

The **Argonne String Quartet** was founded in 2012 as an ensemble dedicated to performing chamber music as it was originally performed, in the “chamber.” The debut season of the ASQ was a series of house party performances, or “Quartet Parties,” each beginning with food and drink, musicians greeting guests as they gather, flowing into a recital performance, followed by dessert, and enjoying the company of the invited guests. As performances in a home limit the number of guests who may attend, the 2013-2014 ASQ season includes the addition of more formal recitals in larger venues.

Matthew Richardson, violin, holds both a Bachelor and Master of Music degree from George Mason University's School of Music, where his primary instructor was Peter Haase. He is a regular member of the first violin section of the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra, and is the newly appointed Principal Second Violin of The Mclean Orchestra. Other prominent orchestral experience includes being accepted into the 2006 National Orchestral Institute at the University of Maryland; being invited to perform in the festival Chamber Orchestra and Opera Orchestra at the 2007 Pine Mountain Music Festival in Upper Peninsula, MI; Performing with the Orfeo International Music Festival Chamber Orchestra; and substitute performances with the Eclipse Chamber Orchestra (DC), the Ars Nova Chamber Orchestra, the American Festival Pops Orchestra, and the Winchester Orchestra among other freelance work. Additionally, Matthew has been an active violin teacher in the Northern Virginia area since 2007. His students have gone to rank highly in all levels of the American Youth Philharmonic orchestras, as well as leading sections in the Northern Virginia Senior Regional Orchestra, and the Virginia All-State Orchestra. He has also served on the faculty of the Ovations Summer Strings Academy since 2009, and is currently on the faculty at the Potomac Arts Academy in Fairfax, VA and the Catocin School of Music in Leesburg, VA where he teaches private violin lessons and coaches chamber ensembles. Matthew's primary teachers include Peter Haase, Zino Bogachek, Karen Johnson, Weigang Li, and Joseph Wargo.

Violinist, Jennifer Wade, winner of the 2013-14 *Virginia String Teachers' Association* Orchestra Director of the Year Award, is an active educator in the Northern Virginia Area. In 2009, Ms. Wade co-founded and has served as the Music Director and Conductor of *Prelude: The Arlington Youth Orchestral Program* since its inception. She also maintains an active private violin and viola studio since having earned her BM in Violin Performance from the Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt University in 2001. In her capacity as an educator, Ms. Wade has served as a judge for the Northern Virginia Music Educator's Concerto Competition, the District XII Orchestra Festival, the District X & XII Solo & Ensemble Festivals, the Arlington Fine Arts Apprentice Program and the regional division of the nationally coordinated Reflections Contest, among others.

A native of Arlington, VA, Ms. Wade also maintains an active free-lance performance career in the Washington, D.C. region. She has performed with many well known groups in the area including the National Philharmonic, the Washington Concert Opera, The Virginia Consort, The Cathedral Choral Society, The Amadeus Orchestra,

The Baltimore Ballet and the Maryland Symphony, among many others. Ms. Wade's first love has always been chamber music and, as such, she was thrilled to be offered the opportunity to join the Argonne String Quartet as the group's second violinist.

Helen Fall, viola, is an active member of the Washington area freelance community, having performed with ensembles including the National Gallery Orchestra, National Philharmonic Orchestra, and Concert Soloists of Washington. She is currently a member of both the Fairfax and Alexandria Symphony Orchestras. Principal Viola of the Arlington Symphony from 1984-2004, Helen was a featured soloist in 1992. Her most recent solo performance was in May, performing the viola solo for Vaughn-Williams' *Flos Campi* with the Metropolitan Chorus. As a chamber musician, Helen has performed with various ensembles in chamber series' throughout the DC metro region. A former member of the Fairfax Chamber Ensemble, Helen moved on, and in 2012 joined with the current members in founding the Argonne String Quartet. Helen is also active as a private teacher, chamber music coach, and free-lance sectional and chamber music coach for area youth orchestras and schools. She manages the personnel, and participates as a coach, for the Fairfax Symphony education program, SCORE.

Cellist Jeff Van Osten began his studies on the cello at age 16 with Jerome Carrington of the Juilliard Prep School. He earned both his Bachelors degree (cello) and his Masters degree (viola da gamba) from Indiana University where his teachers included Eva Czako, Janos Starker, and Gary Hofmann. He has played with several of the local DC orchestras including the Alexandria Symphony, the Fairfax Symphony, and the Arlington Symphony. He has been on the faculty of the Levine School of Music, Washington, DC, for 16 years and has a private studio in Alexandria, VA. He is a former member of the Fairfax Chamber Ensemble and a founding member of the Argonne Quartet.