

CONSTELLATIONS
CHAMBERCONCERTS

MUSICIANS *from* MARLBORO



Tuesday October 27, 2026, 7:30 PM
The Constellations Music Salon
8817 Belmart Road, Potomac, Maryland



Welcome to Constellations Chamber Concerts!

We are delighted to welcome you to the Constellations Music Salon for our third season of live concerts in Potomac! Thank you for being part of our musical community and for your continued support in making this intimate space a home for extraordinary chamber music. We look forward to another season of sharing the joy of music with you, where every performance brings us all a little closer together.

**Tonight's concert is sponsored by
Dan Alpert and Ann Franke.**

We are immensely grateful for Dan and Ann's generous sponsorship and their unflagging support for Constellations over the years.

Thank you!

Program

Musicians from Marlboro

Tuesday, October 27th, 2026, 7:30 PM

String Quartet in B minor, Op. 33 No. 1 (1781) Joseph Haydn
I. Allegro moderato (1731-1809)
II. Scherzo: Allegro di molto
III. Andante
IV. Finale: Presto

Leo Appel, violin
Alex Redington, violin
Samuel Rosenthal, viola
Elena Ariza, cello

String Quartet No. 3, "Hidden Agendas" (2019) Brett Dean
I. Hubris – (b. 1961)
II. Response –
III. Retreat
IV. Self-censorship –
V. "On-message"

Alex Redington, violin
Leo Appel, violin
Samuel Rosenthal, viola
Elena Ariza, cello

intermission

Aure (2011) Kaija Saariaho
(1952-2023)

Leo Appel, violin
Samuel Rosenthal, viola

Clarinet Quintet in A Major, K. 581 (1789) Wolfgang Amadeus
I. Allegro Mozart (1756-1791)
II. Larghetto
III. Menuetto – Trio I – Trio II
IV. Allegretto con Variazioni

Jonathan Leibovitz, clarinet
Alex Redington, violin
Leo Appel, violin
Samuel Rosenthal, viola
Elena Ariza, cello

Program Note

We are thrilled to partner with Marlboro Music for this special concert welcoming **Musicians from Marlboro** to Constellations! This touring programs brings the spirit of Marlboro's celebrated festival nestled in the verdant hills of Vermont—where musicians across different generations craft some of the world's greatest music together—to the intimacy of our salon. *Marlboro Music's summer concerts in Vermont take place from mid-July through mid-August in Marlboro, VT. You can receive live concert recordings and program information when you sign up for Marlboro's monthly e-newsletter at marlboromusic.org.*

In 1781, **Haydn** described his six **Op. 33 string quartets** as written in a “new and special manner.” That inventiveness is audible immediately in No. 1: the opening deceptively appears to settle in sunny D major before revealing the darker key of B minor. Teasing pauses, sudden changes of direction, and instrumental role reversals keep the listener guessing. The Scherzo replaces the statelier traditional minuet with sharper wit and energy, while a restless, virtuosic finale ends firmly in the minor key.

Composed in 2019 for the Doric String Quartet—whose founding violinist Alex Redington performs tonight—**Brett Dean's third string quartet, “Hidden Agendas,”** arrives in DC just in time for the midterms. The work reflects Dean's unease with political polarization, social-media outrage, and pressures toward conformity. Its five interconnected movements see the players form alliances, break apart into competing voices, and eventually reach an uneasy agreement. Explosive passages alternate with near-silence; at one point, bows without rosin produce a strikingly fragile whisper.

Kaija Saariaho's Aure for violin and viola was written in 2011 in tribute to Henri Dutilleux's 95th birthday (Dutilleux's own work will be featured in our January 2027 concert here at Constellations). Its point of departure is a phrase sung by a child in Dutilleux's orchestral work *The Shadows of Time*, whose haunting third movement commemorates Anne Frank and innocent children. “Aure,” an old word for breeze or breath, beautifully suggests the delicate, fleeting quality of Saariaho's musical remembrance.

