



Biography

Hailed by The New York Times as "stunning" and "musicians worth keeping an eye on," the Vinca Quartet is a charismatic young string quartet committed to forging bonds between audiences and performers by sharing their own love of chamber music through the highest caliber performances. The Vincas inspire joy and passion in seasoned chamber music lovers and novices alike through their vibrant, thoughtful presentations as they seek to build relationships and community through the power of live chamber music.

First Place winners in the 2008 International Chamber Music Ensemble Competition, the Vincas were also recipients of a special award at the Premio Paolo Borciani International Quartet Competition in Reggio Emilia, Italy (2008) which enabled them to travel to Germany to study with the Artemis Quartet and perform on German national radio. The Vincas are also prizewinners in the Plowman Chamber Music Competition (2006) and the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition (2005), and finalists in the Chesapeake International Chamber Music Competition (2006).

The quartet has performed in major concert halls including Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, Sprague Memorial Hall at Yale University, Aspen's Harris Hall, Vail's Vilar Arts Center at Beaver Creek, and at the Weikersheim Castle in Germany. They have performed twice on the Takács Quartet Series in Boulder, CO, once in a program of their own and once performing the Mendelssohn Octet alongside the Takács.

The Vinca Quartet has worked with many prominent quartets in workshops and festivals both nationally and internationally. As the graduate quartet-in-residence at the University of Colorado at Boulder, they were assistants and protégés of the Takács Quartet for three years. Additionally, they have worked closely with the Vogler, Artemis, Colorado, Emerson, Juilliard, and Muir Quartets. Recent festival appearances have included Carnegie Hall Professional Training Workshops, The International Musician's Seminar at Prussia Cove in Cornwall, England, the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, the Juilliard Quartet Seminar, the Banff Centre Chamber Music Festival, Soundfest Chamber Music Festival on Cape Cod, and the Deer Valley Music Festival's Emerging Quartets and Composers Seminar.

Strongly committed to inspiring new audiences and strengthening communities through their own passion and dedication to chamber music, the Vincas have helped launch concert series catering to communities overlooked by major classical groups. They also helped to establish Music Haven in 2007-2008, a tuition-free strings and mentorship program devoted to transforming the lives of urban youth and their families in New Haven, CT through music. As part of their ongoing educational mission, the Vinca Quartet offers lectures, performances, and interactive workshops for audiences of all ages. Through residencies with the Aspen Music Festival, the Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival, and the Peaks to Plains Suzuki Institute, the quartet has coached many young musicians and frequently works with students in public schools and string programs throughout the United States.

For the 2009-2010 season, the Vincas will be performing and teaching across the continental US, Canada and Europe. As part of their ongoing educational mission, they are working with the school systems in Hood River, Oregon and White Salmon, Washington, to create the Gorgeous Sounds Residency- a program designed to bring music into a largely agriculturally-based community. Other collaborative work this season includes exploring parallels between music and science with the Hertz Foundation, an organization aimed at nurturing remarkable applied scientists and engineers who show the most promise to change the world.