



Bohemian Quartet

The Bohemian Quartet



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The **Bohemian Quartet** released its latest recording *For You* in 2017. This is their fourth commercial recording.

US Music Series: Robert H. Wood Great Artist Series in Herkimer, NY; Ulster Chamber Music Series in Kingston, NY; Charleston Chamber Music Society in Charleston, WV; The Towers in Narragansett, RI; Williamsburg Chamber Music Society; Feldman Chamber Music Society; Blackstone River Theatre in Cumberland, RI; Rockport Music and Shalin Liu Performance Center in Rockport, MA; Connecticut College; Columbus Theatre in Providence, RI; Arts Under Dome Music Series in Gulfport, MS; Riverside Fine Arts Concert Series in Jacksonville, FL;

Zeiterion PAC in New Bedford, MA; Stone Arts Church in Bellows Falls, VT; Wistariahurst Museum in Holyoke, MA; Clouds Hill Victorian House Museum in Warwick, RI; Sandywoods Center for the Arts in Tiverton, RI; Harvest Festival in Rockport, MA; Providence College Humanities Forum; The University of Connecticut Music Series.

The **mission** of keeping a rare musical flame alight is a noble and often challenging one, but The Bohemian Quartet is more than up to the task. In this case, the acclaimed Providence, Rhode Island-based ensemble-featuring violin, viola, cello, and bass-specializes in music of the Romany or “Gypsy” tradition, along with related Eastern European folk styles.

The **Bohemian Quartet** was formed in 2005. Violinist, Stan Renard, a composer and virtuoso player with an impressive list of credentials, assembled the group with the idea of preserving the tradition and indulging in the virtuosic playing of classic gypsy music. Renard recruited like-minded friends: Dave Zinno on upright bass, Christine Harrington on cello, and Nancy Richardson on viola.

Together they’ve made a commitment to the genre and aspired to performing it with both reverence and adventure. Indeed, like every good curator, the BQ at once embraces the ancient traditions, and still wanders off in newer, lovely, unpredictable directions.

The Bohemian Quartet borrowed its name from a quartet formed over 100 years ago in Czechoslovakia. That group, later called the Czech Quartet, ultimately disbanded in 1934. Appropriately enough, the two entities-BQ-v.1 and today’s iteration share much more than a name. They shoulder a passion for the deep-rooted authenticity of the Romany tradition, as well as the ability to play that historic repertoire with extraordinary joi de vivre. On the aptly titled “Beyond Tradition”, the quartet’s newest recording, the group’s intentions are true and accomplished. The project was recorded live at the lovely Blackstone River Theatre, in Cumberland, RI, and St. Paul’s Church in Portsmouth, RI (home of the Portsmouth arts Guild). Produced by Harrington and the quartet, the recording is a journey through musical vernacular of gypsy life, with fast tempos, virtuosic playing, spry strings crying and dancing, and above all the flair of performance that makes this sound so utterly riveting.

Accolades have followed the quartet since its inception. The quartet was featured on the “One World Show” produced by Robert Malin, which received an award for Best Music Documentary. “Beyond Tradition” also enjoyed three separate 2010 ballot placements by the Grammy Association.



Meet the Troupe...

STAN RENARD, *violin and director*



Stan Renard, Bohemian Quartet founder and arranger, is a virtuoso violinist, violist and active conductor. He studied violin with the legendary professor, Veda Reynolds, of the Curtis Institute, Alexandre Brussilovsky, who was the assistant of both Leonid Kogan in Moscow and Yehudi Menuhin in London, Philip Setzer of the Emerson String Quartet, Marylou Speaker Churchill, formerly the Principal Second Violinist of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and Theodore Arm.

In addition to founding the Bohemian Quartet, Stan was a member of the Fragancia De Tango, and the Trio Nostalgia. Stan is an alumnus of the Pierre Monteux Conducting School in Hancock, Maine, and has re-established the chamber orchestra Opus 1 which is now in residency at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Stan most recently formed the Connecticut-based contemporary music group NOVA Musica.

Stan was the violin and viola faculty at Colby College in Waterville Maine where he also serves as the Colby Symphony Orchestra Conductor. Stan is also the violin/viola faculty at the Rectory School in Pomfret, CT.

Stan is currently Assistant Professor of Music Marketing at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Stan holds a Master in Music from the Conservatory of Versailles, France in Chamber music, a Master in Music from UMASS Amherst in Violin and Viola performance, a MBA from Providence College and a PhD in International Business from Southern New Hampshire University, a DMA in Violin performance from the University of Connecticut.

Stan has published several articles on Romani music and the Romani diaspora.

CHRISTINE HARRINGTON, *cello*



Christine Harrington, cellist with the Bohemian Quartet, has performed symphonic and chamber music, as well as Celtic and contemporary jazz. She has performed with the Eastern Connecticut Symphony, the Ocean State Chamber Orchestra, trios and duos, as well as having the privilege of performing, premiering, and recording the music of composer, Eliane Aberdam. Christine has studied improvisation with bassist, Dave Zinno, and trombonist/composer, Hal Crook and works closely with jazz pianist and composer, Joe Parillo. She is the cellist on Joe Parillo's CD of original jazz piano/cello compositions, "Sand Box" as well as the Bohemian Quartet's recently released CD, "Beyond Tradition"; both CD's having been placed on ballots for Grammy nominations.

Christine has also enjoyed a long and enriching career as a public school string teacher & orchestra director.

