

# frystreetquartet

*"This group values musical expression above all else."*

*-Isaac Stern*



## FSQ BIOGRAPHY

Hailed as “a triumph of ensemble playing” (*New York Times*), the Fry Street Quartet has perfected a “blend of technical precision and scorching spontaneity” (*Strad*). Since securing the Millennium Grand Prize at the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition in 2000, the Fry Street Quartet has reached audiences from Carnegie Hall to Sarajevo and Jerusalem, exploring the medium of the string quartet and its life-affirming potential with “profound understanding, ...depth of expression, and stunning technical astuteness” (*Deseret Morning News*).

“This exaltation of individually superb instrumentalists showed what riches are to be had through the conjunction of forces in unity.”  
—*New York Concert Review*

Fry Street Quartet began its international career in 2002 as cultural ambassadors to the Balkan States, sponsored by Carnegie Hall and the U.S. Department of State. This tour featured the European debut of J. Mark Scarce’s “Y2K,” commissioned for Fry Street with a grant from Meet the Composer. Subsequent international appearances have included the ProQuartet Academy at Pont-Royal, France, the Prague Chamber Festival and Trutnov Autumn Festival in the Czech Republic and Kulturvereinigung Oberschützen in Austria.

Over the years, Fry Street’s collaborations have included performances with pianists Misha Dichter, Wu Han and Joseph Kalichstein, and performances this season with Cleveland Quartet founding cellist Paul Katz and pianist Robert McDonald. Other memorable collaborations include performances with the Mendelssohn String Quartet at the 92nd St. Y, Donald Weilerstein at the New School in New York, and with pianists Jerome Lowenthal and Ursula Oppens, violinist Nurit Pacht, and soprano Toni Arnold as the quartet-in-residence with New York City’s Alliance Français.

### FROM PRODIGY TO MASTER

Fry Street Quartet has held the position of faculty quartet-in-residence in the Caine School of the Arts at Utah State University in Logan, Utah since 2002. The quartet enjoys frequent visits to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, as Market Square’s “Summermusic” artists-in-residence, as well as the Mozart Gemeinde chamber music series in Austria, where they have recently forged an exchange relationship between the University of Carinthia in Klagenfurt and Utah State University.



“Equally at home in the classic repertoire of Mozart and Beethoven or contemporary music” (*Palm Beach Daily News*), the quartet recently debuted its innovative “From Prodigy to Master” series, pairing early and late works of Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, and Mendelssohn with engaging modern compositions inspired by the featured “masters” of the quartet genre. Modern works include the lesser-known complete string quartets of Benjamin Britten, as well as a world premiere of “st qt,” dedicated to Fry Street by Thomas McFaul, a composer known throughout the world for his instantly-recognizable *Meow Mix* advertising jingle. This series provides a unique and intimate setting for concert-goers, with lectures, discussions, and audience involvement.

### BEETHOVEN QUARTET CYCLE

An exciting milestone for the 2008-09 season is the quartet’s first complete Beethoven Quartet Cycle with pre-concert lectures by renowned scholar Robert Winter, presented at Utah State University. In collaboration with cutting-edge sound designers Ray Kimber and Graemme Brown, Fry Street Quartet’s upcoming fifth commercial recording will present an early and late quartet of Beethoven in audiophile recording quality that utilizes revolutionary IsoMike™ and SACD technology.

### EARLY BEGINNINGS

Founded in Chicago in 1997 under the mentorship of Marc Johnson, cellist of the renowned Vermeer Quartet, Fry Street received rave reviews as prizewinners at the Yellow Springs

Competition and the Banff International String Quartet Competition. The quartet traveled to Israel to participate in the International *Encounters* Chamber Music Seminar in 2000, where they studied with Isaac Stern. He invited the quartet to the Isaac Stern Chamber Music Workshop in New York City and subsequently arranged for the quartet’s Carnegie Hall debut in 2001.

“Fry Street” was the location of the quartet’s first rehearsal space in the Chicago neighborhood once ruled by Al Capone.



