



SOUTH BAY CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY PRESENTS

# THE LYRIS QUARTET



ALYSSA PARK, VIOLIN  
SHALINI VIJAYAN, VIOLIN  
LUKE MAURER, VIOLA  
TIMOTHY LOO, CELLO

MARCH 14, 2021 | 3:00 PM PDT  
VIRTUAL CONCERT

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CLASSICAL CONCERTS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
ROBERT THIES, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



# THE LYRIS QUARTET



Alyssa Park, Violin  
Shalini Vijayan, Violin  
Luke Maurer, Viola  
Timothy Loo, Cello

String Quartet No. 2 in C Major, Op. 36.....Britten  
Ricordare.....Ennio Morricone/arr.Luke Maurer  
String Quartet No. 8 in C Minor, Op. 110.....Shostakovich



## **South Bay Chamber Music Society: About Us**

The South Bay Chamber Music Society is a nonprofit corporation founded in 1963 by renowned violinist Ruth Breytspraak to promote the appreciation of great music in the South Bay. Our aim is to present the highest quality chamber music performances featuring the finest musicians in Southern California.

For the major part of our funding, we rely on the generous donations of individuals. As our organization is run entirely by volunteers, the majority of proceeds go to support the musicians' honorariums. If you would like to contribute, please [click here](#).

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## The Lyris Quartet



The LYRIS QUARTET described as "radiant...exquisite... and powerfully engaged" by Mark Swed of the LA Times was founded in 2008. Members of the quartet have won top prizes at the Tchaikovsky International Competition and Aspen Music Festival and have collaborated with renowned artists Natalia Gutman, David Geringas, Martha Argerich, Alban Gerhardt, Boris Pergamenschikov, Guillaume Sutre, Myung-Whun Chung, and Richard Stoltzman.

Lyris has collaborated closely with composers Krystof Penderecki, Andrew Norman, Oliver Knussen, Steven Mackey, John Adams, Bruce Broughton, Peter Knell, Kurt Rohde, Paquito D'Rivera, Wadada Leo Smith, and Gerard Schurmann. They appeared alongside composer/pianist Billy Childs as part of the LA Phil's Jazz and World music series at Disney Hall and with Steve Reich at LACMA's Bing Hall.

The quartet has appeared throughout North America, Europe, and Asia in a diverse range of ensembles including Grammy nominated groups Absolute Ensemble, Southwest Chamber Music, and Orchestra Ensemble Kanazawa as well as solo and chamber appearances in various festivals such as Ravinia, Brahms Festival in Madrid, Music Academy of the West, Banff Centre for the Arts, Czech SommerFest, and Oregon Festival of American Music among others. This season, Lyris was invited by the LA Philharmonic to perform on their Green Umbrella series and on their tribute concert to composer Steven Stucky. New projects include innovative multimedia concerts with artists Andrew Burke and Ana Prvacki as well as opening for Kraftwerk and Ben Harper. They also gave the west coast premiere of David Lang's "The Difficulty of Crossing a Field". This year will mark their fifth season as the resident ensemble for the critically acclaimed series Jacaranda: Music at the Edge.

The Lyris Quartet is the founding resident ensemble of the Hear Now Music Festival which focuses on the music of living Los Angeles composers. As part of this series, they have collaborated with and premiered works by Stephen Hartke, Don Davis, Arturo Cardélu, and Veronika Krausas, among others. The Lyris Quartet has recorded for Toccata Classics, ARS and Naxos.

Visit their website at: <http://www.lyrisquartet.com/>



## The Lyris Quartet: Alyssa Park



Violinist **Alyssa Park** established an enviable international reputation at age sixteen for being the youngest prizewinner in the history of the Tchaikovsky International Competition. Ms. Park has made numerous recital and orchestral appearances since her professional debut at age eleven with the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra.

She has appeared with the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, Berlin Radio Orchestra, Frankfurt Radio Orchestra, Lisbon Symphony, Munich Philharmonic, Lausanne Chamber Orchestra, Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra, Czech Philharmonic, Austrian Radio Symphony, Barcelona Orchestra, Mitteldeutsche Rundfunk at the Leipzig Gewandhaus, and the Hamburg Philharmonic. She also performed with the orchestras of Sydney, Adelaide, and Tasmania, Australia. Other seasons included performances in Asia with the Korean Broadcasting Symphony, Japan Philharmonic, and the Singapore Symphony. She also made her debut at Italy's Ravello Festival and Holland's Royal Concertgebouw.

