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[Press Room](#)



Images of Takács Quartet (L to R: Geraldine Walther, viola; Edward Dusinger, violin; András Fejér, cello; and Károly Schranz, violin) are available for download from the Cal Performances [press room](#).

**CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS
THE TAKÁCS QUARTET PERFORMING
THE COMPLETE STRING QUARTETS OF BEETHOVEN
OVER SIX CONCERTS
OCTOBER 15–16, 2016; MARCH 4–5, 2017; APRIL 8–9, 2017**

**Beethoven cycle is centerpiece of extensive Berkeley *RADICAL Immersion*
thematic programming strand of residency activities**

Berkeley, September 9, 2016 —Cal Performances at UC Berkeley welcomes back the

Takács Quartet for a momentous series of six concerts, the complete string quartet cycle of Ludwig van Beethoven, performed over three weekends in Hertz Hall, on October 15–16; March 4–5, 2017; and April 8–9, 2017. The performances coincide with the publication of Takács' first violinist Edward Dusinger's new book, *Beethoven for a Later Age: Living with the String Quartets* (University of Chicago Press), which explores both the history of the quartets and the Takács' work interpreting them as an ensemble. Dusinger's book is the inspiration behind Cal Performances' extensive residency, which will feature quartet members, scholars, and students, and is a significant part of the 2016/17 season's Berkeley RADICAL *Immersion* thematic strand of programming offering deep exploration of important composers and genres of artistic expression. Performances are Saturdays, October 15, March 4, and April 8 at 8pm; and Sundays, October 16, March 5, and April 9 at 3pm, with free pre-performance talks preceding each concert.

“Every generation remakes Beethoven afresh,” explained UC Berkeley professor of music and Beethoven scholar Nicholas Mathew, who has collaborated closely with Dusinger and Cal Performances staff to craft a series of immersive activities to complement the performances. “So, with this cycle of string quartets, we will be fortunate to witness a new Beethoven coming into being, re-made before our very ears by one of the world’s leading string quartets—a Beethoven never heard precisely this way before, nor ever to be heard this way again.”

Each of the three Takács visits will be supported by a day of residency activities for UC Berkeley students and the general public. Sequentially aligned with themes taken from Dusinger's book—“Making and Remaking the Beethoven Quartets,” “When Old Media Were New Media,” and “Beethoven: Politics and Religion”—these Friday sessions will explore the quartet's dynamic process of interpreting these seminal works; the historical context for understanding their creation, performance and reception; the role of audiences, institutions, and technologies in shaping our experience of this music over time; and music's connection to religion and nationalist politics in Beethoven's era and in our contemporary moment. The unique academic resources of UC Berkeley will nurture these investigations; most notably, with manuscript holdings in the Jean Hargrove Music Library, which houses the earliest published set of miniature scores of the Beethoven quartets, printed in London in 1840.

Widely acknowledged as among the most challenging and significant works of music ever written, Beethoven's 16 string quartets were composed, and first performed, between 1798 and 1826, during the turbulent period of the Napoleonic Wars and their aftermath. The Beethoven quartets have been at the center of the Takács Quartet's repertoire for more than 40 years, and the ensemble's recordings of the full cycle on Decca are widely acknowledged as among the finest available today. In 2005, the *Late Beethoven Quartets* won awards from *BBC Music Magazine*, *Gramophone*, the Brit Awards, and the Japanese Record Academy; CD sets of the early and middle Beethoven quartets won a Grammy, another *Gramophone* Award, a Chamber Music America Award, and two more awards from the Japanese Recording Academy.

The first visit by the Takács, on October 14–16, includes performances of quartets Nos. 1, 2, 10, 11, 13, and 14. A day of residency activity on October 14 will focus on the theme of “Making and Remaking the Beethoven Quartets,” with master classes, discussions, and colloquia focusing on Beethoven's string quartets as temporal art forms, constantly being re-made and re-imagined by different performers over time. The second visit, on March 3–5, 2017, will feature the quartets Nos. 3, 4, 5, 8, 12, and 15. Residency activities on March 3 will revolve around the topic of “When Old Media Were New Media”—as Edward Dusinger and Beethoven scholars, including Berkeley's Nicholas Mathew, Mark Ferraguto of Pennsylvania State University, and Mary Hunter of Bowdoin College consider provocative questions about changes in audience, public access to music, and the rise of concert etiquette that resulted from new technologies in the 19th century. The quartet's final campus visit, on April 6–9, 2017, concludes the cycle with quartets Nos. 6, 7, 9, 13 (with Op. 133, *Grosse Fugue*), and 16. “Beethoven: Politics and Religion” is the final topic explored in this tri-part residency, with a slate of public activities planned on April 6 and 7.

