



photo by Marco Borggreve

Friends of Chamber Music  
presents

## ARIEL QUARTET

with special "sweet" treat for Valentine's Day Weekend

Friday, February 12 – Sunday, February 14, 2021

# Welcome



Welcome to the fourth concert engagement of the Friends of Chamber Music's 25th Season! We are happy to present a unique event to treat your ears, eyes and even taste buds!

This program is a reflection of two powerful aspects of cultural identity, music and food. The Ariel Quartet explores their Austrian-German and Jewish roots through thoughtful program choices and an ambitious baking menu that includes wonderful, traditional Jewish, Austrian and German Desserts.

If you're tempted to try baking these delightful pastries over this Valentine's Day Weekend, you can find the [recipes](#) on the Ariel Quartet page of the [Friends of Chamber Music's website](#).

Immediately following the concert and baking show, please stay online for our interview with the Ariel Quartet musicians together with Michael Vaughn, Director of Music Ministry at the A&M United Methodist Church in College Station.

We look forward to the Ariel Quartet's outreach to orchestra students of three local schools. This outreach event will be held online on Tuesday, February 16 with the orchestra students from the College Station High School and Oakwood Intermediate and Pecan Trail Intermediate Schools.

We thank all Friends of Chamber Music's followers for your enthusiastic support of this Virtual Series. Your generous contributions have kept the art of music alive in the Brazos Valley community and beyond!

This Valentine's Day Weekend, we invite you to enjoy the Ariel Quartet's passionate interpretations of music by Schulhoff, Beethoven, and Cohen, and also, to join in with the musicians in their love for baking, fun, and good conversation.

Happy Valentine's!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andreas Kronenberg". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Andreas Kronenberg

President, Friends of Chamber Music

# Mission Statement



Friends of Chamber Music brings music from diverse periods and cultures, performed by world-class musicians, to the Brazos Valley. Through concerts and outreach programs at area schools, we strive to enhance the cultural life of the community.

## Board of Directors

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# Educational Outreach



On Tuesday morning, February 16, 2021, the Ariel String Quartet will take part in an interactive educational outreach event organized by Friends of Chamber Music. Orchestra classes from three College Station schools will join together online for the conversation with the musicians. A host of topics suggested for discussion includes questions about string instruments, specifics of playing in a small ensemble, various ways of musical communication, and the importance of emotional engagement with music.

Eric Eaks, Director of Fine Arts for the CSISD, has a major role in organizing this outreach program.

The participating Orchestra Directors are:

- Jason Hooper, from College Station High School
- Travis Urban, from Oakwood Intermediate School
- Sarah Campbell, from Pecan Trail Intermediate School

Friends of Chamber Music thanks Eric Eaks, Jason Hooper, Travis Urban, and Sarah Campbell for their efficient collaboration in organizing the event that extends the reach of our educational efforts to schools across the College Station ISD.

We are happy to provide this rare opportunity for the local students and their dedicated instructors to directly communicate with the remarkable musicians of the Ariel Quartet! We trust that it will be an inspirational and memorable event.

## The Encore!

Following the concert and baking show, stay online for our traditional ENCORE interview. We invited Michael Vaughn to participate in this conversation that we recorded with all four musicians of the Ariel Quartet.

A devoted music educator, Michael Vaughn is Director of Music Ministry at the A&M United Methodist Church in College Station.

# Message from the Ariel Quartet



“During the holidays we usually spend time with our families back in Israel and Germany, celebrating Hanukkah and Christmas. Not being able to do so in 2020 was another powerful reminder of how much our lives have been impacted and changed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since all of us identify as big foodies, we decided to use some of the forced downtime to recreate our favorite treats and the foods typically associated with the backgrounds and regions that influenced Schulhoff and Beethoven, this program’s composers.

The Babka is probably the most quintessential sweet dish for Jews of Eastern-European descent and therefore corresponds well with the folkloristic flair that Schulhoff evokes in his String Quartet No.1. The Viennese Apple Strudel is one of the most Viennese treats I can think of. It represents Beethoven’s String Quartet op.18/2, easily the most classical example of the First Viennese School traditions that Haydn and Mozart famously laid the foundation for. To round everything off, Amit and I challenged ourselves to a little friendly bakeoff, depicted in Hanukkah Doughnuts vs. Lebkuchen. While our violin-playing colleagues did have trouble deciding on a winner, they didn’t appear to encounter any issues with appetite: on the contrary, suspicious amounts were declared necessary to decide on a winning dish...

To settle this friendly ‘competition’ musically, the only option was to dig into the most festive part of the Klezmer-Nutcracker, a wonderfully uplifting and humorous alternate version to the famed holiday favorite, lovingly ‘transcribed’ by Steve Cohen.”

--Violinist Jan Grüning, on behalf of the Ariel Quartet

## ARIEL QUARTET

Gershon Gerchikov, violin  
Alexandra Kazovsky, violin  
Jan Grüning, viola  
Amit Even-Tov, cello

### PROGRAM

String Quartet No. 1 (1924)

Erwin Schulhoff (1894-1942)

- I. Presto con fuoco
- II. Allegretto con moto e con malinconia grottesca
- III. Allegro giocoso alla Slovacca
- IV. Andante molto sostenuto

String Quartet in G major, Op.18, No. 2 (1798)

Ludwig van Beethoven  
(1770-1827)

- I. Allegro
- II. Adagio cantabile – Allegro – Tempo I
- III. Scherzo – Allegro
- IV. Allegro molto, quasi presto

A Klezmer Nutcracker: Freylakh  
(adapted from Trepak)