An avid chamber musician as well, Ms. Park has been a frequent guest at major festivals including Ludwigsburg, Schleswig-Holstein, Weilburg, Passau, Frankfurt, Montpellier, France, Brahms festival in Madrid, Beethoven Festival in Bonn, Prague Summer Festival, and Oregon Festival of American Music.



## The Lyrus Quartet: Shalini Vijayan



Violinist **Shalini Vijayan**, deemed "a vibrant violinist" by Mark Swed of the Los Angeles Times is an established performer and collaborator on both coasts. Always an advocate for modern music, Shalini was a founding member and Principal Second Violin of Kristjan Jarvi's Absolute Ensemble, having recorded several albums with them including 2001 Grammy nominee, *Absolution*. As a part of Absolute, she has performed throughout the United States and Europe, most notably in London's Barbican Hall and the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam.

A member of the New World Symphony in Miami Beach, Florida from 1998-2001, Shalini served as concertmaster for Michael Tilson Thomas, John Adams, Reinbert de Leeuw and Oliver Knussen. She was also concertmaster for the world premiere performances and recording of Steven Mackey's *Tuck and Roll* for RCA records in 2000. In Los Angeles, Shalini is featured regularly with Grammy Award winning Southwest Chamber Music and can be heard on their Grammy nominated Complete Chamber Works of Carlos Chávez, Vol. 3. Most recently, she has been a featured soloist with the Los Angeles Master Chorale in Chinariy Ung's *Spiral XII* and Tan Dun's *Water Passion*. Shalini is on the performance faculty of the Nirmita Composers Workshop in Siem Reap, Cambodia.



## The Lyris Quartet: Luke Maurer



Violist **Luke Maurer**, a native of Santa Barbara, California, began his musical studies on the violin with his father. He received his B.M. and M.M. degrees in viola performance from the University of Southern California studying with Donald McInnes and Ralph Fielding. Mr. Maurer participated in master classes with the Juilliard, Ysaye and Takacs Quartets, and attended summer festivals at the Music Academy of the West and the Banff Centre for the Arts.

He performs extensively throughout Southern California as an orchestral and chamber musician. He is a member of the Pacific Symphony and performs regularly with the Los Angeles Philharmonic. As a chamber musician, Mr. Maurer has performed in the United States, Canada, Europe, and Japan. Mr. Maurer is member of the Pacific Symphony and performs regularly with the Los Angeles Philharmonic. He has also served as guest principal violist with Orchestra Ensemble Kanazawa in Japan.



## The Lyris Quartet: Timothy Loo



Cellist **Timothy Loo** joined the Lyris Quartet in 2008. A passionate chamber musician, he founded his first quartet, the Denali Quartet, in 1999 while pursuing his Advanced Studies in Cello with Ronald Leonard at the University of Southern California. As a member of the Denali quartet, he participated in masterclasses with the Julliard, Vermeer, and Takacs Quartets. In 1999, Mr. Loo co-founded Mladi, Los Angeles' conductorless chamber orchestra. He performed with this group until 2008.

Mr. Loo has performed in the masterclasses for Yo-Yo Ma, Ronald Leonard, David Geringas, Natalia Gutman, Franz Helmerson, and Bernhard Greenhouse. Mr. Loo has won positions in both Philharmonie der Nationen in Hamburg, Germany, Sarasota Opera Orchestra, and New West Symphony.

He has also performed with the Los Angeles Opera Orchestra, New West Symphony, Pasadena Symphony, Santa Barbara Symphony, Los Angeles Master Chorale and is currently the principal cellist of the Long Beach Opera Orchestra.





## Program Notes

### String Quartet No. 2 in C Major, op. 36

Edward Benjamin Britten, Baron Britten Of Aldeburgh (1913-1976)

On November 21 and 22, 1945, the British classical music world celebrated the 250th anniversary of the legendary English baroque composer Henry Purcell's death.

