

About Buckeye String Quartet

Started in Fall 2021 by Alex, Noor, Sarah, Sungmin, and Jack who just wanted to play Brahms' beautiful clarinet quintet, the Buckeye String Quartet is a group of non-music-major students who enjoy playing pieces of classical chamber music and sharing them with others here at the Ohio State University. Since Tal joined in Spring 2022, we have performed pieces by Brahms and Mendelssohn for our friends and family.

Tal Yankevich is a third-year Engineering Physics student who has been playing the violin for 10 years. He has played in the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra, and various chamber groups and other orchestras. During his time with COYO, he joined the orchestra in their 2019 Europe tour with notable concert venues such as the Musikverein in Vienna and Sankt-Florian in Linz.

Alex Tuggle is a fifth-year anthropology PhD student who has been playing the violin solo, in orchestras, chamber groups, and a pop band for more than twenty years. Alex attended a chamber music summer camp every year growing up which solidified her love for chamber music above all other styles. She also loves bluegrass music and plays the banjo and mandolin in her spare time. When not doing research or playing music, Alex loves to read, cook, travel, and spend time with her cat.

Sarah Lord is a fourth-year Chemical Engineering student who has been playing the viola for 12 years. She is currently involved in Buckeye Philharmonic Orchestra, where she serves as section leader and secretary, as well as Musical Memories, an organization that does musical therapy volunteering at a local dementia residence where she plays in the band and serves as treasurer. Sarah also has been playing the piano for 15 years and has enjoyed playing solo or doing a concerto with an orchestra.

Sungmin Park is a fourth-year economics PhD student who has been playing the cello as a hobby for more than 20 years as a solo player, chamber musician, and an orchestra player. While he enjoys working on solo pieces such as Bach's cello suites or playing in large orchestras such as the Buckeye Philharmonic, his favorite is chamber music—pieces written for a small intimate group of players. He aspires to play Bach's Chaconne (originally written for the violin) on the cello one day.

Buckeye String Quartet

*Plays Schubert, Smetana,
Mendelssohn, and Borodin*



**Friday, February 3, 2023
7:00 PM**

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

30 W Woodruff Ave, Columbus, OH

Program

String Quartet No. 14 in D minor, “Death and the Maiden” (1824)

I. *Allegro*

Franz Schubert
(1797-1828)

String Quartet No. 1 in E minor, “From my Life” (1876)

I. *Allegro vivo appassionato*

Bedřich Smetana
(1824-1884)

String Quartet No. 2 in D major (1881)

III. *Notturmo*

Alexander Borodin
(1833-1887)

String Quartet No. 6 in F minor (1847)

I. *Allegro vivace assai*

Felix Mendelssohn
(1809-1847)

Tal Yankevich, Violin

Alex Tuggle, Violin

Sarah Lord, Viola

Sungmin Park, Cello

Professor Miriam Burns, Advisor

Program Notes

Schubert composed *String Quartet No. 14 in D minor* after suffering a flareup of tertiary stage syphilis and realizing he was dying. He wrote to his friend Leopold Kupelweiser in 1824, “My peace is gone, my heart is heavy, I shall find it never and nevermore.” The first movement presents an interesting juxtaposition of death as both a grim, sometimes violent end and a gentle friend. It starts with a jolt, with a triplet figure generating movement and providing a nervous pulse that appears throughout the movement. Minor sections imbued with frenetic development are interspersed with sweeter major interludes, before a recapitulation leads to a chilling end that meditates on the finality of death.

Smetana’s *String Quartet No. 1 in E minor* depicts the Czech composer’s youth, with themes of romanticism and impending misfortune. Subtitled “From My Life,” this quartet was written after Smetana permanently lost his hearing and features a viola solo in the first movement, first played by young Dvořák in a private debut. The theme of tragic fate reoccurs throughout the piece and is apparent by the strong themes.

Borodin was a Russian chemist and professor who wrote music as a hobby. He is known to have written his *String Quartet No. 2 in D major* in August of 1881 and dedicated the piece to his wife as a 20th anniversary gift. The piece’s most famous third movement, *Notturmo* (Nocturne), starts with a serene cello melody followed by the violin. The movement then develops into an interesting confrontation that blooms in a satisfying blend of earlier themes and added texture.

Mendelssohn’s *String Quartet No. 6 in F minor* provides a stark contrast to his typical light and transparent sound. This was Mendelssohn’s last completed work, finished mere months after the death of his dear sister and fellow musician, Fanny, who he was very close to. Mendelssohn’s grief and agitation are felt throughout the piece with brief moments of nostalgia as he mourns his sister’s passing. Mendelssohn himself died two months after finishing this piece, by many accounts from the sheer grief he experienced at the loss of his sister.

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