

# Cascade Quartet

THE GREAT FALLS SYMPHONY'S  
RESIDENT STRING QUARTET



## Website

[cascadequartet.org](http://cascadequartet.org)

## Social Media

[facebook.com/cascadequartet](https://facebook.com/cascadequartet)  
[twitter.com/cascadequartet](https://twitter.com/cascadequartet)  
[instagram.com/cascadequartet](https://instagram.com/cascadequartet)

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## SHORT BIOGRAPHY

With its depth of sound, insightful interpretations, and genre-bending performances, the Cascade Quartet has enriched communities across Montana and the Northwest for over three decades. They are praised for their cross-discipline collaborations and have worked closely with multi-media artists, dancers, choirs, world percussionists and jazz artists. Noted past collaborations include Yo Yo Ma, the Ying Quartet, and Grammy nominee Philip Aaberg.

The Cascade Quartet is the resident string quartet of the Great Falls Symphony and its personnel serve as principal players in the orchestra. Each quartet member is a strong advocate for music education and outreach. They tour extensively throughout the year providing concerts, multi-day residencies and interactive school activities for communities large and small. The Cascade Quartet includes violinists Mary Papoulis and Megan Karls, violist Alyssa Roggow, and cellist Thaddeus Suits.

## ACCLAIM FOR THE CASCADE QUARTET

I wanted to personally thank you for bringing the Cascade Quartet to Glasgow this past weekend. They are not only outstanding performers and music ambassadors; they offer first-rate string instruction as well.

*Debra Steffani-Irving, Montana Performing Arts Consortium, Glasgow, MT*

The opportunity to have the Cascade Quartet present live string instrument music in Hobson was wonderful. Special funding of the Symphony made it possible for the Judith Arts Society to afford the performance.

*Pat Hitch, Judith Arts Society, Hobson, Montana*

There are two or three school shows that stand out in my mind as being the most ravenously received the by kids and the Cascade Quartet was one of those. The other thing I can tell you about their evening program is that they were absolutely exceptional and what happened is that the crowd absolutely demanded an encore.

*Chas Cantlon, Folkshop Productions, Lake County, Montana*

# ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

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Mary Papoulis, violin

After 28 years in the Cascade Quartet, **Mary Papoulis** is excited to share her favorite concerto: Lalo's *Symphonie Espagnole*, with her Great Falls audience on January 19, 2019. Prior concerto appearances have include Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in E Minor; Bach's Concerto for Two Violins in D Minor and Concerto for Oboe and Violin in C Minor; Haydn's Sinfonia Concertante in B-flat Major; Vivaldi's Concerto for Violin and Cello in B-flat Major, as well as her favorites Massenet's "Méditation" from *Thaïs*, Saint-Saëns *Dance Macabre*, Bukvich's *Hanukkah Dance*, and Phil Aaberg's Improvisations in D Minor. She has toured with the String Orchestra of the Rockies and performed with the Assisi Performing Arts Festival in Italy, Big Sky Classical Music Festival, Amadeus Festival, Big Sky Alive contemporary music festival, and as a soloist with Solero Flamenco in the Houston Spanish & Flamenco Festival. Mary's musical performances have taken her to China, Italy, Norway, and Cambridge, England. She has taught at the Olympic Music Festival in Washington, the Summer Youth Orchestra Workshop in Bozeman, and workshops with the Ying Quartet. Mary holds a DMA from SUNY Stony Brook, MM from Eastman and BM from Indiana University. She studied baroque violin with Stanley Riche and jazz violin with the Turtle Island String Quartet. In her spare time, Mary plays folk, blues, and gypsy music with guitarist Rich Matoon, and alto saxophone in John Gemberling's Jazz Band. She is also a certified instructor of Nia Technique, a sensory-based movement practice that leads to health, wellness and fitness.



