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## QUARTET **SAN** FRANCISCO



The Bay Area's premiere crossover string ensemble, Quartet San Francisco, was founded in 2001 by classical and jazz violinist Jeremy Cohen. "QSF was born out of the desire to create a genre of string chamber literature that gathers its material from popular music elements of recent decades," Cohen explains, "still maintaining the integrity and spirit of traditional chamber music." Joining him in the group are Joseph Christianson (violin), Chad Kaltinger (viola), and Tyler DeVigal (cello). "I like to tailor textures and lines that maximize the strengths of the players in the group. I really do think about the distinct musical personalities around me in the quartet, and I write very specifically with my three colleagues in mind," says Cohen.

Quartet San Francisco has been recognized for their excellence in the classical- crossover genre with three Grammy nominations. QSF's recordings have accumulated a total of seven Grammy nominations combined over the years. On stage QSF is stimulating, energetic, and provocative. The group performs material by Cohen and others in multiple genres—Latin, pop, jazz, bluegrass, R&B, and international music. QSF takes on all styles with authenticity and thoughtfulness, delivering them all with enthusiasm and formidable technique.

Cohen's dedication to expanding the literature for the string quartet medium is at the heart of the group. Cohen explains, "We want it to be diverse, exciting, and eclectic. We're always working toward an emotionally charged

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experience with a lot of craft and skill, not just for our listeners but for ourselves, too. We leave our concerts with an all-around better feeling about life, and I think our audiences do, too.” He adds, “Music can do so many things: heal, amuse, challenge, educate, comfort, organize. We work hard to infuse our concerts with that wide array of what music can do for the human spirit.”

For over more than twenty years QSF has concertized extensively throughout the United States. The group’s international tours have included Argentina, China, Italy, Germany, Japan, New Caledonia, South Korea, and Turkey. Their concerts in performing arts centers range from recital programs to symphony orchestra subscription concerts performing Jeremy Cohen’s “Concerto Carnevale for String Quartet and Orchestra.”

The group’s most recent recording project, *Raymond Scott Reimagined* (Violinjazz Recordings, 2023), focused on the legacy of the American composer Raymond Scott, whose character-filled works were frequently used in the Warner Brothers Merrie Melodies cartoons. The quartet collaborated on this project with Gordon Goodwin’s Big Phat Band and the celebrated vocal group Take Six. A Grammy nomination for Best Instrumental Composition was awarded to Raymond Scott (posthumously) and Gordon Goodwin for the track “Cutey and the Dragon.”

The quartet also presents small and large-scale programs with tango dancers Sandor and Parissa, who have appeared on *Dancing with the Stars*.

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JEREMY COHEN,  
violin

From Oakland, California, Jeremy Cohen is from a family of five musicians. Classically-trained and a student of Itzhak Perlman and Anne Crowden, Cohen's eclectic style reflects his respect for a wide range of violinists from Perlman and Fritz Kreisler to Joe Venuti and Eddie South. He has performed as soloist with numerous orchestras including the Virginia Symphony, the California Symphony and the Reno Philharmonic. His recording credits include

motion picture and television soundtracks including *The Dukes of Hazzard* and Jane Fonda's *Dollmaker*, and as concertmaster on recordings with Linda Ronstadt, Ray Charles, Aaron Neville, Howard Keel and Cleo Laine. He appeared on Carlos Santana's Grammy-winning CD *Supernatural* and the original *Star Wars* compilation CD with John Williams. On the stage he was the solo violinist in *Forever Tango* and *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*. He has toured and recorded with the Grammy Award-winning Turtle Island Quartet. Cohen's orchestral arrangements have been featured by numerous orchestras, including the San Francisco Symphony, and the San Jose and San Francisco Chamber Orchestras. As an educator, he has served on the faculties of the Henry Mancini Institute (Los Angeles), The Jazz School (Berkeley, CA) and the Stanford Jazz Workshop. In 2004 Cohen released *Jeremy Cohen and Friends Celebrate Joe Venuti—100 Years* (VAI), a DVD tribute to Joe Venuti. Cohen and Violinjazz pay homage to violinist Eddie South in the 2010 release, *The Music of Eddie South* (Sono Luminous). Jeremy Cohen has received multiple Grammy nominations for CDs he produced and with Quartet San Francisco (Violinjazz Recordings). Most of their multi-genre material has been composed or arranged by Cohen who aspires to widen the repertoire available to modern string players.

