



New England
Conservatory

Concert Program

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Welcome to NEC!

I am thrilled to share New England Conservatory's 2024-25 concert season—a celebration of the power of music to connect and inspire one another.

Whether you are seated in one of our concert halls or watching online, we hope you are uplifted by the performances of our students, faculty, and guest artists.

Above all, we thank you for your support of our students as they cultivate their artistry and contribute to the world through music.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Andrea Kalyn". The signature is stylized with loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Andrea Kalyn
President

Alira String Quartet

2024-2025 NEC Honors Ensemble

Caroline Smoak, violin

Darwin Chang, violin

Joy Hsieh, viola

Jonah Kernis, cello

Paul Katz, coach

Saturday, April 12, 2025

7:30 p.m.

NEC's Jordan Hall

PROGRAM

Maurice Ravel
(1875–1937)

String Quartet in F Major
Allegro moderato, très doux
Assez vif, très rythmé
Très lent
Vif et agité

Shiyi Fang '26 MM

Light and Shadow through Stained Glass (2022)
for string quartet

Intermission

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770–1827)

String Quartet No. 8 in E Minor, op. 59 no. 2
“Razumovsky”
Allegro
Molto adagio
Allegretto
Finale: Presto

*We would like to thank Professor Paul Katz
for his guidance, inspiration, and mentorship
as well as those who have helped and encouraged us throughout this year.*

Fang *Light and Shadow Through Stained Glass*

This piece is inspired by the way stained glass transforms light—fracturing it into shifting patterns of color and shadow. In translating this visual experience into sound, the music explores layered textures, spatial movement, and the gentle evolution of timbre.

Sound here is treated like light: fragmented, refracted, always in motion. Layers emerge and dissolve, creating a sense of depth that isn't fixed, but always shifting. Space becomes part of the material—tones are placed, shaped, and spread out to echo how light moves across a surface.

Contrasts—between resonance and stillness, density and transparency—mirror the quiet tension inside stained glass: brightness held within shadow, movement within stillness.

– *Shiyi Fang*

Formed in September 2024 at the New England Conservatory of Music, the **Alira String Quartet** is currently coached by Professor Paul Katz. The Alira Quartet is a winner of the 2024-25 Chamber Music Honors Ensemble Award at NEC. The quartet has participated in the Classical Music Institute's String Quartet Fellowship, where they received coachings with the Escher String Quartet and concluded with a performance of the Ravel String Quartet at the McNay Art Museum in San Antonio, Texas.

Most recently, the Alira Quartet performed Mendelssohn's String Octet alongside the Borromeo String Quartet in Jordan Hall as well as being named Finalist at the Coltman Competition.

From collaborating on composer concert series to bringing music to diverse communities through NEC's Community Partnership Program, the Alira String Quartet embodies a profound commitment to connection, expression, and the boundless possibilities of the string quartet experience. Not only do they want to perform string quartets around the world, they also want to bring quartet music to underserved communities and share with them the love that they have for chamber music.

Support the future of music at NEC!

Your gift to The NEC Fund has a direct and immediate impact on student scholarships, NEC's world-class faculty, and a collaborative and innovative learning environment rooted in the highest level of musical excellence.

Please consider making a gift to support NEC at necmusic.edu/givenow

Food and drink are not allowed in the concert hall,
and photography and audio or video recording are prohibited.

Assistive listening devices are available for all Jordan Hall concerts;
contact the head usher or house manager on duty or inquire at the Coat Room.

Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of management.

Stay connected




necmusic.edu/tonight

How can **you** keep
the music playing?

Find out by visiting **necmusic.edu/givenow**.





Thank you to our generous community of donors who remain committed to elevating the NEC experience and make it possible for our students to continue their artistic pursuits. Every gift to **The NEC Fund** supports all pillars of an NEC education, from scholarship to community engagement, to our world-renowned faculty.



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