



RUBICON QUARTET

BEN RUEB - PIANO

JEFF IVES - VIOLIN

PAUL YARBROUGH - VIOLA

JOEL COHEN - CELLO

PROGRAM

PIANO QUARTET NO. 1 IN G MINOR (K.478) W. A.
MOZART (1756-1791)

ALLEGRO

ANDANTE

RONDO - ALLEGRO

PIANO QUARTET - SPECIOSUS FORMA
JEFF IVES (1969-)

INTERMISSION

PIANO QUARTET NO. 1 IN C MINOR (OPUS 15)
GABRIEL FAURE (1845-1924)

ALLEGRO MOLTO MODERATO

SCHERZO - ALLEGRO VIVO

ADAGIO

ALLEGRO MOLTO

The Opus Chamber Music Series was founded in 1988 by members of Symphony of the Redwoods to provide local and visiting musicians opportunities for small-group performances and to enhance the cultural climate of the Coastal Mendocino Community.

PLAYERS

- **BENJAMIN RUEB, PIANO.** Born in 1981, Ben started piano lessons at the age of seven; at 15 he gave his first piano performance with Bach preludes and fugues and Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata. Benjamin studied chemistry in the Netherlands. He moved with his family to America (Southern California) in 2006 and majored in Physics. He has been a piano teacher for more than two decades and is very passionate about teaching the younger generation about classical music and piano playing. He moved to Mendocino County in 2014 and has since played with chamber music ensembles, and the Ukiah Symphony orchestra. Ben did a little mushroom experiment in 2016 and his passion for mushrooms was born. After a year of practicing, he started to cultivate mushrooms for a living. He now Co-owns a Mushroom/Produce business together with his brother, Mulligan Gardens, that produces more than 250 lbs of mushrooms per week, their goods are sold all over Mendocino County.
- **JEFF IVES, VIOLIN.** A native of Connecticut, Jeff has lived in Lake County since 2000. He loves playing in Mendocino's community orchestras and is currently principal viola of the Ukiah Symphony and Symphony of the Redwoods. As a composer, Jeff has written and performed a number of works for chamber groups and orchestra, which have seen premiers in the area. In 2023, Symphony of the Redwoods programmed his "Unspoken Water" a piece for small orchestra, in celebration of the California New Music Festival.
- **PAUL YARBROUGH, VIOLA,** recently retired after 40 years of service as founding violist of the Alexander String Quartet. While a member of the ASQ, he performed more than 2,500 concerts on 5 continents and made numerous recordings, including the complete string quartets of Beethoven twice, Shostakovich and Bartok, and extensive surveys of the chamber music of Mozart and Brahms. The young quartet first received international attention with First Prize as well as Audience Prize at the London International String Quartet Competition in 1985. Earlier, they were the first string quartet ever awarded the Concert Artists Guild Prize in New York City (their home town), resulting in a debut at Carnegie Recital Hall in 1982. Over the past forty years, their collaborating artists have included many of the most celebrated performers of our time. In 1990 the four quartet members and their families relocated to the West Coast to become artists in residence with San Francisco Performances and directors of the Morrison Chamber Music Center at San Francisco State University, while continuing their residencies at St. Lawrence University in upstate New York, Allegheny College in Pennsylvania, and Baruch College in New York City.

Mr. Yarbrough is dedicated to communicating his love and knowledge of chamber music with programs and presentations exploring historic and contemporary connections between music, visual art, literature and the sciences.

He established and directed the Yehudi Menuhin Chamber Music Seminar at SFSU (2003- 2019), with master classes, concerts and a competition for young musicians. Mr. Yarbrough is a native of Clearwater, Florida. He began his studies of viola in a public elementary school, and attended Davidson College, Penn State University, Hartt School of Music and the Juilliard School. He studied with Elaine Lee Richey, Sally Peck and Raymond Page. His much cherished mentors and coaches have included members of the Budapest, the Juilliard and the Tokyo String Quartets. He has been awarded Honorary Doctorates from Allegheny College and St. Lawrence University as well as the Presidential Medal from Baruch College.

Mr. Yarbrough now lives on a small farm in Mendocino County, California, with his wife, Pien Ris-Yarbrough. He plays on a viola made in 2012 by luthier Francis Kuttner of Cremona, Italy and San Francisco, California.
- **JOEL COHEN, CELLO,** has spent his life pursuing many forms of musical expression through the cello. While steeped in the classical traditions of western music, he loves exploring other avenues of performance with his instrument. He was co-principal cello of the Oakland Symphony. While living in Vienna from 1985-97, Joel toured Europe, Asia, and the Americas as principal cellist of the Vienna Chamber Orchestra, and played with the Austrian Radio Symphony, Wiener Kammeroper, Johann Strauss Festival Orchestra, and many other groups. Ten years in Boston had him playing with Boston Symphony, Portland Symphony, and PORT Summer opera. As the founding cellist with Quartet San Francisco Joel toured extensively in the US, during which the quartet was nominated twice for Grammy awards. Now back in California, Joel plays chamber music, with orchestras, and as a soloist in recitals and concertos. He has taught cello extensively, including at College of the Holy Cross and Humboldt State University. He is the cellist for the Quantam Trio and Cantabile.