

## Migrating Music



### Quartet for Strings by Amy Beach



#### ABOUT THE COMPOSER

### Amy Beach

Amy Beach was a leading figure in American classical music, becoming the first woman to achieve popular and critical recognition with large-scale compositions of classical music. Born on September 5, 1867 in Henniker, NH, she was a child prodigy. She made her public debut as a pianist in 1883 and performed with the Boston Symphony in 1885. Her first published work appeared the same year. Premiered by the Boston Symphony Orchestra in 1896, her "Gaelic" Symphony was the first symphony composed and published by an American woman.

Amy Beach wanted to lead the way for other women to succeed in the profession and was a founding member and first president of the Society of American Women Composers. She died in New York on December 27, 1944, leaving more than 300 published works.

In the 1890's, there was a movement in the United States to create music that would reflect a nationalistic sound based on American roots and national identity. Amy Beach composed works inspired by folk music from Scottish, Irish, Balkan, African-American, and Native-American origins, reflecting the diverse backgrounds of American people.

Amy Beach's "Quartet for Strings, Op. 89" was inspired by the music of the Inuit people.

**INUIT:** people from indigenous communities that live in the arctic regions of Alaska, Canada, and Greenland.

We play two well-known Inuit songs, "Summer Song" and "Playing at Ball." Amy Beach used these two songs as inspiration for the first section of her "Quartet for Strings." You will hear these melodies woven into this lyrical work, which she completed in 1929.

#### MORE INFORMATION

Amy Beach: <https://www.amybeach.org/>

Songs of Alaskan Inuit:

<https://blog.oup.com/2014/06/alaskan-inuit-music-traditions/>



## Migrating Music



MARIA  
violin 1

HALEY  
violin 2

YU-PING  
cello

DANIEL  
viola

### A STRING QUARTET

is an ensemble of four solo strings, traditionally two violins, viola and cello.

### THE VIOLIN

is the smallest member of the string instruments and is able to play the highest notes in music. A string quartet has two violins, called "first violin" and "second violin," and they each play a different part.

### THE VIOLA

looks very similar to a violin but it is slightly larger, and so it gives a sound that is slightly lower. It usually plays notes that are lower than the second violin but higher than the cello.

### THE CELLO

has the same shape as the violin and viola, but it is too big to be held under the chin! It is the largest instrument of the string quartet and so it can play the lowest notes of all the instruments in the quartet.

All the musicians use a bow to make the strings on their instrument vibrate. Bows are made of hair from a horse's tail!



### MARIA ARRUA, VIOLIN 1

"My parents love music. They encouraged my older sister to play the Paraguayan harp, and then my brother started learning the guitar. I learned to love music from them. I knew that I wanted to play a musical instrument but I wasn't sure which one. One day, I watched a violinist performing on TV. It was love at first sight— or sound!

I love the sound of the violin and its capacity to express emotions. Through music I continuously learn important lessons for life. There is always room for improvement. You can do great things alone, but you can do even greater things when you team up with others. For example, in quartet or in orchestra!"

Violinist Maria Arrua leads an active career performing and teaching. She is concertmaster of the Champaign Urbana Symphony Orchestra and also performs with the Elgin and Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestras. She is an Adjunct Instructor at Illinois Wesleyan University, where she teaches violin. Born in Paraguay, Maria began her musical training at the age of ten at the National Conservatory of Music of Paraguay. She holds degrees in Violin Performance from Louisiana State University and Pennsylvania State University and is currently a doctoral candidate at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana.



### HALEY SCHRICKER, VIOLIN 2

"I started playing violin when I was ten. I was inspired by listening to fiddle playing in old-time music and bluegrass. My favorite part about playing an instrument is that I can express myself and connect with other people, all while doing something creative. There is so much music already out there in

the world, as well as music for string instruments still being written today. I had never heard some of these pieces before I had to practice my part to play it for you! To everyone who watches Migrating Music, I hope you enjoy it, and thank you for motivating me to keep learning new things."

Violinist Haley Schricker is a second year master's student at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She is a member of the Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra as well as the University of Illinois Symphony Orchestra, and performs regularly with Sinfonia da Camera. She has performed as a soloist with the Eastman Philharmonia, San Diego Civic Youth Orchestra, the Youth Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Virtuosi USA chamber orchestra in venues in the US and Germany. Haley received her bachelor's degree from the Eastman School of Music.

### YU-PING WU, CELLO

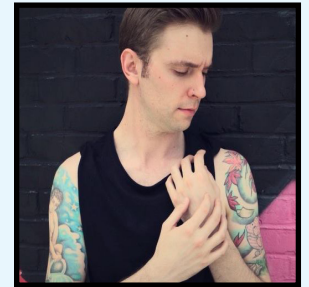
"I started to learn piano when I was five and later cello when I was eight. In kindergarten I overheard other kids having their piano lessons and I was moved by the sound. I remember that I took up my courage to ask my parents if I could take piano lessons. So I think it was those kids who inspired me to be brave to actively pursue something. I love the intimacy and depth of the cello sound! I love finding a personal connection in music and at the same time exploring something that is beyond myself and my experience. I hope you enjoy our videos!"



A native of Taiwan, cellist Yu-Ping Wu is a fellowship recipient and is pursuing his Artist Diploma with Dmitry Kouzov and Daniel McDonough at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He received his Master of Music from Louisiana State University in 2019 and Bachelor of Fine Arts from Taiwan Normal University in 2015, where he studied with Dennis Parker and Lee-Wen Dai. Yu-Ping has performed in the cello section of Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra, Sinfonia da Camera Chamber Orchestra, and Baton Rouge Symphony.

### DANIEL MCCARTHY, VIOLA

"I was 14 when I started learning the viola. My grandmother was a singer and released an album in Spain before she immigrated to the United States. I think she is the origin of my interest in music! I love the warm, rich, and dark sound of the viola. I've been able to travel the world and perform in many countries and I am so grateful for the many people I've met. What I want my young audience to know is, whatever you are passionate about, go for it!"



American violist and educator Daniel McCarthy has appeared with ensembles throughout North America and Europe. He performs as a violist with the Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra and Millikin Decatur Symphony Orchestra. Daniel is a candidate in the Doctor of Musical Arts program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he studies under the mentorship of Elizabeth Freivogel, violist of the Jupiter String Quartet. In 2020, Daniel received the Chip Davis/Mannheim Steamroller Orchestra Award and the Achievement Award for the Strings Department. He holds degrees from Boston University, Southern Methodist University, and the Catholic University of America.