Music by Pyotr I. Tchaikovsky,  
arranged by Steve Cohen

### BAKING MENU

- German Lebkuchen
- Hannukah Doughnuts
- Viennese Apple Strudel
- Chocolate Babka

# Ariel Quartet Bio



*“...a blazing, larger-than-life performance...” – The Washington Post*

Distinguished by its virtuosity, probing musical insight, and impassioned, fiery performances, the Ariel Quartet has garnered critical praise worldwide over the span of nearly two decades. Formed when the members were only just teenagers studying at the Jerusalem Academy Middle School of Music and Dance in Israel, the Ariel – celebrating their 20th anniversary in 2020-21 – was named a recipient of the prestigious Cleveland Quartet Award, granted by Chamber Music America in recognition of artistic achievement and career support. The ensemble serves as the Faculty Quartet-in-Residence at the University of Cincinnati’s College-Conservatory of Music, where they direct the chamber-music program and present a concert series in addition to maintaining a busy touring schedule in the United States and abroad.

Recent engagements include concerts for Calgary Pro Musica, at the Mannes School of Music in New York, for Music Toronto, and at the Shriver Hall Concert Series at John Hopkins University in Baltimore. At the Linton Chamber Music Series in Cincinnati the Ariel gave the U.S. premiere of the Quintet for Piano and Strings by Daniil Trifonov, with the composer as pianist.

The ensemble has dedicated much of its artistic energy and musical prowess to the groundbreaking Beethoven quartets, and has performed the complete Beethoven cycle on five occasions throughout the United States and Europe. The Quartet has written a powerful and comprehensive series of program notes on the sixteen quartets, open to the public on their website. The Ariel Quartet regularly collaborates with today’s eminent and rising young musicians and ensembles, including pianist Orion Weiss, violist Roger Tapping, cellist Paul Katz, and the American, Pacifica, and Jerusalem String Quartets. The Quartet has toured with cellist Alisa Weilerstein and performed frequently with pianists Jeremy Denk and Menahem Pressler. In addition, the Ariel served as Quartet-in-Residence for the Steans Music Institute at the Ravinia Festival, the Yellow Barn Music Festival, and the Perlman Music Program, as well as the Ernst Stiefel String Quartet-in-Residence at the Caramoor Festival.



Formerly the resident ensemble of the Professional String Quartet Training Program at the New England Conservatory, from which the players obtained their undergraduate and graduate degrees, the Ariel was mentored extensively by acclaimed string quartet giants Walter Levin and Paul Katz. It has won numerous international prizes in addition to the Cleveland Quartet Award: Grand Prize at the 2006 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition and the Székely Prize for the performance of Bartók’s String Quartet No. 4, and Third Prize at the Banff International String Quartet Competition. About its performances at the Banff competition, the American Record Guide described the group as “a consummate ensemble gifted with utter musicality and remarkable interpretive power” and noted, in particular, their playing of Beethoven’s monumental Quartet in A minor, Op. 132, as “the pinnacle of the competition.”

The Ariel Quartet has received significant support for its studies in the United States from the American-Israel Cultural Foundation, Dov and Rachel Gottesman, and the Legacy Heritage Fund. Most recently, they were awarded a grant from the A.N. and Pearl G. Barnett Family Foundation.

[www.arielquartet.com](http://www.arielquartet.com)

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# Acknowledgements



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Friends of Chamber Music Gratefully Acknowledges  
Trust, Grant, And Community Support from

*Plass Arts  
Foundation*



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Coming Next



## ZLATOMIR FUNG, CELLO

Sensational Gold Medalist of the XVI International Tchaikovsky Competition, 2019

*intriguing and satisfying program*

Donizetti, Verdi, Rossini, Wagner  
opera arrangements & fantasies for cello & piano



Concert & ENCORE!

Friends of Chamber Music's exclusive Interview with Zlatomir Fung

PREMIERE Tuesday, March 23, 7:00 pm CT

VIEW ON-DEMAND through Tuesday, April 6

# Support Friends of Chamber Music Virtual Series



## 25<sup>th</sup> Concert Season 2020-2021

### Juho Pohjonen

Finland | Piano

J. S. Bach: Goldberg Variations

**Saturday, November 14, 2020**

Online Premier 7 PM

Available through Saturday, November 28



Photo Credit: J. Henry Fair

### Ariel String Quartet

in concert & in the kitchen

Special Treat for Valentine's

Concert, Baking, Recipes & Interview

**Friday, February 12, 2021**

Online Premier 7 PM

Available through Sunday, February 14



### A Chanticleer Christmas

Choral works from the Renaissance  
to the 20th Century

**Friday, December 4, 2020**

Online Premier 7 PM

Available through Sunday, December 6



### Zlatomir Fung, Cello

Gold Medalist of the XVI International  
Tchaikovsky Competition, 2019

**Tuesday, March 23, 2021**

Online Premier 7 PM

Available through Tuesday, April 6



### McGill/McHale Trio

Flute, Clarinet, Piano

Dvořák, Poulenc, Debussy, Rogerson

**Friday, January 15, 2021**

Online Premier 7 PM

Available through Sunday, January 17



### Miro String Quartet

**Monday, May 3, 2021**

7 PM

A&M United Methodist Church  
availability to be confirmed



## OUR MISSION

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## COVID-19 & FRIENDS DIGITAL SERIES

Friends of Chamber Music has transformed concerts, interviews with artists, and educational outreach programs into FRIENDS DIGITAL SERIES of virtual events available online to our community and around the globe in 2020-2021.

## SUPPORT OUR MISSION BY GIVING

Your support will help advance Friends of Chamber Music's mission to enrich life in the Brazos Valley and bring the art of music to students at local schools and colleges. Please, donate generously!

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