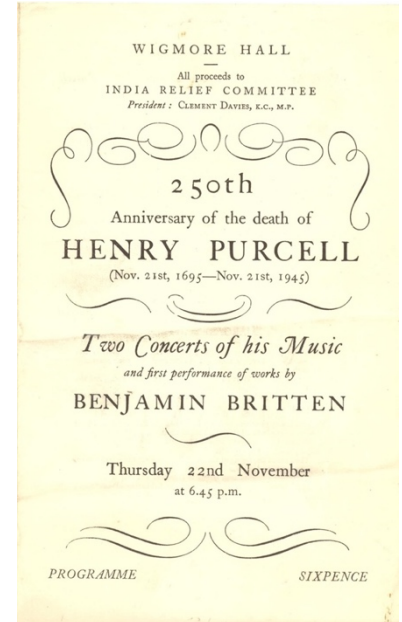
Britten greatly admired Purcell. He once described Purcell's music to have qualities of "clarity, brilliance, tenderness, and strangeness." Even though this quartet shines with Britten's unique voice, one can also detect Britten's tribute to Purcell; Britten uses Purcell's term for chaconne, "Chacony," in his third movement, the largest bulk of the quartet.

This quartet was premiered on the exact date of the Purcell anniversary, November 21, 1945, by the Zorian Quartet (Olive Zorian, violin I; Marjorie Lavers, violin II; Winifred Copperwheat, viola, and Norina Semino, cello) in the Wigmore Hall in London. The very first recording of the quartet by the same ensemble that premiered it can be heard at:

<https://youtu.be/lAVoQuKJoxs>.

Britten was undoubtedly one of the most important British composers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century; not only was he a prolific composer, he was also a well-known conductor and a pianist. His best-known works include his opera *Peter Grimes* (1945) [<https://youtu.be/HaBVsx2p8KI>], the *War Requiem* (1962) [[https://youtu.be/rsSMCq7pl\\_k](https://youtu.be/rsSMCq7pl_k)], and *The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra* (1945) [<https://youtu.be/pbVRn3q3fEw>]. He also established the renowned Aldeburgh Festival in 1948. Moreover, Britten was the very first composer to be honored with a life peerage and the title "Baron." In 2013, just like how the British classical music celebrated Purcell's life, the world commemorated Britten's life and music on what would have been his 100th birthday.

Britten noted in the program for the premiere: "[t]he sections [of the Chacony] may be said to review the theme from (a) harmonic, (b) rhythmic, (c) melodic, and (d) formal aspects."



*Second of two concerts*



*Britten holding his dog*



## Ricordare

Ennio Morricone, OMRI (1928-2020)

Arrangement by Luke Maurer

*Ricordare* is the main theme from the film *A Pure Formality*. Today, we shall remember the distinguished life of Ennio Morricone with Luke Maurer's string quartet arrangement of *Ricordare*.

Ennio Morricone is rightly considered one of the world's greatest film composers, a legend whose work has reached far beyond the scorched desert-scapes of Almeria (*A Few Dollars More*) and the tumultuous waters of Iguazu Falls (*The Mission*). Much sought after by filmmakers the world over for his matchless versatility and productivity, Morricone's innovative soundworks and truly exhaustive range of musical styles have complemented practically every conceivable movie genre there is.

