
SCHOOL OF MUSIC • UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

FACULTY CONCERT SERIES

Lafayette String Quartet

Ann Elliott-Goldschmid violin

Sharon Stanis violin

Joanna Hood viola

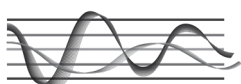
Pamela Highbaugh Aloni cello

With

Orion Series in Fine Arts guest artist

Nicola LeFanu composer

UVIC
music



THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2023
8:00 PM

Phillip T. Young Recital Hall
MacLaurin Building, University of Victoria

PROGRAM

We acknowledge and respect the Lekwungen peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

Dmitri Shostakovich (1906–1975)

Arr. by Rostislav Dubinsky

Prelude and Fugue No. 1 in C Major, Op. 87

Prelude and Fugue No. 15 in E-flat Major, Op. 87

Elizabeth Maconchy (1907–1994)

String Quartet No. 3 (in one movement), Op. 15

Lento – Piu mosso – Presto – Andante – Presto –

Poco largamente – Ancora poco meno mosso

Nicola LeFanu (b. 1947)

String Quartet No. 5 (2022)*

**Commissioned by the Lafayette String Quartet through the B. K. Weigel Fund.*

PROGRAM NOTES & BIOGRAPHIES

String Quartet No. 5 by Nicola LeFanu

My fifth string quartet was composed in early 2022 and is dedicated to the Lafayette String Quartet, who commissioned it through the B. K. Weigel Fund. It is in one continuous span, underpinned by a traditional structure of 'fast/slow/fast' tempi, concluded by a gentle coda. It lasts about 15 minutes.

When I began composing it, I had in mind the metaphor of a journey, single-minded in its direction. However, it didn't turn out like that. What emerged was a restless, volatile music, the flow interrupted by questions or challenges. Moments of affirmation may be followed by reflection or hesitation. Part way through, microtones begin to creep into the music: the harmony now has shadows.

The four players are equal partners, each seeking the way forward in their own characteristic timbre. They 'sing' as individual, lyric voices and they share in unfolding the music's path. The quiet opening of the piece glimpses a possible destination, a safe haven at which the music does finally arrive in its coda and cadence. Perhaps, since I was composing in a still-continuing pandemic and in the onset of a European war, I should have anticipated that my music's journey could not be a simple one.

— Nicola LeFanu, 2022

Nicola LeFanu has composed over a hundred works which have been widely played, broadcast and recorded; her music is published by Novello and by Edition Peters.

She has been commissioned by the BBC, by festivals in UK and beyond, and by leading orchestras, ensembles and soloists.

Her catalogue includes a number of works for string ensemble, and chamber music for a wide variety of mediums, often including voice. She has a particular affinity for vocal music and has composed eight operas which have been staged in the UK, Ireland and the US.

She is active in many aspects of the musical profession, as composer, teacher, director etc. From 1994–2008 she was Professor of Music at the University of York. Recent premieres include *The Crimson Bird* (2017, BBCSO/Ilan Volkov with Rachel Nicholls, soprano; text John Fuller), *Triptych* (2021, WCO/Anthony Hose with Jeremy Huw Williams, baritone; text Rowan Williams), *Quintet for strings* (2021, Sacconi quartet with Tim Lowe, cello) and several works for solo instruments, for voice and for chamber ensemble.

She was born in England in 1947: her mother was the composer Elizabeth Maconchy. LeFanu studied at Oxford, RCM and, as a Harkness Fellow, at Harvard. She is married to the Australian composer David Lumsdaine.

Lafayette String Quartet

Now in their 37th year, the Lafayette String Quartet continues to flourish with its original personnel: violinists Ann Elliott-Goldschmid and Sharon Stanis, violist Joanna Hood, and cellist Pamela Highbaugh Aloni.

Formed in Detroit in 1986, the LSQ has performed extensively across Canada, the United States, Mexico and Europe often allied with masterclasses and workshops. Their various projects, in partnership with esteemed colleagues have included the Beethoven Cycle, the Second Viennese School, Bartók's Legacy, the Shostakovich Cycle and the Mozart Viola Quintets. Since 1991 the LSQ members have been on faculty at the University of Victoria where they teach violin, viola and cello and coach chamber music. The four women also maintain separate careers as solo and chamber music performers, teachers, and adjudicators. The LSQ members have received honorary doctorates from University Canada West and were honored with the inaugural Craigdarroch Award for Excellence in Artistic Expression from the University of Victoria. In 2006 the LSQ launched the Lafayette Health Awareness Forum, which is presented every fall.

In addition to collaborations with solo artists, the LSQ has performed with other string quartets including the Penderecki, Saguenay (Alcan), New Zealand, Molinari, Emily Carr, Chroma and Cuarteto Latinoamericano. The quartet carries a large, wide-ranging repertoire, from the classical period to the present, and has commissioned music from (and in some cases collaborated closely with) composers including Murray Adaskin, John Burke, David Jaffe, R. Murray Schafer and Eugene Weigel. This year they are premiering and recording newly commissioned works by Nicola LeFanu, Kelly Marie Murphy, Abigail Richardson-Schulte, Nicole Mandryk, Leila Lustig and Vivian Fung.

Recordings by the LSQ can be heard on the Dorian, Centrediscs, Adlar, CBC records and other labels including their own. The LSQ is the subject of David Rounds' book *The Four and the One: In Praise of String Quartets*, and a documentary film entitled *Creating Harmony*.

As a special honor of their accomplishments, a newly discovered asteroid (613419) was recently named *Lafayettequartet*.

FINAL CONCERT IN VICTORIA! SUNDAY, AUGUST 20 @ 2:30PM

An afternoon concert and celebration! After nearly four decades together, this will be the LSQ's final concert in Victoria. They will perform gems from their tremendous history together.

Admission by donation. Proceeds will go towards the B.K. Weigel Fund in support of continued excellence in Chamber Music at the School of Music.

Get tickets now — Limited seats left! <https://bit.ly/3JMGXqw>

More concert information and full schedule of LSQ events at
lafayetestringquartet.ca