well-regarded chamber ensembles of its generation, known for performances filled with passion, virtuosity, and sensitivity. Captivating audiences and critics ranging from Carnegie Hall to school classrooms to radio and television broadcasts, the quartet has performed to great acclaim across the country. The members are a multinational mix representing four continents of the world: violinist Jameson Cooper (Great Britain), violinist Jacob Murphy (United States), violist Luis Enrique Vargas (Venezuela), and cellist Si-Yan Darren Li (China).

Celebrating its 15th anniversary this season, highlights of the Euclid Quartet's career include significant international recognition as the first American string quartet to be awarded a top prize at the prestigious Osaka International Chamber Music Competition. Prior to its victory in Japan, the quartet also won awards in numerous competitions in the U.S., including the Hugo Kauder International Competition for String Quartets, The Carmel Chamber Music Competition, as well as the Chamber Music Yellow Springs Competition. In 2009, the Euclid Quartet was awarded the esteemed "American Masterpieces" grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Formed in Ohio in 1998, the Euclid Quartet took its name from the famous Euclid Avenue in Cleveland, home to a wealth of artistic and cultural institutions. Within three years, it was awarded the String Quartet Fellowship to participate at the Aspen Music Festival, where the group was invited to return for the summer concert season in 2006. The quartet was also invited to study at the Carnegie Hall Professional Training Workshop with the Emerson String Quartet. Since then, the Euclid Quartet has appeared in numerous festivals, including the Kent/Blossom Festival, the Orford Music Festival, and the Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival. The quartet has collaborated with internationally renowned artists, such as Joseph Silverstein, Alexander Toradze, Paul Katz, James Dunham, Warren Jones, and Gregory Fulkerson. The Euclid Quartet performs regularly on Chicago's Classical station WFMT, and has been featured on Performance Today.

In 2007, the Euclid Quartet was appointed to the prestigious string quartet residency at Indiana University South Bend, where its members teach private lessons and coach chamber music. The quartet is also in residence at Rocky Ridge Music Center in Colorado, where they teach and perform during the summer. They are committed to presenting the

highest quality chamber music to young audiences. These seasoned teaching artists have performed for thousands and thousands of students and young adults, in part through support from the National Endowment for the Arts and collaborations with Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute and the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Association.

The quartet's most recent CD set, on Artek Recordings, features the complete string quartets of Béla Bartók. American Record Guide raved about these discs: "rarely has a group found such meaning and vision." Their debut CD, on Centaur Records, features the first four quartets of Hugo Kauder, a refugee from Nazi-occupied Austria who fled to the United States in the 1940s. He defied the atonal trend of his generation with his uniquely harmonic, contrapuntal style.

Find out more about the Quartet on Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter, and at [www.euclidquartet.com](http://www.euclidquartet.com).

**Jameson Cooper**, originally from Sheffield, England, began playing the violin at age 6. At 13 he joined the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain and later became concertmaster of the National Youth Chamber Orchestra. He studied at The Royal Northern College of Music, where he earned a Graduate of Music Degree with Honors and a Professional Performance Diploma. Mr. Cooper first came to the U.S. as a participant in the Aspen Music Festival. Since then, he has studied with Dorothy DeLay, Masao Kawasaki, and Roland and Almita Vamos. He earned Masters Degrees in Violin and Conducting from Kent State University, where he later served as Assistant Professor of Violin and Viola at the University's Hugh A. Glauser School of Music. Recipient of numerous prizes, he has performed as soloist with orchestra, as recitalist, and as chamber musician throughout the U.S. and Europe. In the 2001-02 season, Jameson played in the Audubon Quartet in its Beethoven Quartet cycle series.

In addition to his recordings with the Euclid Quartet, Mr. Cooper has recorded a disc of new music for violin, to be released this season. Jameson has given masterclasses at many colleges and universities, including Oberlin College Conservatory, Virginia Tech and Skidmore College, and is a former faculty member of the Lyceum Music School of Oldham, England and Morningside College.

Violinist **Jacob Murphy** is a founding member of the Euclid Quartet. With the quartet he has appeared at concert halls and music festivals across the country, including Carnegie Hall, Merkin Hall, the Library

of Congress, the National Gallery of Art, and the Aspen Music Festival. He has also collaborated with internationally renowned artists such as Joseph Silverstein, Alexander Toradze, Paul Katz, James Dunham, Warren Jones, and Gregory Fulkerson.

