

# ENSEMBLE EQ QUARTERLY

PCMA  
PACIFIC CHAMBER MUSIC ACADEMY

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF PACIFIC CHAMBER MUSIC ACADEMY



**The PCMA String Quartet will be making its debut and hosting the Beethoven Op. 18 String Quartet Workshop in July**

# MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER



Welcome to our first edition of the PCMA Newsletter, *Ensemble Quarterly*. The idea of publishing a newsletter began over a year ago, and the plan was to put on hold partly due to the arrival of the pandemic. Now that we have adapted to our new normal, one of PCMA's main focus is on our new marketing initiative as we strive to reach new audiences and supporters via various channels, including a quarterly publication of a newsletter.

I am also thrilled to announce the formation of PCMA String Quartet with our distinguished faculty members David Lakirovich, Katrina Chitty, Eva Ribchinsky and Artistic Director Ken Lin. These four superb musicians bring together many years of chamber music performance experience, which they are ready to share with our students and audiences.

While I am excited to bring you this inaugural issue, I would like also to express my thank you to Lynn Sheng, Kailey So, and Bill Montgomery, for their support in launching *Ensemble Quarterly*.

Dr. Ronald Sat  
PCMA Founder & President



from left to right: Katrina Chitty, Ken Lin, Eva Ribchinsky, David Lakirovich

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# BEETHOVEN OP. 18 STRING QUARTET WORKSHOP



PCMA salutes the 250th anniversary of one of the greatest composers of all time by launching a new string quartet workshop focusing on Beethoven's Op. 18 quartets. Conducted by the PCMA String Quartet, this intensive 6-day workshop consists of daily coachings and quartet reading sessions, additional activities including master-classes, seminars, lectures, outreach\* and final performance.

Advanced string students will be working closely with the faculty to acquire a deep understanding of Beethoven's style of string quartet writing, as well as having the opportunity to learn and fine tune the craft of string quartet playing. Each student ensemble is expected to perform one of the Beethoven Op. 18 quartets in its entirety at the final concert.

For more information about the workshop, please visit:  
[www.pacificchambermusic.org/quartet-workshop](http://www.pacificchambermusic.org/quartet-workshop)

In his early years Beethoven seems to have regarded the string-quartet genre with some apprehension, since under Haydn and Mozart it had become the most elevated and sophisticated type of chamber music. Thus he composed string trios (op. 9), quintets (op. 4 & 5), and exercises for string quartet before finally embarking on a set of six actual string quartets (op. 18) in 1798 at the age of 28. A momentous project in his early career for several reasons, they are thought to demonstrate his total mastery of the classical string quartet as developed by Haydn and Mozart.

\*Outreach pending on the latest Covid-19 restrictions

## 5TH ANNUAL SUMMER CAMP

PCMA began its first program back in 2017 as a half-day summer camp. Since then, it has become our signature program as it offers students the opportunity to learn and excel in a fun and inspiring environment. This year, we have expanded the program to two groups, junior and senior camps, and it will take place at the British Columbia Conservatory of Music in Burnaby.

During the six-day program, each student will be assigned to two chamber ensemble, at least one of which will be a trio or quartet. All students will participate in coachings, workshops, group activities,

masterclasses, community outreach\*, and Final Gala Concert. Pianists will have the opportunity to participate in piano ensembles while string players rehearse in chamber orchestra.

PCMA will also be presenting 4Cs awards to two outstanding students who best demonstrates our four core values of cultivation, collaboration, commitment, and creativity. Vancouver Symphony Orchestra Assistant Concertmaster and PCMA faculty David Lakirovich will also be conducting a masterclass for the senior camp.



**"My experience at this camp was amazing! Since this was my first time playing chamber music, I learned a lot of new things related to playing as a group. It was a pleasure working with other musicians and putting together a piece in just a few days. It's always great making new friends, and I'll definitely be back next year for a whole new experience."**

Jade - pianist, RCM ARCT

\*Outreach pending on the latest Covid-19 restrictions



**I**t didn't feel like it was so long ago when Lyla Lee first joined PCMA in our inaugural summer camp in 2017. Back then she just graduated from high school and was entering UBC School of Music in cello performance. While Lyla has blossomed into a mature and wonderful cellist in the last few years, she has maintained her ties with PCMA, assisting in various performances such as chamber orchestra and our annual fundraising concert. She is graduating this spring with Bachelor of Music and plans to continue her graduate studies this fall with Eric Wilson at the UBC School of Music.

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT LYLA LEE

**Q: What was your most memorable experience in our inaugural summer camp?**

A: My most memorable experience was when I first joined the camp in 2017. It was my first time being involved in intense chamber program and it was a great experience for me, getting chances to perform and learn how to listen to others in chamber music settings.

**Q: What made you return the following year?**

A: I always love how PCMA is very accessible in lower mainland and I wanted to spend my summer break wisely, learning more chamber music and building more ensemble experiences with the amazing faculty and students. Also, I had a fantastic experience in my first year, which influenced my decision as well.

**Q: Would you recommend PCMA to other students and why?**

A: I would absolutely recommend PCMA to other students, especially to local students, because you have the opportunities to meet and learn from excellent faculty members who are very active in the Vancouver music scene. Also, it is great that we have such an amazing program and chamber experience within the lower mainland.

