



“The first movement of the quartet *Death and the Maiden* revealed an exceptional string quartet composed of outstanding musicians who delivered a truly masterful chamber music performance that set the tone for the rest of the concert.”

Ritmo.es (April 2022)

BROOKLYN RIDER

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

The name Brooklyn Rider is inspired by the artist group The Blue Rider, which published an eclectic almanac of artwork, essays and music that served as an artistic testament to their time while offering a vision for the future and an open embrace of diverse artistic traditions, media, and aesthetics.

Hailed as “the future of chamber music” (*Strings*), the 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.”

In 2020 Brooklyn Rider presented the project *Healing Modes*, which takes a holistic view of Beethoven's Op. 132 combined with five commissioned works by Reena Esmail, Gabriela Lena Frank, Matana Roberts and the two Pulitzer Prize winners Caroline Shaw and Du Yun. They explore the theme of healing from a variety of historical and cultural perspectives - a topic that could not have been more relevant within the events of 2020 & 2021. In March 2020 the *New Yorker* praised the concept of the recording as convincing and the playing of the four as persuasive.

In 2019 two albums - featuring instrumentalists who are at the forefront of their respective genre: jazz saxophonist Joshua Redman (*Sun On Sand*) and Irish fiddle master Martin Hayes (*The Butterfly*) - were released.

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.

In 2017/ 2018, Brooklyn Rider released *Spontaneous Symbols*. 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,

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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 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*.

With "The 4 Elements," Brooklyn Rider brings a theme to concert stages this season that could not be more timely: global warming and the destruction of our planet, which also serves as a wake-up call. Four existing works from the string quartet literature of the past 100 years - symbolic of the elements of fire, water, earth and air - will be joined by four new works by Akshaya Avril Tucker, Conrad Tao, Dan Trueman and Andreia Pinto Correia, which will reflect current realities.

On the European stages, the quartet will perform at the Muziekgebouw Amsterdam, the Flagey Brussels, the Liszt Academy Budapest, the Pierre Boulez Saal Berlin and the Heidelberger Fruehling, among others.

2022/2023

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