About The Takács Quartet

Recognized as one of the world's great ensembles, the Takács Quartet — violinists **Edward Dusinger** and **Károly Schranz**, violist **Geraldine Walther**, and cellist **András Fejér** — is celebrated for performances that blend drama, warmth, and humor, combining four musical personalities to bring fresh insights to the string quartet repertoire. For 33 years, the ensemble has been in residence at the University of Colorado, Boulder. The quartet is known for its innovative programming; recent projects and collaborations have included performances with actor Meryl Streep, pianist Garrick Ohlsson, poet Robert Pinsky, composer Timo Andres, the Hungarian folk

group Muzsikás, and the Colorado Shakespeare Festival. The Takács was the first string quartet to win the Wigmore Hall Medal in 2014, and the only string quartet to be inducted into *Gramophone's* first Hall of Fame, in 2012. The group also received the Cal Performances Award of Distinction in the Performing Arts in 2012. The quartet has recorded prolifically, earning five Grammy nominations and releasing acclaimed recordings of Beethoven, Bartók, Borodin, Brahms, Britten, Chausson, Debussy, Dvořák, Franck, Haydn, Janáček, Mozart, Schubert, Schumann, and Smetana. Perennial Berkeley favorites, the Takács performed their last complete cycle—the Bartók quartets—during the 2013/14 season. The quartet's connection to Beethoven's music is equally profound—*New Yorker* music critic Alex Ross has called their recordings of these quartets “the most richly expressive modern account of this titanic cycle.”

About Cal Performances

Cal Performances is the performing arts presenter and producer of the University of California, Berkeley, fulfilling its mission by presenting, producing, and commissioning renowned and emerging artists in music, dance, and theater. Cal Performances reaches over 150,000 people annually through concerts and campus and community events, including talks, symposia, lecture demonstrations, and academic courses based on Cal Performances' season. Under the leadership of Matías Tarnopolsky, the organization launched Berkeley RADICAL (Research and Development Initiative in Creativity Arts and Learning) to cultivate the artistic literacy of future audiences and connect some of the most innovative artists in the world with the intellectual capital of UC Berkeley. 2016/17 is the second season for Berkeley RADICAL, which this year embraces three strands of artistic exploration: *Inclusion*, *Innovation*, and *Immersion*. More information on Berkeley RADICAL can be found at calperformances.org/berkeley-Radical.

Ticket Information

Tickets for the *Takács Quartet* on Saturdays, October 15, March 4, and April 8 at 8pm; and Sundays, October 16, March 5, and April 9 at 3pm in Hertz Hall start at \$92 (price subject to change). Half-price tickets are available for UC Berkeley students. Tickets are available through the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, at [\(510\) 642-9988](tel:5106429988), at calperformances.org, and at the door. For more information about discounts, go to calperformances.org/discounts.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

**Berkeley RADICAL
Takács Quartet**

Saturday, October 15 at 8pm

Sunday, October 16 at 3pm

Saturday March 4 at 8pm

Sunday, March 5 at 3pm

Saturday, April 8 at 8pm

Sunday, April 9 at 3pm

Hertz Hall

Bancroft Way at College Avenue

UC Berkeley campus

Programs:

Saturday, October 15 at 8pm

Beethoven/String Quartet No. 2 in G Major, Op. 18, No. 2

Beethoven/String Quartet No. 11 in F minor, Op. 95, *Serioso*

Beethoven/String Quartet No. 13 in B-flat Major, Op. 130 (with Finale)

Pre-performance talk by UC Berkeley professor of music Nicholas Mathew, 7pm: free to all ticket holders.

Sunday, October 16 at 3pm

Beethoven/String Quartet No. 1 in F Major, Op. 18, No. 1

Beethoven/String Quartet No. 10 in E-flat Major, Op. 74, *Harp*

Beethoven/String Quartet No. 14 in C-sharp minor, Op. 131

Pre-performance talk by UC Berkeley professor of music Nicholas Mathew, 2pm: free to all ticket holders.

Saturday, March 4 at 8pm

Beethoven/No. 4 in C minor, Op. 18, No. 4

Beethoven/No. 5 in A Major, Op. 18, No. 5, *Harp*

Beethoven/No. 15 in A minor, Op. 132

Pre-performance talk by UC Berkeley music students, 7 pm free to all ticket holders.

Sunday, March 5 at 3pm

Beethoven/No. 3 in D major, Op. 18, No. 3

Beethoven/No. 8 in E minor, Op. 59, No. 2, *Razumovsky*

Beethoven/No. 12 in E-flat major, Op. 127

Pre-performance talk by UC Berkeley music students, 2 pm free to all ticket holders.

Saturday, April 8 at 8pm

Beethoven/No. 6 in B-flat Major, Op. 18, No. 6

Beethoven/No. 16 in F Major, Op. 135, *Harp*

Beethoven/No. 9 in C Major, Op. 59, No. 3, *Razumovsky*

Pre-performance talk with UC Berkeley professor of music and Beethoven scholar Nicholas Mathew, 7pm: free to all ticket holders.