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JOSEPH  
CHRISTIANSON,  
violin

A graduate of San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Joseph has performed in venues throughout the United States and across the globe, including a 2012 production of *La Boheme* at the Muscat Royal Opera House in Muscat, Oman, under Lorin Maazel's baton. Joseph has toured and taught chamber music workshops with Quartet San Francisco. As a member of Lazuli String Quartet, he has performed in concert series at Noe Valley

Chamber Music and San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and worked with members of the Kronos Quartet, Takacs Quartet, and Danish Quartet.

Originally from San Luis Obispo, California, Joseph has played with conductors including Lorin Maazel, Kent Nagano, and Scott Yoo. In 2017 he performed with violinists Andrew Wan and Stefan Hersh in a video of Peter Norman's virtuoso ensemble piece *Gran Turismo*, produced and published by the Colorado College Summer Music Festival. Joseph has been awarded fellowships at Colorado College Summer Music Festival, Castleton Festival, Mendocino Music Festival, and the Rubin Institute of Music Criticism.

During his studies at Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University and San Francisco Conservatory of Music, his mentors have included Nina Bodnar, Herbert Greenberg, Axel Strauss, and Bettina Mussumeli.

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## QUARTET **SAN** FRANCISCO



**CHAD  
KALTINGER,**  
viola

Chad Kaltinger is an active freelancer in the San Francisco area and maintains a busy schedule as orchestral violist, chamber musician, soloist, and recording artist. Principal violist for Opera San Jose and the Santa Cruz Symphony, he is a frequent guest principal at the San Jose Chamber Orchestra. Chad has performed in many festivals around the U.S. including Music in the Mountains, Arizona Musicfest, South by Southwest, the Monterey Jazz

Festival, and the Mendocino Music Festival. He is an active proponent of new music and performs regularly with the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music, the University of California-Santa Cruz New Music Works Ensemble, and the Worn Chamber Ensemble. He was the soloist in the 2012 U.S. premiere of Noam Sheriff's *Canarian Vespers*, for solo viola and strings, with the Cadenza Chamber Orchestra in Santa Cruz, California. Chad hails from Chicago where he began his studies at age 9. He studied at the Music Institute of Chicago in Wilmette, Ill. with Peter Slowik, and at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with Emanuel Vardi. As a fellowship student at the Aspen Music Festival he studied with Heidi Castleman and Victoria Chiang. Chad was the winner of the 1994 E. Nakamichi Viola Concerto Competition at the Aspen Music Festival.

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## QUARTET **SAN** FRANCISCO



TYLER DEVIGAL,  
cello

Cellist Tyler DeVigal joined Quartet San Francisco in early 2024. He serves on the faculty of the Crowden School in Berkeley and plays with several orchestras, including Symphony San Jose, San Jose Chamber Orchestra, Opera San Jose, Marin Symphony, Modesto Symphony, and Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera. He spends the summer in Mendocino where he directs the Mendocino Music Festival's Emerging Artists Program. Tyler coaches string players at UC Davis, Campolindo High School, Peninsula Youth Symphony, and San Jose Youth Symphony.

In addition to a master's degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music, Tyler's bachelor's degree comes from Stanford University's human biology program where his emphasis was in mental illness in the arts. Tyler is a graduate of the Crowden School and the San Francisco Conservatory's pre-college program. Among his mentors Tyler names Milly Rosner, Jonathan Koh, Stephen Harrison, Mark Kosower, Robert DeMaine, and Bonnie Hampton. In his free time he enjoys reading, writing, and painting.

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## PRESS

They had us believing that a virtuoso string quartet could impersonate a genuine tango orchestra from Buenos Aires ...

*Los Angeles City Beat*

... breezy wit, fine technical finish and a genuine feeling for musical idiom.

*Washington Post*

... a remarkable musical experience ... simply delicious.

*Herald News, North Jersey Media*

Killer playing with fine attention to detail, musically and sonically, gives this set a head and shoulders lift above other comers.

*Midwest Record*

... unbridled optimism ... unexpected beauty ... *Bay Area Reporter*

The greatest asset this quartet offers is a desire to connect with audiences by using popular music. Jeremy Cohen's arrangements ... sounded vibrant and pliant, as if they've been part of the chamber repertoire for years.

*Sacramento Bee*