



Voxare String Quartet Biography

Emily Ondracek-Peterson, violin

Galina Zhdanova, violin

Erik Peterson, viola

Adrian Daurov, cello

“The gifted Voxare String Quartet” (The New York Times) formed in 2008 and has since received critical praise for its inventive programming, technical prowess, attention to detail, and passionate performances. As one of the most acclaimed and innovative young string quartets in the United States, The New York Times declared that Voxare plays “with such penetrating tone and lucid textures,” and has on numerous occasions chosen Voxare as its Classical Pick of the Week. Voxare’s performances have included appearances at Avery Fisher Hall with the New York Philharmonic, the Guggenheim Museum, Carnegie Hall, and Lincoln Center. Voxare has had performing residences at Dartmouth College and Columbia University, among others; additionally, the quartet has been the prestigious quartet-in-residence at New York’s Bargemusic. Voxare has been featured live on Soundcheck WNYC and its concerts broadcast on WQXR. At its residency series, DIG IT! New Music, at Teachers College, Columbia University, Voxare performs works by living composers, bringing together a community of America’s leading composers, both emerging and established. Voxare’s unique performing activities earned the quartet Chamber Music America’s 2010 ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming. Voxare’s debut CD, featuring the music of Daron Hagen, will be released by Naxos in 2013.

In addition to performing standard repertoire, Voxare takes responsibility in presenting and encouraging interest in contemporary music, and often works with leading composers such as Pulitzer Prize winning composers Ned Rorem and David Del Tredici. Voxare was the Quartet-in-Residence at the International Computer Music Conference and continues working with composers and researchers in studying electro-acoustic music. Voxare presented a three day Mostly Riley Festival to celebrate the 75th birthday of composer Terry Riley at Bargemusic. About the Riley Festival, the New York Times wrote, “The personable and passionate Voxare players ...offered a spirited, high-energy performance, vividly conveying the work’s beautiful colors. The performance was excellent, with distinctive contributions from each player.”

With a repertoire spanning five centuries, Voxare is not afraid to break down the boundaries of classical music; they have made and performed their own transcriptions of popular and rock music and often perform in alternative concert venues, presenting innovative concerts focused on unique and accessible presentations of contemporary chamber music while assimilating classical standards and popular music. Voxare can be found on the soundtracks of several films shown at festivals such as Sundance and Tribeca.

Voxare was accepted to study quartet repertoire with Robert Mann, founder of the Juilliard String Quartet, at the inaugural prestigious Mann Quartet Institute. Voxare has studied quartet literature with current members of the Juilliard String Quartet through its select String Quartet Seminar, and has also studied with members of the Kronos Quartet through Carnegie Hall.

Individually, Voxare members have performed as soloist with orchestras such as the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and orchestrally with the Cleveland Orchestra, Milwaukee Symphony, and St. Petersburg Philharmonic. The four musicians have amassed a number of prizes at international competitions. Voxare is represented by Robert Besen, director of BesenArts.

What does “Voxare” mean? Voxare is the quartet’s own creation, an imagined Latin infinitive of the root word vox, which can be translated as the following: voice, cry, call; accent, language; sound, tone; a saying, utterance. When choosing a name for our quartet, we felt an immediate attraction to it; we felt (and still do feel) a strong need to be different, to have a personal voice that stands out among other artists. To voice, to call, to utter- these are the aspirations of any artist. Our medium, sound, perhaps better than any other allows creator to commune directly with recipient. Schopenhauer espoused that music, due in part to its freedom from the strictures of language, is the only art form that can directly speak to the “will.” As artists, we were thrilled to find a name that embodies not only our goal of singularity, but also the potential communicative power at our disposal.

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A native of Chicago, violinist **Emily Ondracek-Peterson** started playing the violin at the age of five, and began giving public concerts soon thereafter. At sixteen, Ms. Ondracek gave her solo debut with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Since that time, she has performed throughout the United States and Europe, and at festivals such as Aspen, Italy's Festival de Due Mondis, and the Cleveland Orchestra's Blossom Summer Music festival, where she was awarded the Joseph Gingold Prize for Most Outstanding Instrumentalist. Ms. Ondracek frequently gives recitals and has also performed with jazz artists such as Herbie Hancock and Wynton Marsalis. Ms. Ondracek records frequently for film and television, and has recorded for Naxos records. Also in demand as an educator, Ms. Ondracek is a two-time Morse Fellow, and is currently a Teaching Artist with the New York Philharmonic. Heading the violin program at Resurrection Episcopal Day School, Ms. Ondracek also maintains private violin studios in New York City and Greenwich, CT. Ms. Ondracek received both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from The Juilliard School, where she studied with Masao Kawasaki. She is currently a doctoral candidate at Columbia University, where she is researching effective methods of music education. Ms. Ondracek performs on a violin made in 1815 by Francois Louis Pique.