## WILLIAM FEDKENHEUER, VIOLIN

Matching “elegance and refinement with a fire in the belly” (*Boston Globe*), performances by internationally-acclaimed violinist William Fedkenheuer are “passionately intelligent and intelligently passionate” (*Boston Globe*). Winner of the Lincoln Center Martin E. Segal Award, the Canadian native has distinguished himself as a versatile artist with performances as soloist, chamber, and orchestral musician.

William’s touring in the United States has included performances at Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall Presents, San Francisco Performances, and the National Gallery. Abroad, he has performed at the American Academy in Rome, Fountainbleu, Spoleto Festival of Two Worlds, the Taipei National University of the Arts, and in Austria at the famed Esterhazy Castle for the Haydn Festival in Eisenstadt.



He began his studies at age four at the Conservatory of Music at Mount Royal College in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. His performing career was launched at age seven as the youngest member of the world-renowned Calgary Fiddlers, performing for audiences of thousands around the globe, and earning national acclaim as the Fiddling Champion of Canada in his early teens. Making his solo violin debut with the Calgary Philharmonic in 1994, William went on to receive a Bachelor of Music from Rice University’s Shepherd School of Music under the tutelage of Kathleen Winkler and continued his graduate studies with Miriam Fried at Indiana University.

Previously a member of the Borromeo String Quartet and on the faculty of the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, William currently teaches in the faculty of the Caine School of the Arts at Utah State University as first violinist of the Fry Street Quartet. An active hiker and fly-fisherman, William resides in Logan, Utah with his wife, violinist Yi Ching Fedkenheuer, and their dog Archibald. William performs on a bow by H.R. Pfretzschner, and a Nicolò Gagliano violin nicknamed “Gunther.”

## REBECCA MCFAUL, VIOLIN

The “freedom” and “brilliance” (*New York Concert Review*) of violinist Rebecca McFaul has fashioned performances that “glide through with a dancer’s grace” (*Charlotte Observer*). Founding member of Fry Street Quartet, Rebecca has toured North and South America, the Balkan States and Europe, including Austria, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, and Israel as soloist and chamber musician. Her collaborations with history’s great artists began at the age of 15 with Leonard Bernstein and continued with many others including Eugene Lehner and Alexander Schneider. More recently Rebecca has performed with luminaries Misha Dichter, Donald Weilerstein, Paul Katz, Joseph Kalichstein, and Wu Han.

As a principal player with the Chicago Civic Orchestra, she performed under the batons of renowned conductors Pierre Boulez, Michael Tilson Thomas, and Zubin Mehta and made a memorable concert appearance with Daniel Barenboim, conducting Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 4 from the piano.

Broadening her experiences and musical career as a freelance artist in Chicago, Rebecca was a member of Corky Siegel’s Chamber Blues, touring internationally and releasing an album on the Gadfly label (on which she can also be heard singing back-up vocals). During that time, she was also a founding member and first violinist of the Gabriel Piano Quintet, as well as a sought-after Baroque violinist.

Originally from Wisconsin, Rebecca received a Bachelor of Music in violin performance from the Oberlin Conservatory as a student of Marilyn McDonald and continued her studies earning a Master of Music in violin performance under the tutelage of Gerardo Ribeiro at Northwestern University. Currently on the string and chamber music faculty at the Caine School of the Arts, Utah State University, Rebecca performs on a Carl Becker Sr. violin, dated 1926, and a bow by Nicolas Maire. Rebecca goes to great lengths to attend Bikram Yoga classes whenever she can and is passionate about the environment.



## RUSSELL FALLSTAD, VIOLA



Hailed for his “glorious strength” and “elegance” (*New York Concert Review*), Russell Fallstad has blazed an impressive trail as violinist and violist since beginning Suzuki lessons in the Minnesota public school system. Founding violist of Fry Street Quartet, Russell has performed and recorded internationally in venues including Carnegie Hall, Aspen Music Festival and the Jerusalem Music Center and has performed with notable colleagues Pinchas Zukerman, Lynn Harrell, and Donald Weilerstein. As a principal player in the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, Russell performed under the batons of world-renowned conductors Daniel Barenboim, Pierre Boulez, and Sir Georg Solti with summer seasons in the Spoleto Festival Orchestra.

