

ESTABLISHED 1941 • OUR 84<sup>TH</sup> SEASON

# CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY *of* UTICA

*with generous support from*  
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Menotti

*presents*

## *Rastrelli Cello Quartet*

Kira Kraftzoff, Artistic Director and Founder  
Mischa Degtjareff  
Kirill Timofeev  
Sergio Drabkin



Sunday, 30 March 2025 • 2:30 PM  
Munson Art Museum • Sinnott Family Bank of Utica Auditorium  
310 Genesee Street, Utica NY 13502

## PROGRAM

Christoph Willibald Gluck.....“Dance of the Furies” from *Orfeo ed Euridice*  
(1714-1787) First performance 1762

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky .....“Andante Cantabile” from String Quartet No. 1  
(1840-1893) Composed 1871

Johannes Brahms .....Six Hungarian Dances  
(1833-1897) Composed 1879

Edvard Grieg ..... Excerpts from *Peer Gynt*  
(1843-1907) Composed 1875

Morning Mood, Death of Åse, Solveig’s Song, Abduction of the Bride,  
Ingrid’s Lament, In the Hall of the Mountain King

## INTERMISSION

Sergei Prokofiev.....Five Scenes from *Romeo and Juliet*  
(1891-1953) Composed 1935, Revised 1940

Knight Dance, Juliet as a Young Girl,  
Dance of the Girls, Masked Ball, Mercutio

Giacomo Puccini.....“E lucevan le stelle” (“And the stars were shining”) from *Tosca*  
(1858-1924) Composed 1900

Béla Bartók .....Six Romanian Folk Dances  
(1881-1945) Composed 1915

Stick Dance, Sash Dance, In One Spot,  
Dance from Bucsum, Romanian Polka, Fast Dance

Mischa Degtjareff, Kirill Timofeev ..... “White Night Melody”, “Old Boy”

Astor Piazzolla ..... Two Tangos Nuevo and A Fugue  
(1921-1992)

“Oblivion” (1982), Fuga y Misterio (1968), “Libertango” (1974)

## **RASTRELLI CELLO QUARTET**

The four members of the Rastrelli Cello Quartet began working together in 2002 and have devoted themselves ever since to exploring the cello's world of sound. They are committed to tradition, but completely uncoupled from the conventional approach, which only serves as a solid foundation. Since then, the ensemble has built up a unique and broad repertoire, the likes of which can't be found anywhere else.

The Rastrelli repertoire consists almost exclusively of arrangements by Sergio Drabkin, one of the quartet's founding members. Under the artistic direction of the charismatic virtuoso, Kira Kraftzoff, Drabkin's refined compositions lead the quartet on a journey through an individual and often unexpected musical landscape.

Each member of the quartet contributes his unique character, experiences and perspectives to the overall picture, and so two of the artistic director's former students, Mischa Degtjareff and Kirill Timofeev, also members since 2002, contribute to the quartet's ongoing success.

The four Rastrelli cellists only perform music that they themselves love—that's a matter of absolute conviction when it comes to putting together their programs. The quartet treats its audience with a mixture of arrangements of chamber music works, orchestral classics, and standards of cello literature, as well as popular music, jazz, klezmer and tango.

The art of transformation becomes, without exception, an authentic adventure in sound for the listener. There are always four cellos and yet you think you are hearing an old piano playing ragtime, a saxophone of the Glenn Miller Orchestra, or Piazzolla's bandoneon.

The very personal bond that the quartet has with its home city of St. Petersburg is manifest through the name they chose for their ensemble, inspired by the 18th century architect responsible for a number of prominent historical buildings in St. Petersburg. Bartholomeo Rastrelli shaped the image of the city in northern Russia like no other.

Rastrelli Cello Quartet appears by arrangement with Jean Schreiber Management.

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# OUR NEXT CMSU CONCERT

## Poulenc Trio

Sunday, 04 May 2025 at 2:30 PM  
performing works by  
Poulenc, Beethoven, Rossini, Ellington



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### B-SHARP MUSICAL CLUB

B Sharp Performance  
Sunday, April 27, 2025, at 3:00 PM

Program Co-chairs:  
Elizabeth Carville Evans and Elissa May Murphy

Program  
Elizabeth Carville Evans, Margaret Tallman  
Others to be Announced

Munson (Sinnott Family - Bank of Utica Auditorium)  
310 Genesee St., Utica, NY

## CLINTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA OF THE MOHAWK VALLEY

### Favorites in Concert!

Saturday, May 31, 2025, at 7:00 PM  
Clinton Performing Arts Complex, 75 Chenango Avenue North, Clinton NY

For more information see website [WWW.CLINTONSYPHONYORCHESTRA.ORG](http://WWW.CLINTONSYPHONYORCHESTRA.ORG)

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