Mozart composed his **Clarinet Quintet in A Major, K. 581**, in 1789 for his friend Anton Stadler, a pioneering clarinet virtuoso whose experiments with an extended lower register helped expand the instrument's expressive possibilities. Rather than setting clarinet against an accompanying string quartet, Mozart creates an intimate conversation among five equals. The sublime Larghetto lets the clarinet sing above muted strings, while the Menuetto moves between courtly poise and contrasting dance episodes. In the finale, variations bring different instruments into the spotlight, ending a work whose effortless beauty conceals extraordinary emotional depth.

Meet the Artists



Jonathan Leibovitz, *clarinet*, is known for his richly expressive sound and fearless musical instincts. A winner of the Crusell, Aviv, and Carl Nielsen Competitions, he is a Borletti-Buitoni Fellow and a laureate of the YCAT and Concert Artists Guild Auditions. His artistic path often moves between personal and historical, exploring Eastern European, Jewish, and 20th-century sound worlds with clarity and depth. In 2024, he released his debut album *Eastern Reflections*, featuring works by Bartók, Ligeti, and Weinberg. Jonathan is the founder of the Avir Wind Quintet and has also collaborated with the Miatar

Ensemble, Israeli Contemporary Players, and Quatuor Agate, among others. Recent highlights include performances at Boulez Saal Berlin, Cologne Philharmonie, Concertgebouw Amsterdam, and St Martin-in-the-Fields, alongside appearances at major festivals across Europe, Australia, and South America. Jonathan studied with Yevgeny Yehudin at the Buchmann-Mehta School of Music in Tel Aviv, and later with François Benda at the Music Academy in Basel, where he is now completing a 'Master soloist' degree.

Leo Appel, *violin*, is the winner of the Royal Philharmonic Society's Julius Isserlis Prize, the Prix de Festival Ravel, and Schiermonnikoog Festival's Audience Prize. He made his Wigmore Hall debut with countertenor Hugh Cutting in a recital broadcast live on BBC Radio 3, praised by *The Times* for its "delicious delicacy". Named the Countess of Munster Musical Trust's most outstanding string player in



2025, Leo received its Peter Cropper Award and representation through its UK-wide Recital Scheme. His performance of Berg's Violin Concerto with Sinfonieorchester Basel earned him the Musik-Akademie Basel's Best Soloist award. Baroque violin is central to Leo's work. After studying with

Amandine Beyer, he was selected as a New Ensemblist with Arcangelo under Jonathan Cohen, performing with Vilde Frang and Nicolas Altstaedt. Leo has worked with composer Brett Dean and appeared at Marlboro, Yellow Barn, and IMS Prussia Cove. As a director and arranger, Leo has led Bach's St. Matthew Passion from the violin and founded an ensemble specialising in Judeo-Spanish and Judeo-Arabic music, whose programs feature his own arrangements. A graduate of St John's College, Cambridge, Leo studied with David Takeno before completing a Soloist Master's degree at Musik-Akademie Basel with Barbara Doll.



Alex Redington, violin, was the first violinist and a founding member of the celebrated Doric String Quartet for 27 years, having formed the group at the age of 15. He has also performed extensively as a recitalist and concerto soloist, including with the Vienna Symphony and BBC Symphony Orchestra under conductors such as John Adams and Edward Gardner. Alex has toured extensively through Europe, Japan, Australia, and the USA and performed at many of the world's leading venues, including the Amsterdam Concertgebouw, Berlin Konzerthaus, Carnegie Hall, Vienna Konzerthaus, Suntory Hall in Tokyo, and

Wigmore Hall. His passion for chamber music has led to collaborations with Benjamin Grosvenor, Jonathan Biss, Pieter Wispelwey, Alexander Melnikov, Marc-André Hamelin, Mark Padmore, Ian Bostridge, and Elisabeth Leonskaja, among others. Three of his recordings with the Doric Quartet have been nominated for a Gramophone Award. Alongside his performing career, Alex is a committed teacher, holding faculty positions at the Royal Academy of Music and the University of Cambridge and serving as Head of Strings at the Purcell School. He plays on a Paolo Castello violin made in Genoa circa 1780.