Russell’s eclectic musical interests have marked his trajectory as an artist. An active performer in the new music scene, Russell debuted many performances of new works at the Chicago Museum of Contemporary Art, the University of Chicago, and with the Cube Ensemble. He also enjoyed performing on period instruments and bows with renowned Baroque

ensembles Apollo’s Fire and Ars Musica. Dedicated to stretching the confines of the classical genre, Russell performed as bass guitarist and singer-songwriter for ‘80s rock bands Fruity Dog and IMU, additionally performing in the Latin-jazz combo Macondo Stew.

Russell currently teaches on the string and chamber music faculty in the Caine School of the Arts at Utah State University and has previously held positions at DePaul University, Northwestern University, and North Carolina School of the Arts. A passionate advocate of music education for young children, he has been instrumental in the successful development of Utah State University’s String Academy pre-college program. Russell performs on a Carl Becker viola made in 1975 and a Simon bow made in 1862.

## ANNE FRANCIS, CELLO

Cellist Anne Francis has combined her “light, fleet touch” (*Charlotte Observer*) and “searing cello” (*Deseret Morning News*) in performances since her debut at age 10 on the international stage of the Inaugural World Cello Congress. Winner of the Darius Milhaud Performance Prize and the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition, Anne has performed in venues from Carnegie Hall in New York to a Maori Longhouse in New Zealand, firmly establishing herself as a leading educator and artist of her generation.

A strong advocate of National Public Radio, Anne can be heard frequently in the eclectic recordings of *The NPR Cellos*. Anne has strived to connect with composers of our time since her days as a conservatory student, commissioning a piece for solo cello from composer Ryan Beard and working with leading composers Donald Erb, Bernard Rands, and Ned Rorem.

Anne began playing the cello when she was four years old and later became one of the youngest members of the Kalamazoo Symphony, performing in the cello section while still in high school. Anne received her Bachelor of Music from the Cleveland Institute of Music and her Master of Music from the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University where she was assistant to

Paul Katz. Her principal teachers have included Richard Aaron, Alan Harris, Bonnie Hampton and Bruce Uchimura, and her major chamber music mentors include the Cleveland, Emerson, Juilliard, and Orion string quartets.

Anne currently teaches on the faculty of the Caine School of the Arts at Utah State University, residing in Logan, Utah with her two cats Lilly and Chaussettes and spends her spare time supporting the Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Kanab, Utah, running, hiking, and exploring the nuances of cooking. Anne performs on a Carl Becker Sr. cello dated 1926 and a bow by A. Vigneron, Paris.





## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Fry Street Quartet completed a three-year tenure in Hickory, North Carolina (1999-2002) as part of Chamber Music America's Rural Residencies program. While in residence, the quartet performed more than 100 community engagement concerts each year. Deeply committed to audience-building, the quartet has continued its community development, performing residencies at colleges, universities, public schools, hospitals, retirement homes, and service club meetings in communities around the world. The quartet has earned much acclaim for its commitment to excellence in community engagement and has performed its preschool program as part of a panel on community development at Chamber Music America's national conference.

Fry Street Quartet has developed a series of arts-in-education programs for a wide variety of settings and for audiences of all ages. Each program is designed to reach specific audiences and ages, interspersing selections and commentary from a wide range of literature.

Representative programs include:

- **Preschool Programs**  
*Goldilocks and the Three Bears, An Extraordinary Egg, Shy Charles*
- **Elementary School Programs**  
*Concerts are Cool!, Composer Idol*
- **Informances and Lecture Demonstrations**
- **Residencies and Master Classes**
- **Customized Audience Development**  
*Select demographics and potential new subscribers in specific niches*
- **Educational Engagement Training**  
*Workshops on how to design and implement educational concerts*

*"The Fry Street Quartet are master educators. They have developed a keen awareness of the specific needs of each of their audiences. Whether it be a preschool crowd of wiggly children or an informal gathering of teens, they are professional, engaging and relevant."*