Megan Karls, violin

**Megan Karls** delights in her seventh season with the Cascade Quartet and as Principal Second Violin of the Great Falls Symphony. She also enjoys performing across the state of Montana with the String Orchestra of the Rockies, Festival Amadeus, Yellowstone Chamber Players, Billings Symphony, and occasionally as concertmaster with the Bozeman Symphony and Intermountain Opera. Before moving to Montana, Megan previously held orchestral positions across the US, including the Wichita, KS, Green Bay, WI, Des Moines, IA symphonies. Megan is a founding member of the contemporary music ensemble, the Enid Trio. The Enids have commissioned more than 25 new works for their unique instrumentation (violin, viola and bassoon) and have been guest artists and clinicians at Oberlin Conservatory, Lawrence University, Northern Illinois University, Wichita State University, Roundtop, Society for Electroacoustic Music in the US, and various venues across America. Megan spends her summers on the faculty at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp (MI), Superior String Alliance camp (MI), and Camp Festival Amadeus (MT), as well as performing with the Pine Mountain Music Festival (MI) and Assisi Performing Arts (Italy). She holds degrees with honors from Lawrence University and the University of Iowa in both political science and music. When she's not busy playing or teaching the violin, Megan loves gardening, watching Green Bay Packer football, and spending time with her husband, David.



Alyssa Roggow, viola

**Alyssa Roggow** is thrilled to join the Cascade Quartet and Great Falls Symphony Orchestra this season. Praised by the Boston Musical Intelligencer as a violist with "sparkle and excellent balance," Alyssa enjoys a diverse career as a chamber musician and educator. In 2012, she toured the Midwest with the Quasari String Quartet, and has since performed in ensembles throughout New England, Canada, and Austria. In 2016, she trained in Visual Thinking Strategies, an outreach tool developed at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, and is currently developing a series of concerts and workshops that bring chamber music and visual arts together with lively audience engagement. An avid proponent of contemporary music, Alyssa regularly appears with Slee Sinfonietta at the June in Buffalo Festival, and has also performed at the New York City Electroacoustic Music Festival with Switch~Ensemble, the Red Note New Music Festival with the Quasari Quartet, and the Breaking-the-Fourth-Wall Festival Marathon with the Craig Michael Davis Ensemble. She has worked with composers Beat Furrer, Chaya Czernowin, Hilda Paredes, and Rand Steiger. A native of Iowa, Alyssa received performance degrees from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the Eastman School of Music, with further string quartet studies at Indiana University. Her primary mentor is Masumi Per Rostad. She comes to Great Falls from Rochester, NY, and in her spare time writes poetry, bakes crackers, and finds excuses to be outside.



Thad Suits, cello

**Thaddeus Suits** started his career as Assistant Principal Cellist of the Puerto Rico Symphony. He left the island to take a job in Minnesota as cellist in the Rochester String Quartet and has been playing chamber music ever since, joining the Cascade Quartet in 1989. Thad attended Washington University in his home town of St. Louis, studying under Yuan Tung, and continued his studies at London's Guildhall School of Music with William Pleeth, and at the Geneva Conservatory, where he earned a performance certificate under Pierre Fournier. He is a past recipient of the Montana Arts Council's Individual Artist Fellowship and was recently the featured guest on Philip Aaberg's popular program on Yellowstone Public Radio, "Of the West." Thad can be heard in recital with his wife, pianist Su Suits, with whom he has released two CDs. Although music has been his chief focus practically since starting the cello at age nine, Thad is also an ardent student of languages and has taught both Arabic and Spanish classes at MSU-Great Falls.



# SAMPLE PROGRAM OFFERINGS

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The Cascade Quartet creates and performs new programs several times each season! Learn more about new concert offerings at [CASCADEQUARTET.ORG](http://CASCADEQUARTET.ORG).



## **SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST**

Franz Joseph Haydn — Seven Last Words of Our Savior on the Cross, Op. 51  
(transcription of work written for orchestra), Hob. No. III:50–56

Haydn's *Seven Last Words of Christ* is a complete concert program in and of itself. There's a sweeping range of emotions in this passion story of Jesus Christ. Haydn tenderly portrays weeping to accompany "Why hast thou forsaken me?" and you'll hear resignation and acceptance with "It is finished." In the Cascade Quartet's 2018-2019 performance of this work, a narrator reads from sacred and secular texts between movements, building tension that leads to the absolutely earth-shattering final section after the crucifixion.