Samuel Rosenthal, viola, is internationally acclaimed for his generous musical spirit. He delights in sharing music with audiences of all ages and collaborating with some of today's preeminent artists. His performances are recognized for their "intimate, personal approach" (Journal of the American Viola Society) and for "clearly conveying the range of human emotions" (ClevelandClassical.com). First Prize winner at the 2025 Lionel Tertis International Viola Competition and Silver Medalist at the 2021 Primrose International Viola Competition, Rosenthal began his musical studies in Cleveland, where his passion for chamber music was ignited by formative work with the Cavani String Quartet and Cleveland Quartet violinist Peter Salaff.

He has since performed at festivals across the world, including Marlboro and the Perlman Music Program, and has collaborated with artists such as Itzhak Perlman, Steven Isserlis, Antje Weithaas, and Kirill Gerstein. Sam is a graduate of The Juilliard School, where he had the honor of studying with Heidi Castleman, Misha Amory, and Hsin-Yun Huang as a proud recipient of a Kovner Fellowship. He is currently studying at the Kronberg Academy under the tutelage of Nobuko Imai and Antoine Tamestit. These studies are funded by the Annika and Wolfgang Fink Patronage.



Elena Ariza, cello, is rapidly establishing herself as one of today's most creative and community-driven cellists. Featured on Yo-Yo Ma's Music Art Life project and NPR's From the Top, she has performed with luminaries such as Marin Alsop, Itzhak Perlman, Michael Tilson Thomas, Vivian Weilerstein, and members of the Brentano and Cassatt string quartets, and appeared at the



Marlboro, Norfolk, Ravinia, and Taos music festivals. Most recently, Elena performed Strauss's Don Quixote at Alice Tully Hall as soloist with the Juilliard Orchestra. Passionate about community activism, she has organized international relief benefit concerts and performed in hospitals and jail facilities through Project: Music Heals Us. A proud recipient of the C.V. Starr Doctoral

Fellowship at Juilliard, Elena is the 2025-27 cellist for Ensemble Connect, an entrepreneurship and teaching fellowship based at Carnegie Hall. Currently serving as Teaching Assistant to Astrid Schween at Juilliard, she previously received an Artist Diploma from Juilliard and a Bachelor of Arts in computer science from the Columbia-Juilliard Exchange Program. Her mentors include the late Joel Krosnick, Ronald Leonard, Sieun Lin, Schween, and Eric Sung. With fellow Marlboro participant Yebin Yoo and pianist Lucas Amory, she is a member of Trio Çava.

Join us for the rest of our season!

get tickets at constellationsmusic.org/upcoming
or just scan the QR code below:



Pacifica Quartet with Ellen Hwangbo

*Sunday, November 8, 2026,
3 PM at the Constellations
Music Salon*



The renowned Pacifica Quartet brings its celebrated virtuosity and intensity to Mendelssohn and Ligeti before joining pianist Ellen Hwangbo for Schumann's exhilarating Piano Quintet.



Citations: Voices Across Time

*Sunday, January 17, 2027,
3 PM at the Constellations
Music Salon*

Four extraordinary musicians - Toyin Spellman-Diaz (oboe), Anthony Manzo (bass), Ian Rosenbaum (percussion) and Andrew Rosenblum (harpsichord) - explore musical memory and reinvention in selections from the Baroque and beyond, Henri Dutilleux's remarkable *Les Citations*, and a world premiere by Constellations composer Nick Morandi.



INTERWOVEN: A Lunar New Year Celebration

*Sunday, February 8, 2027,
3 PM at the Constellations
Music Salon*

Celebrate Lunar New Year with INTERWOVEN as the koto, shamisen, and erhu meet the Western string quartet in a vibrant musical journey across cultures, traditions, and generations.

Music & Diplomacy with Pauline Yang

*Sunday, March 21, 2027,
3 PM at the Constellations
Music Salon*



Pianist and U.S. Arts Envoy Pauline Yang brings music and diplomacy together in a unique afternoon of chamber performance, storytelling, and firsthand reflections from a musical life lived across borders.