He began his violin studies outside Minneapolis at the age of 6 through an innovative school music program. After moving to Fresno, California, he soon earned acclaim as soloist with the Kings Symphony Orchestra and the Fresno Youth Philharmonic Orchestra. He was also a recipient of the Fresno Arts Council Horizon Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Arts. Mr. Murphy continued his studies at the Eastman School of Music and Kent State University. His principal teachers included Charles Castleman, Gregory Fulkerson, Camilla Wicks, and Claudia Shiu. He is also a proud alumnus of Charles Castleman's Quartet Program.

Mr. Murphy is currently on the faculty of Indiana University South Bend, where he teaches violin and chamber music. Commercial recordings featuring his playing are available on Centaur Records and Artek Recordings. But he has also been involved on the other side of the microphone, using his knowledge of audio technology to record, edit, and master numerous recordings for the Euclid Quartet. He performs on a 2011 violin made by Greg Alf.

Violist **Luis Enrique Vargas** is a member of the Euclid Quartet since 2001 and teaches viola and chamber music at Indiana University South Bend, where he was appointed lecturer in 2007. Born in Venezuela and brought up in a family of musicians he was first introduced to the music world at age 14 when he became a member of the internationally renowned "El Sistema" of the Venezuelan Youth Orchestra program. With them he quickly established a good reputation for his talent and dedication for the viola as a performer and an educator.

During his formative years he studied at the Vicente Emilio Sojo and the Simon Bolivar Conservatories of Music in Venezuela. He holds a Master's Degree in Music Performance from Miami University of Ohio and a Performer's Certificate from Northern Illinois University. Throughout his career, Mr. Vargas has studied with many internationally known musicians. Among them are Jose Manuel Roman, Richard Young, Gerard Causee, Li-Kuo Chang, James Dunham, Michael Tree, Earl Carlyss, and the Penderecki, Vermeer and Emerson string quartets.

He has served as an adjudicator for nationally and internationally recognized chamber music competitions such as the Fischhoff National

Chamber Music Competition and the annual chamber music competition of the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA). He also serves as a member of the board of directors of the Hugo Kauder Society and an advisor for their International Music Competition.

Between 1995 and 1999 he toured in Venezuela and in Luxembourg, Germany, Colombia, Mexico, Canada and the United States as a member of the Cuarteto America. With the orchestras of "El Sistema," he performed in multiple tours to Brazil, Curaçao, Spain and France over the span of 9 years. With the Simon Bolivar Orchestra he recorded "Latino-American Lollipops," a compilation of Latino-American masterpieces under Dorian label.

**Si-Yan Darren Li** made his professional debut at the age of nine. Since then, he has appeared in recitals and chamber music performances at Carnegie Hall's Stern Auditorium, Weill Recital Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Merkin Hall, the 92nd Street Y, Kennedy Center, Victoria Concert Hall in Singapore, Izumi Hall in Osaka, National Concert Hall in Taipei and the Basilica de San Lorenzo in Florence.

Mr. Li has received top prizes in numerous competitions, including the Tchaikovsky International Competition for Young Musicians in Moscow, the Young Concert Artists International Auditions in New York and the Young Artists Competition of Mann Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia. He has also appeared in many renowned music festivals, including the Ravinia Festival, the Kronberg Academy Cello Festival, and the Verbier Festival. As an active chamber musician, Mr. Li has collaborated with esteemed artists, such as Emanuel Ax, Alexander Toradze, Cho-Liang Lin, Miriam Fried, Paul Katz, Carter Brey and Lang Lang.

Mr. Li began his cello studies at the age of five in China. At the age of nine, he was accepted to the Beijing Central Conservatory of Music. After moving to the United States in his early teens, Mr. Li continued his cello studies with Orlando Cole in Philadelphia. He holds a Bachelor of Music Degree from The Juilliard School, and a Master of Music Degree as well as an Artist Diploma from the Peabody Institute. His principal teachers include Fred Sherry, Harvey Shapiro, Alan Stepansky and David Hardy. In 2009, Mr. Li joined the award-winning Euclid Quartet and became a cello faculty at Indiana University in South Bend. Mr. Li plays on a 1773 J.B. Guadagnini cello, generously on loan from the private collection of Mr. and Mrs. Rin Kei-Mei.

