One of the most unique and sought-after chamber ensembles on the concert stage today, the **Carpe Diem String Quartet** is a boundary-breaking ensemble that has earned widespread critical acclaim. Carpe Diem defies easy classification with programming that includes classical, tango, folk music from various cultures, pop, rock, and jazz-inspired music. The Quartet appears regularly on traditional concert series stages like Carnegie Hall in New York City, Jordan Hall in Boston, The National Gallery of Art and the Freer Gallery in Washington DC, The Accademia Chigiana in Siena, Suntory Hall in Tokyo, National Library Concert Hall in Beijing, and The BinHai Performing Arts Center in Tianjin, as well as in unconventional venues like Poisson Rouge in NYC, the Bach Dancing and Dynamite Society of Half-Moon Bay, CA, and the Mug & Brush in Columbus, OH.

*“The Carpe Diem players turned in a fiery and flexible performance that was astonishingly free…”* (The New York Times)

*“With enthrallingly flawless execution and miraculous synchronicity, the Carpe Diem String Quartet wowed their New York audience on Saturday night at Carnegie’s Weill Recital Hall… With a flair for the romantic and technical expertise to spare, the ensemble is a perfectly structured, dexterously concentrated success...This ensemble must be held in only the highest and most reverent esteem…”* (New York Theatre Guide)

*“…Until Saturday evening, I had never heard a performance by one of these multilingual quartets where the classical repertoire was delivered at a level that was competitive with the finest traditional groups. But the Carpe Diem Quartet, appearing at the Dumbarton Church, was extraordinary. Among these contemporary quartets who speak in different tongues, the Carpe Diem is the best one out there."*(The Washington Post, Washington, DC)

*“One would have to search long and hard to find a more charming and enjoyable chamber music concert . . . A number of elements contributed to this end result, not the least of which the superb musicianship of the four musicians - Carpe Diem is a seriously talented quartet in the most traditional definition.”*(Herald-Tribune, Sarasota, FL)

Carpe Diem’s CD ***“Montana,”*** by composer (and quartet member) Korine Fujiwara, received this rave review in Strings Magazine: Carpe Diem “must be one of the most adventurous groups of its kind.” Carpe Diem has recorded the complete cycle of the nine string quartets of Sergei Taneyev for Naxos, as well as the complete string quartets of Jonathan Leshnoff, Reza Vali’s *The Book of Calligraphy,* two CDs with singer/guitarist Willy Porter, *Anansi and the Sky God* with John Gunther, saxophone, the complete string quartets of Richard Jordan Smoot*, Quintets No. 1 and 2 for Mandolin and String Quartet* by mandolinist Jeff Midkiff, Bruce Wolosoff’s *Songs without Words,* and *Dances of the Yogurt Maker,* *Music for String Quartet and Turkish Folk Percussion* byErberk Eryilmaz. The CDs of Jeff Midkiff and Erberk Eryilmaz were both awarded the Gold Prize at the Global Music Awards, and Eryilmaz’s CD *Dances of the Yogurt Maker* was included in Judith Sherman’s Grammy Award win for Producer of the Year.

Carpe Diem collaborates with artists from many different genres, including: American singer/songwriter/ guitarist Willy Porter, Latin Grammy winner/bandoneón player Raul Juarena, klezmer clarinetist David Krakauer, cellist Yo Yo Ma, Native American flutist Leon Littlebird, banjo virtuoso Jayme Stone, Shannon Heaton, Celtic flautist, mandolinist Jeff Midkiff, trumpeter Tom Battenberg, classical guitarist Nicolo Spera, Chinese pipa player Yihan Chen, the swing band Whirlybirds, and world master of the Persian santoor Dariush Saghafi. In 2021, Carpe Diem collaborated with illustrator and animator Janet Antich to produce “An American Story,” a free interactive film featuring original music composed by each quartet member that celebrates America’s immigrant roots.

Devoted to expanding the reach and impact of community engagement, Carpe Diem has been awarded six transformative outreach grants from the PNC Foundation ArtsAlive Awards. The Quartet’s outreach performances incorporate diverse and eclectic repertoire tailored to specific audience demographics; use cameras, video, and artistic contributions to enrich presentations visually; rely on communication from the stage to introduce music and engage the audience; and explore fun, imaginative, and thought provoking themes to connect audiences to chamber music. These carefully crafted performances have allowed the Quartet to reach underserved audiences including The Apache Nation, Ohio Women’s Reformatory residents, and families at the Columbus Museum of Art.

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