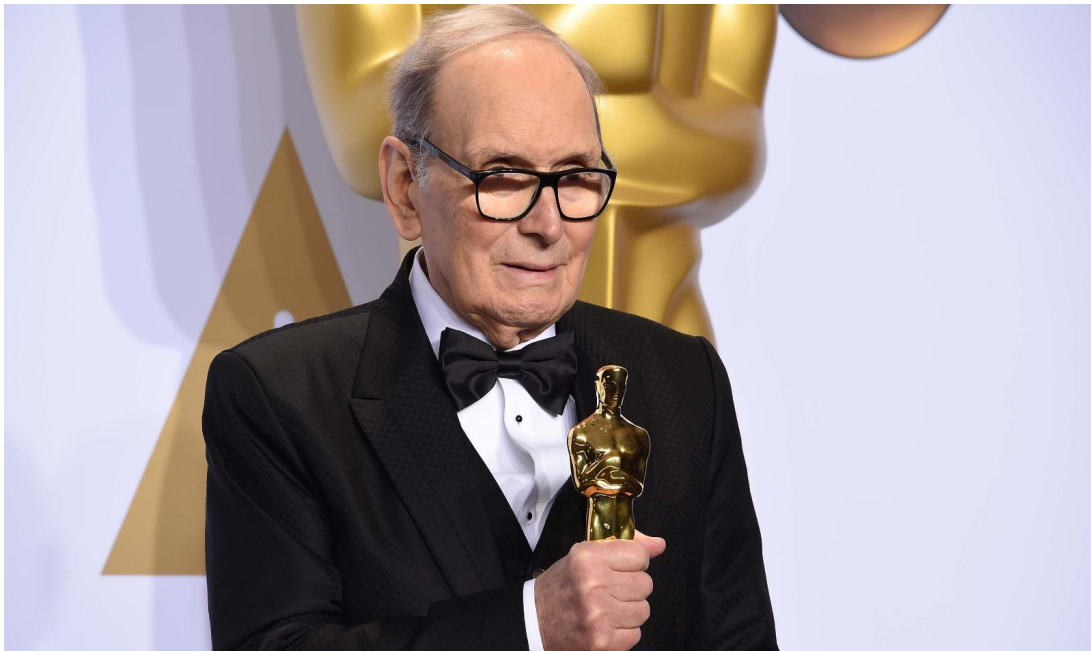


*Jelmer de Haas, 2015*

However, he has not solely restricted himself to the silver screen, having created some remarkable signature pieces for radio and theatre, together with extensive forays into both absolute and applied music. Fondly referred to as *il maestro* by his peers, Morricone is just that: a master of his craft, a true virtuoso, effortlessly interweaving contrasting styles to produce some of the most sublime music of our day.

Introduction by Giuseppe Tornatore from *The Correspondence*

From Ennio Morricone's official website: <http://www.enniomorricone.org/>



*Credit: ROBYN BECK/AFP/Getty Image*



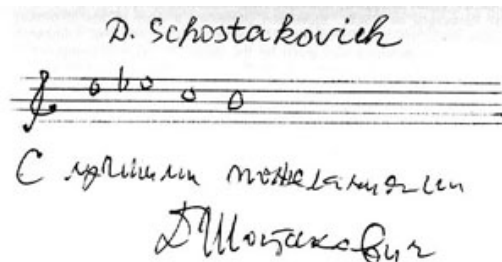
## String Quartet No. 8 in C Minor, op. 110

Dmitri Dmitriyevich Shostakovich [Дмитрий Дмитриевич Шостакович] (1906-1975)

In the summer of 1960, Shostakovich was visiting the former Communist State of East Germany. He was hired to write the score for the Soviet film “Five Days, Five Nights,” based on the 1945 destruction of the Dresden city that killed 25, 000 people. While fulfilling his contract, his muse also called for this quartet; he composed in the span of three days, from 12 to 14 of July, with the inscription of “In memory of victims of fascism and war.”

Shostakovich wrote to Glikman, "The pseudo-tragic side of this quartet is so powerful that when I was writing it, tears flowed as freely as water passed after a few beers. Since coming home, I've tried to play it through twice, but again the tears started flowing."

Referred by the USSR as the “Dresden Quartet,” each movement of this five-movement quartet follow each other seamlessly. Shostakovich plants his musical signature, which blossoms and echoes throughout the quartet. DSCH, an abbreviation of the composer’s name (Dmitri Shostakovich), becomes D-E $\flat$ -C-B in German nomenclature. This recognizable musical signature also appears in his First Symphony, Lady Macbeth of the Mtsensk District, and the First Cello Concerto. In he says his letter to Glikman 19 July 1960: “I reflected that if I die someday then it's hardly likely anyone will write a work dedicated to my memory. So I decided to write one myself. You could even write on the cover: 'Dedicated to the memory of the composer of this quartet'.”



*Shostakovich, in a letter to Derek Hulme*

The quartet premiered on October 2, 1960, at the Leningrad Glinka Concert Hall by the Beethoven Quartet (Dmitri Tsyganov, Vasili Shirinsky, Vadim Borisovsky, and Sergei Shirinsky). The autographed score is preserved at the Russian State Archive of Literature and Art (RGALI) in Moscow. The recording of the actual premiere can be heard at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YSoMVtC6wZ4>.



*Dmitri Shostakovich (left) with Benjamin Britten (right) in 1966.*

*Photograph: RIA Novosti*

- Christina Kim



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Sonata in C minor for Piano and Violin, Op. 30 no. 2.....Beethoven  
Sonata in G Major for Piano and Violin, Op 78 "Regensonate".....Brahms