ARTEMIS: icarus Quartet Premieres Akiho

*Sunday, May 16, 2027,
3 PM at the Robert E. Parilla
Performing Arts Center*

Our season grand finale! Take an inspiring journey from ancient mythology to humanity's return to the Moon as two-piano, two-percussion icarus Quartet gives the world premiere of an electrifying new evening-length work by Grammy-nominated composer Andy Akiho, with Constellations as lead commissioner. Held at the Parilla Performing Arts Center in Rockville.

Constellations Chamber Music Parties



Come have a blast with the Constellations crew in a "judgment-free zone" for music-making! Launched in December 2024, we are continuing this new Constellations community initiative with monthly Chamber Music Parties during our regular concert season, open to everyone with a love for chamber music!

Here at Constellations, we're all about the magical ability of chamber music to bring people together. And while our main series concerts at the Constellations Music Salon bring the artistry of world-class musicians to Potomac, chamber music isn't just something you witness—it's something that musicians of all levels can partake in first-hand! Join the many Constellations staff, supporters, and friends who have kept their instruments close at hand as passionate amateurs as we make our way through readings of two (or more) masterworks every month with guided warm-ups and gentle coaching from Constellations chamber music experts.

Thanks to generous support from the **Associated Chamber Music Players** (acmp.net), all Constellations Chamber Music Parties are FREE, but registration is requested in advance for headcount purposes. Not a string player? We'll be hosting these parties regularly and will be mixing up the repertoire each time - so let us know what you play if you'd be interested in joining for future events!

No preparation is necessary and parts (and refreshments!) will be provided, but we will provide links to public-domain parts each month if you want to take a peek in advance.

NEXT EVENT:

Sun. Nov. 15, 2026, 1 PM

**Register online at
constellationsmusic.org**



Thank you to our generous supporters!

(list reflects donations since September 1, 2024)

\$5,000 or more

Ann Franke & Dan Alpert
Hae-Soon Hahn & Steve Rosenbaum
Karen Kotulis-Carter
Korean Concert Society (Jungnim & Joung Cook)
Carl & Beryl Tretter
Hyunah Yu & William Brody

\$1,000 or more

Thomas Carter
Dan Fenstermacher
Alan Michaels
Joel & Nancy Poznansky

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Andrea Ricka
Joshua & Sheryl Yu
Yuki Pearls LLC

\$500 or more

Colin Carr
Joy Chang & Christopher Sanchez
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Leslie Hsu & Rick Lenon
Eliza Jarvinen

Erica Kane
Judith Kotulis
Bruce & Lori Rosenblum
Astrid Weigert
Anonymous

\$200 or more

John Carter
Penny Carter-Lockert
Steven Chanock
Jan Chong & Glenn Donnellan
Rosalyn Doggett
Edward Fizzdale
Matthew Gillman
Ralph Hecht
Michael Hodgson
Sandra Hou
Young Hwangbo
Gilbert Kalish

Lee Rucker Keiser
Cynthia Keith
Theodora Klayman
Bunny McDonough
Adrienne & Steve Nassau
Nancy Riker
Elizabeth Rossman
Judith & Paul Silverman
Lisa & Ken Sperka
Bill Weaver
Robert Weinstock

\$100 or more

James & Louise Bugg
Klaus Enders
Allen Grunes
Albert Hunt
Richard James Price

Barry Rosenbaum
Jeff Stern
Kathe & Edwin Williamson
Elizabeth York

Constellations is grateful for further support of this season's programming from the Maryland State Arts Council and the Arts & Humanities Council of Montgomery County.



SEE UPCOMING EVENTS

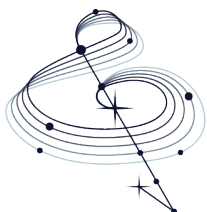


DONATE ONLINE



Save the dates!

- * Sunday, Nov. 8 at 3 PM-
Pacifica Quartet with Ellen
Hwangbo
- * Next Constellations Chamber
Music Parties:
Sunday, Nov. 15 at 1 PM and
Sunday, Dec. 13 at 1 PM
- * Sunday, Jan. 17 at 3 PM-
Citations: Voices Across Time



CONSTELLATIONS

CHAMBER CONCERTS

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