



“They are four classical musicians performing with the energy of young rock stars jamming on their guitars, a Beethoven-goes-indie foray into making classical music accessible but also celebrating why it was good in the first place.”

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

BROOKLYN RIDER

JOHNNY GANDELSMAN (VIOLIN), COLIN JACOBSEN (VIOLIN),
NICHOLAS CORDS (VIOLA), MICHAEL NICOLAS (CELLO)

Biography

Hailed as “the future of chamber music” (*Strings*), the veteran string quartet Brooklyn Rider presents eclectic repertoire and gripping performances that continue to draw rave reviews from classical, world, and rock critics alike. *NPR* credits Brooklyn Rider with “recreating the 300-year-old form of string quartet as a vital and creative 21st-century ensemble.”

Brooklyn Rider will debut their *Healing Modes* project this season which presents Beethoven’s Opus 132 in its entirety alongside five compact new commissions which explore the subject of healing from a wide range of historical and cultures perspectives. Composers include Reena Esmail, Gabriela Lena Frank, Matana Roberts and recent Pulitzer Prize winners Caroline Shaw and Du Yun

In fall 2018, Brooklyn Rider released *Dreamers* on Sony Music Masterworks with celebrated Mexican jazz vocalist Magos Herrera. The recording includes gems of the Ibero-American songbook as well as pieces written to texts by Octavio Paz, Rubén Darío, and Federico García Lorca — all reimagined by arrangers including Jaques Morelenbaum, Gonzalo Grau, Diego Schissi, Guillermo Klein and Brooklyn Rider’s own Colin Jacobsen.

To start the 2017/18 season, Brooklyn Rider released *Spontaneous Symbols* on Johnny Gandelsman’s *In a Circle Records* label. The album featured new quartet music by Tyondai Braxton, Evan Ziporyn, Paula Matthusen, Kyle Sanna, and Brooklyn Rider violinist Colin Jacobsen. Works from that recording were also featured in live performance for *Some of a Thousand Words*, the ensemble’s recent collaboration with choreographer Brian Brooks and former New York City Ballet prima ballerina Wendy Whelan. An intimate series of duets and solos in which the quartet’s live onstage music is a dynamic and central creative component, *Some of a Thousand Words* was featured at the 2016 Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival, before two U.S. tours, including a week-long run at New York City’s Joyce Theater.

In 2016 Brooklyn Rider released an album entitled *so many things* on *Naïve Records* with Swedish mezzo-soprano Anne Sofie von Otter, comprising music by Colin Jacobsen, Caroline Shaw, John Adams, Nico Muhly, Björk, Sting, Kate Bush and Elvis Costello, among others. The group toured material from

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the album and more with von Otter in the U.S. and Europe, including stops at Carnegie Hall and the Opernhaus Zürich.

Additionally, Brooklyn Rider performed Philip Glass's String Quartet #7, furthering a relationship with the iconic American composer which began with 2011's much-praised *Brooklyn Rider Plays Philip Glass* and will continue with the upcoming album release of Glass's recent quartets on the composer's Orange Mountain Music label.

In 2015, the group celebrated its tenth anniversary with the groundbreaking multi-disciplinary project *Brooklyn Rider Almanac*, for which it recorded and toured 15 specially commissioned works, each inspired by a different artistic muse. Other recording projects include the quartet's eclectic debut recording in 2008, *Passport*, followed by *Dominant Curve* in 2010, *Seven Steps* in 2012, and *A Walking Fire* in 2013. In 2016, they released *The Fiction Issue* with singer-songwriter Gabriel Kahane, with the title track a Kahane composition that was premiered in 2012 at Carnegie Hall by Kahane, Brooklyn Rider and Shara Worden. A long-standing relationship between Brooklyn Rider and Iranian kamancheh player Kayhan Kalhor resulted in the much-praised 2008 recording, *Silent City*.

Two new albums by Brooklyn Rider will be released this autumn, featuring instrumentalists who are at the forefront of their respective genre: jazz saxophonist Joshua Redman and Irish fiddle master Martin Hayes.

2019/2020

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Impresariat
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