A native of Russia, violinist **Galina Zhdanova** began studying the violin at the age of five. At the age of fifteen she won the First Prize at the International Violin Competition in Tokyo, Japan. Since then she has participated in numerous music festivals and concerts all around the world. In 2004 Ms. Zhdanova was appointed Assistant Concertmaster of the Bayreuth Festival Youth Symphony Orchestra under conductors Peter Gulke and Joseph Schwab. A graduate of the St. Petersburg Conservatory, where she studied with a renowned violinist Mikhail Gantvarg, she has also studied with Daniel and Todd Phillips (of the Orion Quartet) and Grigory Kalinovsky. Ms. Zhdanova is a versatile musician, at home in worlds of classical, contemporary, and popular music. Her performances have taken her from Bargemusic and Carnegie Hall to Madison Square Garden, the Boardwalk Theater in Atlantic City, the IZOD Arena, and television appearances on Good Morning America, The View, and the Rachel Ray Show. Ms. Zhdanova has played with Josh Groban, Steven Tyler of Aerosmith, Sarah Brightman, David Byrne (Talking Heads), and The Trans-Siberian Orchestra. She frequently performs with the Key West Symphony and Symphony in C.

Violist **Erik Peterson** started playing viola at age ten in his native Chicago. As an orchestral musician, Mr. Peterson has performed with the Cleveland Orchestra, and the Milwaukee and New World Symphonies. He has participated in the music festivals of Sarasota, Blossom, Aspen, and Grant Park, as well as the Spoleto Festival dei Due Mondis in Italy and the Encore School for Strings, where he was awarded the Kay H. Logan Award for chamber music performance. Mr. Peterson has performed on WFMT in Chicago, and has been the subject of a feature on National Public Radio. As a chamber musician, Mr. Peterson has collaborated with members of the of the Chicago Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra, and the New York Philharmonic, leading him to perform in Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, and Avery Fisher Hall. He recently worked with contemporary composers to record a CD for the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, about which a documentary was also produced. Mark Nowakowski's Viola Concerto, *Storm Bells*, was written for and premiered by Mr. Peterson. Mr. Peterson received his Bachelor's degree from the Juilliard School, where he studied with Heidi Castleman and Misha Amory, and his Master's and Doctoral degrees from the Cleveland Institute of music, where he was the teaching assistant to Stanley Konopka. He performs on a beautiful viola made by Franz Kinberg.

Cellist **Adrian Daurov** was born in St. Petersburg, Russia, and studied at the St. Petersburg Conservatory with Anatoly Nikitin. From an early age Mr. Daurov began to perform as a soloist and chamber musician on the main concert stages of St. Petersburg and Moscow, as well as in Europe and the U.S. He made his debut with the orchestra in 1997 with the St. Petersburg Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Daurov was awarded First prizes at the international music competitions in Dobrich (Bulgaria) in 1996, Groningen (the Netherlands) in 2001, and the LISMA Foundation Competition (New York) in 2006. In 2004 he toured Germany as a soloist with the St. Petersburg Chamber Orchestra and was appointed the principal cellist of the Bayreuth Festival Youth Orchestra. Mr. Daurov is a graduate of the Juilliard School, where he studied with David Soyer of Guarneri Quartet and Andre Emelianoff. In June 2007, Mr. Daurov was appointed principal cellist of the Chamber Orchestra of New York under conductor Salvatore Di Vittorio. He recently performed the world premiere of Behzad Ranjbaran's Fountains of Fin at Bargemusic in New York, and The Epistle for cello and choir by Siberian composer Yuri Yukechev with the Russian Chamber Chorus of New York. In June 2008, Mr. Daurov was featured in the Gala Concert in Celebration Of Russia's Independence Day at Carnegie Hall.