



# THALEA STRING QUARTET

[www.thaleastringquartet.com](http://www.thaleastringquartet.com)

[thaleasq@gmail.com](mailto:thaleasq@gmail.com)

1.630.302.6442

*“Thalea never failed to deliver a stirring performance”* - Calgary Herald

The Thalea String Quartet is dedicated to bringing timeless music to audiences from all walks of life. From living rooms to concert stages around the world, the Thalea String Quartet aims to connect with audiences on a musical, emotional and personal level, from first time listeners to string quartet aficionados. They are devoted to building a new and diverse audience for chamber music through innovative programming and community engagement.

Formed in 2014 at the Zephyr International Chamber Music Festival in Courmayeur, Italy, the Thalea String Quartet has been praised for their “vibrant performance” and “sincere expressivity” (SF Classical Voice). The quartet has performed recitals in Italy, France, the United States and Canada and was appointed as the first quartet-in-residence at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music from 2015-17. They were named one of the “Top 10 Bay Area Quartets You Should Know” by [CultureTrip.com](http://CultureTrip.com) and were the recipients of the 2016 Barbara Fritz Chamber Music Award from the Berkeley Piano Club. They made their debut at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC in early 2016.

The Thalea String Quartet prides itself on the diversity of its collaborations. They have performed Mendelssohn’s Octet in its original manuscript form with the award-winning Borromeo Quartet and shared the stage with Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Caroline Shaw in performances of works for voice and string quartet. They have performed alongside Geoff Nuttall of the St. Lawrence String Quartet, violist Jodi Levitz and composer Mason Bates. They were invited to participate in the 2017 KRONOS Festival, where they performed works from the Kronos Quartet’s “50 for the Future” Project. Committed to collaborating with artists of all backgrounds, the Thalea String Quartet recently collaborated with San Francisco-based dance theatre company the Joe Goode Performance Group at the Yerba Buena Center and appeared with acclaimed Canadian band BADBADNOTGOOD at the iconic Massey Hall.

The Thalea Quartet has been fortunate to have been mentored by members of the Juilliard, Kronos, Takács, Pacifica and Danish String Quartets. During their multiple residencies at the Banff Centre they worked with Gilbert Kalish, Mark Steinberg, Alasdair Tait and the JACK and Miró Quartets.

The members of the Thalea String Quartet are dedicated educators and bring their commitment to teaching and outreach to their frequent educational and community performances. They have performed educational concerts to students of all ages and regularly perform at care facilities across San Francisco.

“Thalea never failed to deliver a stirring performance.”

– *CALGARY HERALD*

“... the quartet ... has the potential to be one of the finest of its generation.”

– *CALGARY HERALD*

“... an energetic and strongly characterized performance ...”

– *SAN FRANCISCO CLASSICAL VOICE*

“Thalea served up a highly expressive evocation of its “sense of the moment,” which is almost haiku-like in nature.”

– *EXAMINER.COM*

“Their Beethoven was replete with phrased nuance from first to last cadence, and spiky rhythmic energy saturated by the performance virtues of youthful exuberance, yet with carefully adjusted tone at remote key modulations.”

– *CALGARY HERALD*

“Thalea never lacks in freshness of ideas – and they sought ways to shape their interpretive thinking, showing promise in how to martial their overall plan ... Thalea Quartet was in pervasive command ...

– *CALGARY HERALD*

“They showed a keen sense in particular of the polytonal passages found in the third movement, eloquently intoned by second violinist Kumiko Sakamoto whose contrasting melody line blended perfectly with the fine work in lower strings, who played in a contrapuntally contrasting, completely different key.

The last movement showed an uncanny comprehension for the traditional rondo’s semi-lighthearted character, with full kudos to violist Luis Bellorin who displayed exemplary tone throughout.”

— *CALGARY HERALD*