*-Ann Divine  
Executive Director  
Fischoff National  
Chamber Association*

## CURRENT REPERTOIRE

Bartok	<i>Quartet no. 2, Op. 17, Sz. 91</i>
Beethoven	Complete Quartet Cycle (6 concerts over 2 weeks)* <i>Quartet in F Major, Op. 18, no. 1</i> <i>Quartet in E-flat Major, Op. 74</i> <i>Quartet in G Major, Op. 18, no. 2</i> <i>Quartet in F minor, Op. 95</i> <i>Quartet in D Major, Op. 18, no. 3</i> <i>Quartet in E-flat Major, Op. 127</i> <i>Quartet in C minor, Op. 18, no. 4</i> <i>Quartet in B-flat Major, Op. 130</i> <i>Quartet in A minor, Op. 18, no. 5</i> <i>Quartet in C-sharp minor, Op. 131</i> <i>Quartet in B-flat Major, Op. 18, no. 6</i> <i>Quartet in A minor, Op. 132</i> <i>Quartet in F Major, Op. 59, no. 1</i> <i>"Grosse Fuge," Op. 133</i> <i>Quartet in E minor, Op. 59, no. 2</i> <i>Quartet in F Major, Op. 135</i> <i>Quartet in C Major, Op. 59, no. 3</i>
Britten	Complete Chamber Music Cycle (2 concerts)* <i>String Quartet no. 1 in D Major, Op. 25</i> <i>String Quartet no. 2 in C Major, Op. 36</i> <i>String Quartet no. 3, Op. 94</i> <i>Simple Symphony</i> <i>Alla Marcia</i> <i>Three Divertimenti</i>
Debussy	<i>Quartet in G minor, Op. 10</i>
Dvorak	<i>Quartet no. 12 in F Major, Op. 96 "American"</i> <i>Quartet no. 14 in A-flat Major, Op. 105*</i>
Gershwin	<i>Lullaby</i>
Haydn	<i>Quartet in B-flat Major, Op. 1, no. 1*</i> <i>Quartet in F Major, Op. 77, no. 2*</i>
Mendelssohn	<i>Quartet in A minor, Op. 13*</i> <i>Quartet in F minor, Op. 80*</i>
McFaul	<i>"st qt" (2003)**</i>
Mozart	<i>Quartet in F Major, K. 590*</i>
Roem	<i>Quartet no. 4</i>
Scearce	<i>String Quartet no. 1, "Y2K" **</i>
Schubert	<i>Quartet in A minor, D. 804, "Rosamunde"*</i> <i>Quartet in D minor, D. 810, "Death and the Maiden"*</i> <i>Quartet no. 8 in C minor, Op. 110</i>
Shostakovich	<i>Three Pieces</i>
Stravinsky	

\* "From Prodigy to Masters" Series

\*\* Written for Fry Street Quartet



# ACCLAIM

“The Fry Street Quartet churned out honey in wide areas of soaring, gold melody and chased patterns in pulsing rhythm.”  
– *New York Concert Review*

“They demonstrated a dynamic foursome, playing with passion and intensity... exhibiting a finely tuned and refined ensemble form that one normally finds only among older, more established groups.”  
– *Deseret Morning News*

“The Fry Street Quartet...made this music spring to life in full form.”  
– *Palm Beach Daily News*

“...they engaged their audience... on every level!”  
– John Gordon Ross, Music Director, Western Piedmont Symphony, Hickory, NC

“The Fry Street Quartet is endowed with everything that makes for a striking and unqualified success. It makes a perfect marriage of ageless wisdom and youthful freshness.”  
– *New York Concert Review*

“...the four exhibited profound understanding of the music, depth of expression and stunning technical astuteness. This is certainly an ensemble to watch!”  
– *Deseret Morning News*

“They do all of it — at just the right moments and with a deceptive ease that makes you forget the commitment and dedication required to reach this level.”  
– Robert Winter, Professor of Music, UCLA

For complete reviews and booking information please visit  
[www.frystreetquartet.com](http://www.frystreetquartet.com)





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