

Dover Quartet Biography (full-length)

Current as of January 2024. Please do not edit without permission.



DOVER QUARTET

Joel Link, violin
Bryan Lee, violin
Julianne Lee, viola
Camden Shaw, cello

Named one of the greatest string quartets of the last 100 years by *BBC Music Magazine* and "the next Guarneri Quartet" by the *Chicago Tribune*, the two-time GRAMMY-nominated Dover Quartet is one of the world's most in-demand chamber ensembles. The group's awards include a stunning sweep of all prizes at the 2013 Banff International String Quartet Competition, grand and first prizes at the Fischoff Chamber Music Competition, and prizes at the Wigmore Hall International String Quartet Competition. Its honors include the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant, Chamber Music America's Cleveland Quartet Award, and Lincoln Center's Hunt Family Award. The Dover Quartet is the Penelope P. Watkins Ensemble in Residence at the Curtis Institute of Music and Quartet in Residence at Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music.

The Dover Quartet's 2024-25 season includes premiere performances throughout North America of newly commissioned works by Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate, a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation and a leading composer of American Indian classical music; collaborative performances with preeminent artists that include pianists Michelle Cann, Marc-André Hamelin, and Haochen Zhang; and tours to Europe and Asia. Recent collaborators of the sought-after ensemble include Leif Ove Andsnes, Emanuel Ax, Inon Barnatan, Ray Chen, Anthony McGill, Edgar Meyer, the Pavel Haas Quartet, Roomful of Teeth, and Davóne Tines. The quartet has also recently premiered works by Mason Bates, Steven Mackey, Marc Neikrug, and Chris Rogerson.

The Dover Quartet's highly acclaimed three-volume recording, *Beethoven Complete String Quartets* (Cedille Records), was hailed as "meticulously balanced, technically clean-as-a-whistle

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and intonationally immaculate" (*The Strad*). The quartet's discography also includes *Encores* (Brooklyn Classical), a recording of 10 popular movements from the string quartet repertoire; *The Schumann Quartets* (Azica Records), which was nominated for a GRAMMY for Best Chamber Music/Small Ensemble Performance; *Voices of Defiance: 1943, 1944, 1945* (Cedille Records); and an all-Mozart debut recording (Cedille Records), featuring Michael Tree, the late, long-time violist of the Guarneri Quartet. The quartet's recording of Steven Mackey's theatrical-musical work *Memoir*, recorded with the percussion group arx duo and narrator Natalie Christa Rakes, was released on Bridge Records in August 2024. A recording of the Tate commissions and Dvořák's String Quartet in F major, Op. 96 ("American") will be released in 2025 on Curtis Studio, the record label of the Curtis Institute of Music.

The Dover Quartet draws from the lineage of the distinguished Guarneri, Cleveland, and Vermeer quartets. Its members studied at the Curtis Institute of Music, Rice University's Shepherd School of Music, the New England Conservatory, and the Conservatoire Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris. They were mentored extensively by Shmuel Ashkenasi, James Dunham, Norman Fischer, Kenneth Goldsmith, Joseph Silverstein, Arnold Steinhardt, Michael Tree, and Peter Wiley. The Dover Quartet was formed at Curtis in 2008; its name pays tribute to *Dover Beach* by fellow Curtis alumnus Samuel Barber.

The Dover Quartet plays on the following instruments and proudly endorses Thomastik-Infeld strings:

Joel Link: a very fine Peter Guarneri of Mantua, 1710–15, on generous loan from Irene R. Miller through the Beare's International Violin Society

Bryan Lee: Nicolas Lupot, Paris, 1810; Samuel Zygmuntowicz, Brooklyn, 2020

Julianne Lee: Robert Brode, 2005

Camden Shaw: Joseph Hill, London, 1770

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