**Q: How do you view chamber music in your overall musical development?**

A: By learning chamber music, I have developed my musical knowledge through learning the other instruments' parts and how each part has a crucial role in creating one whole sound. I believe that the more you are involved and experienced in chamber music, the better you will be in orchestral and even solo pieces.

## FALL/WINTER SESSION REVIEW

**O**ur 2020 Fall Session was interrupted just two weeks into the program when the “new” social gathering restriction was imposed in the fall. After a three-month hiatus, PCMA decided to resume the session in the new year, and with an additional group joining the program, the original Fall Session then transformed itself into the new Winter Session.

The final virtual performance of the 6-week program was hosted from the Music Experience Centre in Downtown Tom Lee Music. It featured six ensembles participating from various parts of Greater Vancouver, and concluded with a rousing performance of the Offenbach Cello Duet Op. 51 by alumnus Lyla Lee and her UBC colleague, Nathan Kwok. While you may watch the final two performances from the video links below, you can also browse other PCMA videos on our [YouTube channel](#).

**‘It has been an amazing time playing with the Shostakovich group. I got to learn many techniques for playing in chamber music. Both students and the coach were very friendly and professional. I hope to do more chamber music in the future.’**

Cadence Su - violinist, on her first PCMA experience



[D. Shostakovich - 5 Pieces for 2 Violins and Piano](#)



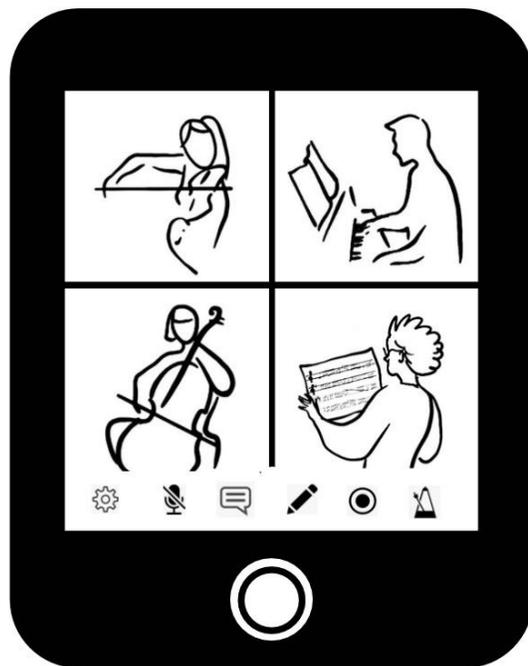
[J. Offenbach - Cello Duet, Op. 51, No. 1](#)

# ALLA BREVE REAL-TIME COLLABORATION APP

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, countless musicians stopped playing in person to exercise physical distancing. Instead, many turn to apps like Zoom but found the experience to be subpar due to latency and audio issues.

In order to tackle this challenge, PCMA has assembled a technical team to design an application that would allow musicians to collaborate, teach and practice music in real-time like they do in person. While we are approaching the halfway mark of the project, we have also recently began our collaboration with the University of British Columbia Cloud Innovation Centre (CIC) and Amazon Web Services (AWS), which will allow Alla Breve to be powered by leading cloud technology.

PCMA anticipates to launch Alla Breve version 1 in winter of 2021.



## Features of Alla Breve include:

- Full duplex sound (ability for sound to travel both ways simultaneously)
- Minimal latency to facilitate musicians collaborating online in real-time
- 5G connectivity on mobile devices (when it becomes available)
- built-in metronome, variable audio and video optimization

# CHAMBER MUSIC 101

## ENSEMBLE IN THE SPOTLIGHT - EMERSON STRING QUARTET



**"I think you can tell a lot from the lives of many of today's great soloists. Their participation and gravitation towards chamber music is ever increasing."**

David Finckel - cellist , Emerson Quartet,  
former Co-Artistic Director, Chamber  
Music Society of Lincoln Centre,

The Emerson String Quartet is an American string quartet that was initially formed as a student group at the Juilliard School in the 1970s. It was named for American poet and philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson and began touring professionally in 1976. The ensemble taught in residence at The Hartt School in the 1980s and is currently (2020) the quartet in residence at Stony Brook University. Both of the founding violinists studied with Oscar Shumsky at Juilliard, and the two alternated as first and second violinists for the group. The Emerson Quartet was one of the first such ensembles with the two violinists alternating chairs.

In the early 1980s, Deutsche Grammophon chose the Emerson Quartet to begin a series of recordings of the string quartet literature to be released on the new CD digital format. Cellist David Finckel called this a "huge break" for the ensemble, allowing it to develop a worldwide audience for its performances. The Emerson Quartet was inducted into the Classical Music Hall of Fame in 2010. As of May 2014, they have released more than thirty albums and won nine Grammy Awards, as well as the prestigious Avery Fisher Prize.

### CHAMBER MUSIC TRIVIA

1. Which composer is also known as the "father of string quartet"
  - a) Bach
  - b) Haydn
  - c) Mozart
2. Who composed the most string quartets?
  - a) Schubert
  - b. Beethoven
  - c) Schumann
3. The Banff International String Competition is held
  - a) annually
  - b) every 3 years
  - c) quadrennially
4. Beethoven's Grosse Fuge is a double-fugue written for
  - a) orchestra
  - b) piano trio
  - c) string quartet

Answers: 1.b, 2.b, 3.b, 4.c