## **DELICIOUS DEBUSSY**

Joseph Haydn — String Quartet No. 5, Op.64 "The Lark"  
Garth Knox — Dimensions  
Claude Debussy — String Quartet in G Minor

Each piece on this program features something that was new or unexpected for the string quartet ensemble at the time of its writing. Haydn's Quartet in D Major, Op. 64 was nicknamed *The Lark* for the "warbling" opening melody in the first movement, but it also surprised audiences with a minuet which sounds more like a peasant-dance and a finale reminiscent of a sailor's dance. *Dimensions*, by Irish composer and violist Garth Knox, requires the musicians to use new techniques and create sounds not typically expected of stringed instruments. Violinist, Mary Papoulis explains, "It gives me a taste of being in a 21st century rock band, yet even more powerful when contrasted with our favorite classics of Debussy and Haydn." Of Debussy's String Quartet in G Minor, cellist Thad Suits writes "...the quartet is unlike anything that came before it. Debussy incorporates novel string colors whose effects range from the delicate to the ecstatic, and he uses exotic melodies and opulent harmonies that were radical for their time."

## **BIG BEETHOVEN**

Johann Sebastian Bach — Selections from the Art of the Fugue  
John Cage — selections from Apartment House 1776  
Ludwig van Beethoven — String Quartet No.12, Op.127

From the foundation of one musical genius to another, spanning the musical styles of almost three centuries, the Cascade Quartet dives into the ultimate repertoire for string quartet, in "Big Beethoven." The program opens with Bach's *Art of the Fugue*, a work written in the 1740's demonstrating the incredible mastery of Bach's craftsmanship in counterpoint. In their 2016 performance of this program, the quartet performed sections of Bach's work surrounding the audience from all corners of the room to bring out the awareness of the individual parts and allow the audience to experience the music from "inside the Quartet." This mature baroque master work combined with John Cage's "Harmonies" gives a twentieth century spin on 18th century hymn tunes in an almost medieval sparseness of style. The performance surrounding the audience will set the stage for an intimate look into the color of the string quartet before diving into Beethoven's Op. 127, the first of what is considered Beethoven's Late Quartets—written with a certain acceptance of his deafness, and a profound reflection on life, death and spirituality for the composer.

# OUTREACH OFFERINGS

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In addition to their wide variety of repertoire, the Cascade Quartet has several outreach programs they will tailor to fit the needs of your community. For the very young, the young-at-heart, and everyone in between, the quartet offers these programs and more to enrich and excite audiences across the Northwest.



## Chamber Fun 101

A presentation for families that introduces the string quartet, the physics of sounds and the instruments, and great composers throughout history. This program is geared toward very young audience members age 1 through 6.

## Creativity Calling

This show is designed for pre-school children and includes an interactive short story with music accompaniment, dance and movement, creating art, and an instrument petting zoo.

## Musical Teamwork

This program was developed with students in grades 3-4 in mind. It is all about creativity. It takes a "sporting" look at what goes into creating and performing music, coming to the conclusion that the best music-making happens when everyone plays on the same "team."

## Music Has It All

Geared toward grades 3-7, this program teaches how music is related to other major subjects students study in school: math, science, art, and (of course) recess!

## Drawing Sound

This experience is directed to visual art classrooms with detailed exploration of the relationship between acoustic and visual media. Students create an art project as listen to the quartet perform.

## The Sound Palette of the String Quartet

This is a great show for high school or college students with a musical background. Showcasing the variety and breadth of music from string instruments, the quartet takes the audience on a journey, discovering new sounds and rediscovering familiar sounds.

The quartet also delights in giving workshops on improvisation, composition, chamber music, and solo masterclasses for aspiring musicians. In recent years the Cascade Quartet has been invited to the University of Missouri—Kansas City, University of Idaho, Montana State University and numerous secondary schools across the West to share their expertise. We hope your community will be next!