



EMERSON STRING QUARTET

Eugene Drucker and Philip Setzer – violins

Lawrence Dutton – viola

Paul Watkins – cello

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770 – 1827)

String Quartet in B-flat Major, op. 18, No. 6

Allegro con brio

Adagio, ma non troppo

Scherzo: Allegro

La Malinconia: Adagio; Allegretto quasi allegro

(Eugene Drucker, First Violin)

Dmitri Shostakovich
(1906 – 1975)

String Quartet in A flat Major, op. 118, No. 10

Andante

Allegro furioso

Adagio

Allegretto - Andante

(Philip Setzer, First Violin)

Intermission

Johannes Brahms
(1833 – 1897)

String Quartet in A Minor, op. 51, No. 2

Allegro non troppo

Andante moderato

Quasi Minuetto, moderato

Finale: Allegro non assai

(Philip Setzer, First violin)

Monday, April 25, 2016

8:00 p.m.

Chapin Hall

Williamstown, Massachusetts

Please turn off cell phones.

No photography or recording is permitted.

See music.williams.edu for full details and additional happenings as well as to sign up for the weekly e-newsletters.

Upcoming Events:

Wed Apr 27	12:15pm	MIDWEEKMUSIC	Chapin Hall
Wed Apr 27	5pm	Indian Studio Studio Recital with Students of Veena Chandra	Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall
Fri Apr 29	4pm	Chamber Choir in the Rotunda of the Williams College Museum of Art	WCMA Rotunda
Fri Apr 29	8pm	Williams Jazz Ensemble	Chapin Hall

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The Emerson String Quartet has an unparalleled list of achievements over three decades: more than thirty acclaimed recordings, nine Grammys® (including two for Best Classical Album), three Gramophone Awards, the Avery Fisher Prize, Musical America's "Ensemble of the Year" and collaborations with many of the greatest artists of our time.

The arrival of Paul Watkins in 2013 has had a profound effect on the Emerson Quartet. Mr. Watkins, a distinguished soloist, award-winning conductor, and devoted chamber musician, joined the ensemble in its 37th season, and his dedication and enthusiasm have infused the Quartet with a warm, rich tone and a palpable joy in the collaborative process. The reconfigured group has been greeted with impressive accolades. "One of the characteristics of the Emerson Quartet is that its players (the violinists Eugene Drucker and Philip Setzer and the violist Lawrence Dutton in addition, now, to Mr. Watkins) all have the ability and the instruments to produce a sweet and glossy sound — but do so sparingly. Instead, they establish a chromatic scale of timbres that range from dry and tart over clean and zesty all the way to lustrous and singing. Listening to them pass tiny rhythmic motifs around the group, I was struck by how evenly calibrated these timbres were." *The New York Times*

The Quartet's summer season began with engagements in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and a pair of concerts in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Following a tour of Japan, the Quartet performed at the Ravinia, Tanglewood, Chamber Music Northwest, Aspen, Domaine Forget, Toronto, Austin, Norfolk, Cape Cod and Mostly Mozart festivals. In a season of over 80 quartet performances, mingled with the Quartet members' individual artistic commitments, Emerson highlights feature numerous concerts on both coasts and throughout North America. In October, Paul Watkins performed with the Emerson Quartet for the first time in Carnegie Hall. The program included the Schumann Piano Quintet with acclaimed pianist and colleague Yefim Bronfman. Multiple tours of Europe comprise dates in Austria, Ireland, Switzerland, France, Germany and the United Kingdom. The Quartet continues its series at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC for its 35th season, and, in May, is presented by colleagues David Finckel and Wu Han for the two final season concerts at Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center in Alice Tully Hall. Guest artists Colin Carr and Paul Neubauer join the Emerson in a program that also includes the New York premiere of Lowell Liebermann's String Quartet No. 5, commissioned by a consortium of presenters through *Music Accord*.

The Emerson recently released *Journeys*, its second CD on SONY Classical, featuring Tchaikovsky's *Souvenir de Florence* and Schoenberg's *Verklärte Nacht*. Future recordings are planned with Mr. Watkins.

Formed in 1976 and based in New York City, the Emerson was one of the first quartets formed with two violinists alternating in the first chair position. In 2002, the Quartet began to stand for most of its concerts, with the cellist seated on a riser. The Emerson Quartet took its name from the American poet and philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson and is Quartet-in-Residence at Stony Brook University. In January of 2015, the Quartet receives the Richard J. Bogomolny National Service Award, Chamber Music America's highest honor, in recognition of its significant and lasting contribution to the chamber music field.