She was featured in the March 2007 STRAD magazine in an article on techniques employed to help students achieve success in the audition process.

Christine has presented many workshops throughout the country on new music for improvising strings as well as workshops for music educators in Rhode Island and Massachusetts on building string programs and teaching alternative strings techniques.

Christine is a past president of the RI Music Educators Association as well as past president of the RI String Teachers Association.

In addition to teaching and performing, Christine has been a guest conductor of the RI All State Junior Division Orchestra, the Long Island String Festival, Eastern Region CT Junior Orchestra, and the Southern Region CT Junior Orchestra. She was a conductor for the RI Philharmonic Youth Orchestra program for 8 years from 1991 until 1999 and a conductor for the Ocean State Youth Orchestra string ensemble from 1999 until 2000.

Christine holds a Bachelor of Music Education from the Hartt School of Music, Hartford, CT, and an MALS in Literature and Art from Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT.

NANCY RICHARDSON, *viola*



Nancy Richardson, violist, has enjoyed a career in both performance and music education. She has played in orchestras in Rhode Island, the US and Canada such as the RI Philharmonic, Charleston Symphony (SC) and the Winnipeg Symphony.

For more than a decade, Nancy has taught as a string specialist in the Cranston Public School System and is currently a general music teacher for grades K-6. She founded the Park View Middle School Fiddle Club which performed traditional Appalachian tunes she arranged as well as arrangements of popular rock tunes for strings.

With the support of the Rhode Island State Council for the Arts grants, Nancy has brought noted performing artists into the school for workshops and instructional units on Latin drumming and blues guitar playing.

She is currently engaged in a project to take students in grades 4 - 6 to perform recorder pieces with the Rhode Island Philharmonic as part of the music education initiative launched by Carnegie Hall.

In addition to her work in Cranston, Nancy has taught for the Music School of the Rhode Island Philharmonic (Suzuki violin/viola) and Medicine Hat College in Alberta, Canada.

Nancy holds degrees in viola performance from Boston University and the Cleveland Institute of Music. She has a degree in education from McGill University, Montreal.

DAVE ZINNO, *upright bass*



Dave Zinno has been performing professionally since 1980. He has performed with a very diverse list of jazz musicians including Junior Cook, Jimmy Cobb, Larry Willis, John Hicks, Jimmy Heath, Maxine Sullivan, Dianne Schuur, Ann Hampton-Calloway, Dominique Eade, Rebecca Parris, Shawnn Monteiro, Michael Feinstein, John Medeski, Bob Gullotti, Leo Genovese, Oliver Lake, Pepper Adams, Al Cohn, Tal Farlow, Charlie Rouse, Steve Grossman, Harry Allen, Gray Sargent, Herb Pomeroy, Gregg Hopkins, Mick Goodrick, Dave Liebman, Mike Renzi, Hal Crook, Bob Mover, Esperanza Spalding, Scott Hamilton, Bernard Purdie and many others not to mention theater, regional orchestras and commercials for radio and television.

He has performed at festivals and clubs in over fifty cities and towns in Europe, nine cities in South America, Cairo Egypt, and all over the USA and appears on over thirty five recordings with releases on major labels including Konnex (Germany), Soul Note (Italy), Rope-a-Dope/Outrageous records(NYC), Arabesque Records(NYC), Blue Dutchess(USA). Dave is faculty in jazz studies at URI (teaching bass, jazz theory and improvisation) and Brown University (bass and ensembles) and has taught numerous jazz workshops, camps and master classes in the U.S., Europe and South America

Educational Outreach

The Bohemian Quartet loves teaching and sharing. We offer workshops and pre-concert presentations.

We have drawn upon our workshops and teaching experience to create the first collection of Romani Tunes and South-Eastern European folk music finally accessible to K-9 through K-12 student population.

About the arrangements...

Romani music has orally transmitted within the close circle of well-established families of Gypsy musicians over hundreds of years. Unfortunately, the lineage is being lost as there is no written tradition and only some recordings left of these truly magnificent artists.

Stan Renard's arrangements are the result of years of careful study of Romani music, through his interactions with Romani musicians, collecting rare recordings of tunes, and transcribing melodies and motifs defining the main characteristics of the genre.

The creation of a rich and exciting orchestration fitting the instrumentation of the Bohemian Quartet generates a vibe and positive response from our audiences and critics. The non-gypsy music is a collection of folkloric tunes often performed by Roma musicians and other showcase pieces which are an extension of our repertoire. Most of those pieces are rarely presented on stage nowadays and it is our pleasure to revive and reintroduce our audiences to those delightful musical works.

Reviews

"Violinist Stan Renard is a highly accomplished player and has the csardas and hora styles at his fingertips [...] the performances are very enjoyable [...] the musicians [the Bohemian Quartet] play up quite a storm." STRAD Magazine

From our guest book:

"It was a cold and dreary night-the lightning flashed. I was still. The girl with the pearl earrings awakened my soul and moved my spirit-Bohemian Quartet, where have you taken me?"

"It was moving soulful music-a performance truly from the heart"

"A fantastic evening of music. Pure Magic. Bravos to all! I wanted to spin in a gypsy skirt and dance barefoot. I would not want to have missed it. Love to all"

"I keep thinking 'pinch me!' - Is this really Exeter, RI. I think I'm in New York watching this incredible band"

"Thank you for filling my soul with fuel"

"Thank you for having a CD so we can take your music home to savor it"

Representation

The Bohemian Quartet is represented by

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