

Chamber Music WILMINGTON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chamber Music Wilmington Presents The Ulysses String Quartet and Artistic Director Oskar Espina-Ruiz



(Wilmington, NC) Chamber Music Wilmington's 2021-2022 Season continues on November 7, 2021 - 4pm, at UNCW's Beckwith Recital Hall. This concert features the Ulysses String Quartet and Chamber Music Wilmington artistic director, Oskar Espina-Ruiz, clarinet, performing "Dance," by Azerbaijani composer Ali-Zadeh; Janáček's String Quartet No. 2, "Intimate Letters," and Brahms Clarinet Quintet in B Minor, Op. 115, an all-time favorite. Tickets are now on sale.

The Ulysses Quartet has been praised for their "textural versatility," "grave beauty" and "the kind of chemistry many quartets long for, but rarely achieve" (*The Strad*), as well as their "avid

enthusiasm ... [with] chops to back up their passion” (*San Diego Story*), “delivered with a blend of exuberance and polished artistry” (*The Buffalo News*).

Founded in the summer of 2015, the group won the grand prize and gold medal in the senior string division of the 2016 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition and first prize in the 2018 Schoenfeld International String Competition. In 2017, the quartet finished first in the American Prize and won second prize at the Osaka International Chamber Music Competition. They were winners of the Vietnam International Music Competition in 2019, and recipients of a Salon de Virtuosi 2021 Career Grant. From 2017 to 2019, Ulysses was in residence at the Louis Moreau Institute in New Orleans, working with composer Morris Rosenzweig.

At Juilliard, they are the Lisa Arnhold Fellows, serving as the School’s Graduate Resident String Quartet, an appointment that has been extended through May 2022.

This is Oskar Espina-Ruiz’s second season as Artistic Director of Chamber Music Wilmington, but the first chance since his appointment to hear his brilliant clarinet artistry in person.

Espina-Ruiz has been described as “an unusually gifted musician who has already made a mark in the musical world and is becoming one of the most distinguished clarinetists in the U.S” (Charles Neidich).

He has performed at major concert halls and festivals such as the Philharmonic Hall in St. Petersburg, Russia and recitals at Carnegie's Weill Hall in New York, the Corcoran Museum in Washington D.C., the Pushkin Museum in Moscow, Oji Hall in Tokyo, the Madrid Royal Superior Conservatory, the Beijing and Shanghai Conservatories and Radio Television Hong Kong.

He is Associate Professor of Clarinet at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts.

For the safety of our audience, CMW and UNCW require masks to be worn during the concert as well as proof of vaccination.

Our 27th season continues on January 30, 2022, featuring the Verona Quartet; and, on April 10, 2022, featuring the Akropolis Reed Quintet. Chamber Music Wilmington’s 2021-2022 Season Concerts start at 4:00 pm ET on Sundays, at Beckwith Recital Hall. Tickets are available at the UNCW Box Office, tel. (910) 962-3500 and uncwarts.universitytickets.com. For more information please visit chambermusicwilmington.org or email us at chambermusicwilmington@gmail.com.

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About Chamber Music Wilmington

Chamber Music Wilmington brings professional, live chamber music to the Cape Fear Region. We produce classical music performances to enrich and engage audiences of the Region, with close attention to the musical tastes of our audiences. We promote enthusiasm for chamber music by outreach to the community in a variety of settings. CMW is committed to cultivating community engagement and audience diversity through the following initiatives.

CONCERT SERIES: CMW's four-concert program is presented in the UNCW's Beckwith Hall on Sunday afternoons and features award-winning national and international artists performing chamber music from all eras.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH: CMW supports young artists by offering free educational enrichment opportunities, providing artists of all ages and levels a chance to work with award-winning musicians in a masterclass environment.

ENGAGEMENT: CMW connects the community, providing a variety of music-making opportunities for all ages and levels through music meet-ups and 'jams', amateur chamber music ensembles, and Instrument Petting Zoos.

ENRICHMENT: CMW partners with Wilmington's public radio station 92.7 Classical WHQR to present interviews and live broadcasts with visiting artists as well as a lunch-and-learn series, "A Little Lunch Music."

PARTNERSHIP: CMW partners and collaborates with the Cape Fear Arts Council, the NC Arts Council, local educational institutions, and other performing and visual arts organizations in the Cape Fear Region.

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