



# TAKÁCS QUARTET

UMS Digital Presentation  
Hosted on UMS.org

Edward Dusinberre / *Violin*  
Harumi Rhodes / *Violin*  
Richard O'Neill / *Viola*  
András Fejér / *Cello*

Wednesday Evening, October 21, 2020 at 7:30  
Streaming on demand through Saturday, October 24

Chautauqua Auditorium  
Boulder, Colorado

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PRESENTATION**

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# **ILENE H. FORSYTH CHAMBER ARTS ENDOWMENT FUND**

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## **EDWARD AND NATALIE SUROVELL**

This digital presentation of Takács Quartet is supported by the Ilene H. Forsyth Chamber Arts Endowment Fund, and Edward and Natalie Surovell. UMS also extends our gratitude to the University of Michigan for its partnership and support this season.

Special thanks to Dr. Kira Thurman, U-M assistant professor of Germanic languages and literatures and assistant professor of history; and Harumi Rhodes for their pre-concert conversation surrounding this digital presentation.

Special thanks to Joel Howell and the U-M Medical Arts Program for their participation in an event surrounding this digital presentation.

Takács Quartet appears by arrangement with Seldy Cramer Artists and records for Hyperion and Decca/London Records.

The Takács Quartet is Quartet-in-Residence at the University of Colorado in Boulder and are Associate Artists at Wigmore Hall, London.

## PROGRAM

*Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart*

**String Quartet No. 15 in D Minor, K. 421** (excerpt)

I. Allegro moderato

*Samuel Coleridge-Taylor*

**Five Fantasiestücke, Op. 5** (excerpts)

I. Prelude: Allegro ma non troppo

III. Humoresque: Presto

*Florence Price*

**String Quartet No. 2 in a minor** (excerpt)

II. Andante cantabile

*Béla Bartók*

**String Quartet No. 1, Sz. 40, Op. 7** (excerpt)

III. Introduzione — Allegro vivace

*Claude Debussy*

**String Quartet in g minor** (excerpts)

III. Andantino, doucement expressif

IV. Très modéré — En animant peu à peu — Très mouvementé et avec passion

*Program commentary will be delivered from the stage by members of the Takács Quartet as part of this presentation.*

## ARTISTS

The **Takács Quartet**, now entering its 46th season, is renowned for the vitality of its interpretations. *The Guardian* recently commented: “What endures about the Takács Quartet, year after year, is how equally the four players carry the music.” *BBC Music Magazine* described their recent Dohnányi recording with pianist Marc André Hamelin as “totally compelling, encapsulating a vast array of colors and textures.” Based in Boulder at the University of Colorado, the Quartet performs 80 concerts a year worldwide.

In June 2020 the Takács Quartet was featured in the BBC television series *Being Beethoven*. The ensemble also released a recording for Hyperion of piano quintets by Amy Beach and Elgar, a fitting way to celebrate Geri Walther’s 15 years as the Takács’ violist before her retirement from the group. The members of the quartet welcome Richard O’Neill as their new violist this past June and are looking forward to many exciting projects during their first season together. The group will make two recordings for Hyperion, one featuring the last quartets of Haydn, the other pairing two masterpieces from the first decade of the 20th century: Bartók’s Quartet No. 1 and Alban Berg’s Opus 3. The group continues their role as Associate Artists at London’s Wigmore Hall, performing two concerts there in November and two in May, the latter including Schubert’s Quintet D. 956 with cellist Adrian Brendel. Other European venues include Vienna, Luxembourg, the Bath Mozartfest, Newcastle, Manchester, and Madrid. In August 2021, the quartet will embark on a month-long tour of Australia and South Korea. The Takács performs extensively throughout North America.

In 2014 the Takács became the first string quartet to be awarded the Wigmore Hall Medal. The Medal, inaugurated in 2007, recognizes major international artists who have a strong association with the Hall. In 2012, *Gramophone* announced that the Takács was the only string quartet to be inducted into its first Hall of Fame, along with such legendary artists as Jascha Heifetz, Leonard Bernstein, and Dame Janet Baker. The ensemble also won the 2011 Award for Chamber Music and Song presented by the Royal Philharmonic Society in London.

The Takács Quartet performed Philip Roth’s *Everyman* program with Meryl Streep at Princeton in 2014, and again with her at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto in 2015. They have toured 14 cities with the poet Robert Pinsky, collaborate regularly with the Hungarian Folk group Muzsikás, and in 2010 they collaborated with the Colorado Shakespeare Festival and David Lawrence Morse on a drama project that explored the composition of Beethoven’s last quartets. Aspects of the quartet’s interests and history are explored in Edward Dusinberre’s book, *Beethoven for a Later Age: The Journey of a String Quartet*, which takes the reader inside the life of a string quartet, melding music history and memoir as it explores the circumstances surrounding the composition of Beethoven’s quartets.

The Takács records for Hyperion Records, and their releases for that label include string quartets by Haydn, Schubert, Janáček, Smetana, Debussy and Britten, as well as piano quintets by César Franck and Shostakovich (with Marc-André Hamelin), and viola quintets by Brahms (with Lawrence Potwer). For their recordings on the Decca/London label, the Quartet

has won three Gramophone Awards, a Grammy Award, three Japanese Record Academy Awards, “Disc of the Year” at the inaugural BBC Music Magazine Awards, and “Ensemble Album of the Year” at the Classical Brits.

The members of the Takács Quartet are Christoffersen Faculty Fellows at the University of Colorado Boulder. The Quartet has helped to develop a string program with a special emphasis on chamber music, where students work in a nurturing environment designed to help them develop their artistry.

The Takács Quartet was formed in 1975 at the Franz Liszt Academy in Budapest by Gabor Takács-Nagy, Károly Schranz, Gabor Ormai and András Fejér, while all four were students. It first received international attention in 1977, winning First Prize and the Critics’ Prize at the International String Quartet Competition in Evian, France. In 2001 the members of the the Takács Quartet were awarded the Order of Merit of the Knight’s Cross of the Republic of Hungary, and in March 2011 the Order of Merit Commander’s Cross by the President of the Republic of Hungary.

For further information, please visit [www.takacsquartet.com](http://www.takacsquartet.com).

## **UMS ARCHIVES**

This digital presentation marks the Takács Quartet’s 26th performance under UMS auspices. The ensemble made its UMS debut in February 1984 at Rackham Auditorium, and most recently appeared under UMS auspices in April 2019. UMS welcomes violist **Richard O’Neill** as he makes his UMS debut with the Takács Quartet.