

# BROOKLYN RIDER

SAT, MAR 28, 2015 • 8PM

CPAIO ARTIST



“[BROOKLYN RIDER'S] DOWN-TO-EARTH  
DEMEANOR DEMYSTIFIES CONTEMPORARY  
CLASSICAL MUSIC AND INVITES  
EVERYONE INTO THE TENT.”

– *Time Out New York*



## PERFORMANCE BENEFACTOR

Classical music performances are made possible by The William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust. We thank the Trustees for their visionary generosity.

**SAT, MAR 28 • 8PM**

**Brooklyn Rider**

**Johnny Gandelsman, violin**

**Colin Jacobsen, violin**

**Nicholas Cords, viola**

**Eric Jacobsen, cello**

**PROGRAM**

*Program order to be announced from the stage.*

<i>John Steinbeck – August 12 (2012)</i> .....	Bill Frisell (b.1951)
<i>Morris Dance (2012)</i> .....	Ethan Iverson (b. 1973)
<i>Dig The Say (2012)</i> .....	Vijay Iyer (b. 1971)
1. carry the ball	
2a. this thing together	
2b. up from the ground	
3. to live tomorrow	
<i>Maintenance Music (2012)</i> .....	Dana Lyn (b. 1974)
<i>Simpson’s Gap (2012)</i> .....	Padma Newsome (b. 1961)
Simpson’s Gap	
Pizzicato Parrot	
<i>Quartet, Parts One &amp; Two (2012)</i> .....	Greg Saunier (b. 1969)
<i>Untouched (2015)</i> .....	John Luther Adams (b. 1953)
(World Premiere – Commissioned by Carolina Performing Arts)	

## PROGRAM NOTES

### **The Brooklyn Rider Almanac**

Inspiration has been the very lifeblood of our tradition since the days of Mozart's six "Haydn" quartets, lovingly dedicated to the progenitor of our medium. Across the musical ages, it has just as often been the case that composers look outside of the sphere of music for creative inspiration. Over a century ago, the cross-disciplinary relationship between the German composer Arnold Schoenberg and Russian-born artist Wassily Kandinsky greatly affected each of their creative psyches. The string quartet played a supporting role in their first encounter, and we look to their symbiotic friendship as a springboard for *The Brooklyn Rider Almanac*.

Schoenberg's Second String Quartet, the composer's first full dip into the opaque waters of atonality, was a musical lightning rod that sharply divided audiences and critics alike. Following the riotous premiere in Vienna in 1908, the work received its Munich debut some three years later. In the audience for that performance sat Kandinsky. Transformed by Schoenberg's music, Kandinsky's style took a further step towards abstraction with his landmark painting, *Impression III*, a visual synthesis of that very concert. A friendship ensued between these visionaries and Schoenberg soon became associated with a group of artists surrounding Kandinsky known as *Der Blaue Reiter* (our very namesake). This group published *Der Blaue Almanach* in 1912 – a highly eclectic collection of artwork, essays and music that served as an artistic testament to their era while also offering a vision for the future.

The unquenchable drive for artistic exploration and open embrace of the collective spirit displayed by *Der Blaue Reiter* are similarly

hallmarks of today's artistic zeitgeist, and *The Brooklyn Rider Almanac* attempts to honor the present. Using music as our project's touchstone, we asked a select group of composers to create short works for us inspired by a creative muse from relatively recent memory. Not only did the composers readily accept the challenge, but the varied sources of inspiration – from David Byrne to Keith Haring to William Faulkner – were consistently a surprise and a delight to us.

Additionally, this project afforded us the opportunity to seek fresh perspectives on string quartet writing. On the surface, these composers come mostly from the other side of the classical fence – the worlds of jazz, rock and folk. But more significantly, they represent some of our favorite musical thinkers and we were deeply confident they would have much to offer our medium. Our newly assembled cadre is inclusive of old friends and certain "musical crushes" – those we have long wished to approach, but lacked proper courage or circumstance. Recalling the eclecticism of *Der Blaue Reiter Almanach*, we have embraced the varied results and feel that our boundaries have been expanded in the process.

We are reminded at every turn of this project that music is a deeply immersive art form, something that cannot be understood divorced from its broader cultural context. By magnifying the creative force of inspiration, we hope that you will endeavor (as we do) to hear the music as only the tip of an iceberg.

- Brooklyn Rider

## BIOGRAPHY

### BROOKLYN RIDER

Hailed as "the future of chamber music" (*Strings*), the game-changing string quartet Brooklyn Rider presents eclectic repertoire in gripping performances that draw rave reviews from classical, world and rock critics alike.

Equally at home in clubs and concert halls, the quartet celebrates its 10th anniversary with its most ambitious venture to date – the release of the *Brooklyn Rider Almanac* on Mercury Classics accompanied by a US tour. The album forms the centerpiece of a groundbreaking multi-disciplinary project for which the quartet commissioned 15 new works, each inspired by a respective artistic muse, from composers ranging from Wilco's Glenn Kotche to jazz icon Bill Frisell. Like the Quartet's name, the project was inspired by the cross-disciplinary vision of *Der Blaue Reiter* ("The Blue Rider") – the pre-World War I Munich-based artistic collective – and the exploding array of cultures and artistic energy found in the group's Brooklyn home.

This season's highlights include a residency at UNC-Chapel Hill, the New York premiere of *Chalk and Soot*, and touring with banjo legend Béla Fleck, with whom Brooklyn Rider released *The Impostor*.

In 2008, violinist Johnny Gandelsman launched In A Circle Records with Brooklyn Rider's debut recording, *Passport*, followed by *Dominant Curve* (2010) and *Seven Steps* (2012). The first two albums made NPR's year-end round-ups and the third was named an NPR listener favorite. In 2013 In A Circle released violist Nicholas Cords' solo recording, *Recursions*. Colin and Eric Jacobsen are co-founders of the orchestral collective The Knights, and all four members of the Quartet are longstanding participants in Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Ensemble.

Brooklyn Rider has been featured on NPR's *Tiny Desk Concerts*, *On Point*, *All Songs Considered*, *Deceptive Cadence* and *All Things Considered*; WNYC's *Soundcheck*; American Public Media's *Performance Today*; and on NY1 television in New York City. The ensemble's recordings are played across North America on stations ranging in focus from classical to world, jazz, pop and new music.

#### **Exclusive Management**

Opus 3 Artists

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