Sunday, April 9 at 3pm

Beethoven/No. 7 in F major, Op. 59, No. 1, *Razumovsky*

Beethoven/No. 13 in B-flat Major, with Op. 133, *Grosse Fugue*

Pre-performance talk with UC Berkeley professor of music and Beethoven scholar Nicholas Mathew, 2pm: free to all ticket holders.

Berkeley RADICAL: these performances are part of Cal Performances' Berkeley RADICAL *Immersion* strand, which explores a single genre or follows the trajectory of an artist's work, allowing new perspectives to emerge. During the Takács Quartet's season-long residency, the ensemble will perform the complete Beethoven string quartet cycle (October 15–16, 2016; March 4–5; and April 8–9, 2017). More information at calperformances.org/berkeley-Radical-immersion.

Tickets: priced at \$92 (subject to change).

Takács Quartet Residency Activities

October Residency:

Making and Remaking the Beethoven Quartets

Friday, October 14, Noon-1pm

In Rehearsal with the Takács Quartet:

Making and Remaking the Beethoven Quartets

Hertz Hall

Bancroft Way at College Avenue

UC Berkeley campus

Members of the Takács Quartet offer insights into the quartet's process of practice, collaboration, and decision making, through demonstration and discussion of select passages.

Tickets: free and open to the public.

Friday, October 14, 2-4pm

Master Classes

Morrison Hall

Bancroft Way at College Avenue

UC Berkeley campus

Members of the Takács Quartet coach UC Berkeley students in rehearsal of select Beethoven string quartets.

Tickets: open to the public with limited access. Updated information will be available at calperformances.org

Friday, October 14, 4:30-5:30pm
Colloquium

Guided discussion with Nicholas Mathew, UC Berkeley professor of music, with music students and members of the Takács Quartet, around Beethoven objects held by the UC Berkeley Jean Hargrove Music Library.

Tickets: private session for UC Berkeley students only; not open to the public.

Friday, October 14, 7-8pm
Discussion: An Introduction to the Takács Quartet
Beethoven String Quartet Cycle Residency

Hertz Hall
Bancroft Way at College Avenue
UC Berkeley campus

UC Berkeley professor of music Nicholas Mathew and Edward Dusinberre, Takács Quartet first violinist and author, discuss the thematic groupings for the quartet's three-part campus residency.

Tickets: free and open to the public.

March Residency:
When Old Media Were New Media

Friday, March 3, 2017, 12-1pm
In Rehearsal with the Takács Quartet:
When Old Media Were New Media

Hertz Hall
Bancroft Way at College Avenue
UC Berkeley campus

Members of the Takács Quartet explore music scores held by the UC Berkeley Jean Hargrove Music Library, and consider questions about audience, public access to music, and the rise of concert etiquette that resulted from new technologies in the 19th century.

Tickets: free and open to the public.

Friday, March 3, 4:30-5:30pm
Colloquium

Discussion with music students and faculty, with members of the Takács Quartet.

Tickets: private session for UC Berkeley students only; not open to the public.

Friday, March 3, 7-8:30pm

Geballe Room

Round Table Discussion

Stephens Hall
Townsend Center for the Humanities

UC Berkeley professor of music Nicholas Mathew, Takács Quartet first violinist Edward Dusinger, and visiting scholars Mark Faraguto (Pennsylvania State University) and Mary Hunter (Bowdoin University) explore how shifts in 19th-century technology affected how Beethoven's work was received and performed.

Tickets: free and open to the public.

April Residency:

Beethoven: Politics and Religion

Thursday, April 6, 6-7:30pm

Page & Stage Book Club

***Beethoven for a Later Age*, by Edward Dusinger**

University Press Bookstore

2430 Bancroft Way, Berkeley

Takács Quartet first violinist Edward Dusinger and UC Berkeley professor of music Nicholas Mathew participate in a discussion on the art of performing Beethoven, the day-to-day life of a working string quartet, and the themes of Dusinger's book, ***Beethoven for a Later Age: Living with the String Quartets***, that have provided the framework for the quartet's extensive 2016/17 Cal Performances/UC Berkeley residency. This event is part of Cal Performances' new *Page & Stage* book club, which is hosted by associate director Rob Bailis.

Tickets: tickets are \$5; reservations open at calperformances.org beginning September 13.

Friday, April 7, 2017, 12-1pm

In Rehearsal with the Takács Quartet:

Beethoven: Politics and Religion

First Presbyterian Church

2407 Dana Street at Channing

Berkeley, CA

A session with the Takács Quartet that features passages from works highlighting Beethoven's extraordinary stature in the classical cannon.

Tickets: free and open to the public.

Friday, April 7, 2-4pm

Master Classes

Morrison Hall

Bancroft Way at College Avenue

UC Berkeley campus

Members of the Takács Quartet coach UC Berkeley students in rehearsal of select Beethoven string quartets.

Tickets: open to the public with limited access. Updated information will be available at calperformances.org

Friday, April 7, 4:30-6pm
Colloquium

Discussion with music students and faculty, with members of the Takács Quartet.

Tickets: private session for UC Berkeley students only; not open to the public.

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