



For Immediate Release

**MUSIC AT KOHL MANSION PRESENTS
THE WORLD ACCLAIMED ISRAELI CHAMBER MUSIC ENSEMBLE
ARIEL QUARTET, SUNDAY, APRIL 13 AT 7 P.M., AND THE FINAL
BAY AREA PERFORMANCE OF THE ALEXANDER STRING QUARTET, MAY 4**
www.musicatkohl.org

Burlingame, Calif. (March 21, 2025) — **Music at Kohl Mansion** (MAKM), one of the Bay Area’s leading presenters of chamber music, will continue its international season Sunday, April 13 with the multi award-winning Israeli music ensemble, the **Ariel Quartet**. Now in their 27th season, the Ariel Quartet musicians will perform a musically sublime program of works entitled **Requiem** featuring music of Felix Mendelssohn, Lera Auerbach and Benjamin Britten. The Ariel Quartet’s last MAKM concert was in February 2020, on the eve of the Covid-19 pandemic. The musicians performed on the Holocaust-era “Violins of Hope” instruments.

MAKM’s 42nd season will conclude with the world-renowned **Alexander String Quartet**, Sunday, May 4 in a program with guest pianist **Jeffrey LaDeur*** performing works by Joseph Haydn, American-Iranian composer Kirian Ravaei, and Johannes Brahms. This concert will mark the ensemble’s 27th and final appearance at Kohl Mansion and, after a remarkable 44-year tenure, will be a poignant farewell to the Alexander String Quartet as they move forward with their plans to retire.

The MAKM Audiences will experience the intimacy of live chamber music on Sunday evenings at 7 p.m. in the remarkable setting of the historic Great Hall at Burlingame’s Kohl Mansion, a cherished venue hailed as “an acoustic gem ... an intimate performance space.” (*San Francisco Chronicle*)

ARIEL QUARTET <https://www.arielquartet.com/photo>

Sunday, April 13, 2025 at 7 p.m.

REQUIEM

Felix Mendelssohn: String Quartet in F minor, Op. 80

Lera Auerbach: String Quartet No. 3, *Cetera Desunt*

Benjamin Britten: String Quartet No. 2 in C Major, Op. 36

Alexandra Kazovsky and Gershon Gerchikov, violin; Jan Grüning, viola; Amit Even-Tov, cello

******* REQUIEM PROGRAM NOTES FROM ARIEL QUARTET *******

“As artists, we have a need and an obligation to reflect on and process collective and subjective experiences in our craft. As humanity emerged from social isolation, slowly finding its way back into the concert hall, the world entered yet another round of devastating wars, and our thoughts and feelings naturally turned to repertoire reflecting this need.

“Felix Mendelssohn's Quartet Op. 80 was written shortly after his sister Fanny tragically passed away due to complications from a stroke. Mendelssohn himself died shortly thereafter from the same cause, making this quartet his final completed work.

“In the spirit of Lera Auerbach's reluctance to explain her own music, we will shy away from any literal interpretations and let the music speak for itself. Suffice it to say that the title of the piece - *Cetera Desunt (The Rest is Absent)* - and, more importantly, its musical message feels right at home in this program centered around mourning and loss.

“In July of 1945, Benjamin Britten traveled to Germany together with violinist Yehudi Menuhin, and during a period of ten days the pair played fourteen recitals for concentration camp survivors. It is impossible to put into words what this experience must have left them with, but music has the power to convey what words cannot.

“Britten's String Quartet No. 2, Op.36 in C Major, written in the wake of this ‘concert tour,’ leaves us completely depleted and yet deeply touched, changed, with a prevailing sense of having witnessed experiences no human should have to endure, and yet so many have.

“Filled to the brim with contrast and expressivity, the works displayed in *Requiem* trace three dramatically different composers' responses to loss, be it personal or collective, explicit or implicit, and the resulting experience is a riveting and emotionally stirring Aristotelian catharsis.”

ABOUT ARIEL QUARTET

Distinguished by its virtuosity, probing musical insight, and impassioned, fiery performances, the **Ariel Quartet** has garnered critical praise worldwide for more than twenty-five years. Formed when the members were just teenagers studying at the Jerusalem Academy Middle School of Music and Dance in Israel, the Ariel was named a recipient of the prestigious Cleveland Quartet Award, granted by Chamber Music America in recognition of artistic achievement and career support.

Celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2023, the Quartet serves as the Faculty Quartet-in-Residence at the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music (CCM), where the musicians direct the chamber music program and present a concert series, in addition to maintaining a busy touring schedule in the U.S. and abroad. Recent highlights include the Ariel Quartet's sold-out Carnegie Hall debut, a series of performances at Lincoln Center together with pianist Inon Barnatan and the Mark Morris Dance Group, as well as the release of a Brahms and Bartók album for Avie Records. In 2020, the Ariel gave the U.S. premiere of the Quintet for Piano and Strings by Daniil Trifonov, with the composer as pianist.

The Quartet has dedicated much of its artistic energy and musical prowess to the groundbreaking Beethoven quartets and has performed the complete Beethoven cycle on six occasions throughout the U.S. and Europe. Over the years, the Quartet has collaborated with an array of international musicians including the legendary Menahem Pressler, cellist Alisa Weilerstein, violinist Itzhak Perlman, and pianists Orion Weiss and Jeremy Denk. Among its many awards, the Ariel Quartet won the Gold Medal and Grand Prize at the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition.

The appearance of the Ariel Quartet at Kohl Mansion is made possible, in part, by the Consulate General of Israel to the Pacific Northwest Region.

~~~~~ TICKETS, PRE-PERFORMANCE LECTURES, SPONSORS ~~~~~

Music at Kohl Mansion's 2024-25 season is presented at Kohl Mansion's Great Hall, 2750 Adeline Drive, Burlingame. All concerts are held on Sunday evenings at 7 p.m. Single tickets are priced \$62 (adult), \$60 (senior) and \$30 (age 30 and

under), and may be purchased online via www.musicatkohl.org or by calling the Box Office at (650) 762-1130. All concerts include a post-performance reception with the artists. Ample free parking is available for ticket holders.

Christopher Costanza, renowned cellist with the recently disbanded St. Lawrence String Quartet and active Stanford educator/coach, will offer an informative pre-concert lecture for ticket holders at 6 p.m. in the Kohl Mansion Library before the April and May concerts.

Young Chamber Musicians Public Master Classes at Kohl Mansion

Partners in music education since early 2011, Young Chamber Musicians and Music at Kohl Mansion offer a series of free public master classes at 5 p.m. prior to the Sunday chamber concerts. The public is invited to observe musicians in the making as Music at Kohl's distinguished artists coach and mentor advanced student players in the intimate setting of the Kohl Mansion Library. This is a wonderful behind-the-scenes peek at how music comes to life.

Music at Kohl Mansion gratefully acknowledges and thanks the following for their support: **Mervyn L. Brenner Foundation, Sam Mazza Foundation, DragonFly Community Arts, Atkinson Foundation, Bella Charitable Foundation, Y & H Soda Foundation, Community Foundation of San Carlos, the City of Burlingame, the Consulate General of Israel to the Pacific Northwest Region**, and over 100 generous individual donors

Music at Kohl Mansion is the longest-running chamber music-only presenter on the San Francisco Peninsula. MAKM is deeply committed to community building through the arts, both in its mainstage international concert series and in education and civic programs throughout San Mateo County that connect people and promote human understanding.

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Please connect for interviews, artwork/video and press credentials.

All programs and artists are subject to change.

For press images, visit <https://musicatkohl.org/for-press/>

***Music at Kohl Mansion Debut**