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382 Central Park West #9C
New York, NY 10025
(212) 864-7928 Fax (212) 864-8189
www.parkerartists.com

EUCLID QUARTET

Resident String Quartet, Indiana University South Bend
Biography 2016-2017 Season

Jameson Cooper, violin Luis Enrique Vargas, viola
Brendan Shea, violin Jacqueline Choi, cello

Celebrating its 18th anniversary season, the **EUCLID QUARTET** enjoys one of the most highly regarded reputations of any chamber ensemble of its generation, with its members' constituting a multinational mix representing four continents: violinist Jameson Cooper (Great Britain), violinist Brendan Shea (United States), violist Luis Enrique Vargas (Venezuela), cellist Jacqueline Choi (South Korea). Captivating audiences and critics ranging from Carnegie Hall to school classrooms to radio and television broadcasts, the quartet consistently performs to enthusiastic acclaim throughout the country.

Formed in Ohio in 1998, the Euclid Quartet takes its name from the famous Euclid Avenue in Cleveland, home to a wealth of renowned artistic and cultural institutions. Within three years, the ensemble was awarded the String Quartet Fellowship of the Aspen Music Festival, where it was invited to return for the subsequent summer's concert season. The quartet was also invited to study with the Emerson String Quartet at the Carnegie Hall Professional Training Workshop.

Highlights of the Euclid Quartet's career include significant global recognition as the first American string quartet to be awarded a top prize at the prestigious Osaka International Chamber Music Competition. Prior to its Japanese laurels, the quartet also won awards in numerous United States competitions, including the Hugo Kauder International Competition for String Quartets, The Carmel Chamber Music Competition and the Chamber Music Yellow Springs Competition. In 2009, the Euclid Quartet was awarded the esteemed "American Masterpieces" grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Euclid is a frequent guest ensemble at American and Canadian music festivals, among them those of Aspen, Great Lakes, Kent/Blossom and Orford, while expanded programs have included collaborations with internationally renowned artists, including James Dunham, Gregory Fulkerson, Warren Jones, Paul Katz, Joseph Silverstein and Alexander Toradze.

In 2007, the Euclid Quartet was appointed to the prestigious string quartet residency at Indiana University South Bend, where its members teach private lessons and coach chamber music. Passionately devoted to presenting the highest quality chamber music to young audiences,

these seasoned teaching artists have performed for thousands and thousands of students and young adults, in part through support from the National Endowment for the Arts and collaborations with Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute and the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Association.

Active in the recording studio, the Euclid Quartet issued, most recently, a pair of CDs, comprising the six string quartets of Béla Bartók on Artek Recordings. The *American Record Guide* raved about these discs, "rarely has a group found such meaning and vision." Their debut CD, on Centaur records, features the first four quartets of Hugo Kauder, a refugee from Nazi-occupied Austria who fled to the United States in the 1940s. He defied the atonal trend of his generation with his uniquely harmonic, contrapuntal style.

www.euclidquartet.com

EUCLID QUARTET

Individual Biographies

A native of Sheffield, England, **JAMESON COOPER** took to the violin at age six. He went on to be Concertmaster of the National Youth Chamber Orchestra previous to earning a Bachelors degree in violin and the Professional Performers Diploma from the Royal Northern College of Music. He continued his studies in the U.S. at the Aspen Music Festival with Dorothy Delay and Masao Kawasaki, subsequently with Roland and Almita Vamos. He holds Masters degrees in both violin performance and orchestra conducting from Kent State University. As a founding member of the Euclid Quartet, Jameson has won numerous prestigious competition prizes and an award from the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as performing in distinguished concert venues, among them New York City's Carnegie Hall and Washington, DC's Library of Congress and National Gallery of Art. He is the dedicatee of several new works for violin, and has appeared as soloist in major halls in Europe and the U.S., most recently at The John F. Kennedy center for the Performing Arts. Jameson has given master classes at universities and colleges throughout the U.S., and he regularly serves as a judge for the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition's senior strings division. His recordings include the six Bartók string quartets and string quartets Nos. 1-4 by Hugo Kauder, both with the Euclid Quartet, the Prokofiev works for violin and piano, and an album of contemporary solo violin repertoire. He performs on a violin crafted by Gregg Alf.

BRENDAN SHEA, violinist, is an award-winning chamber musician and soloist. He has performed throughout Europe, North America and Asia. As a chamber musician he has collaborated with many of the world's leading ensembles and musicians, including Colin Carr, *Eighth* Blackbird, among many others. He is a founding member of the Wasmuth (now Verona) Quartet and the Shea-Kim duo. His notable awards include top prize at the Osaka International Chamber Music Competition and Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition, as well as first prize at the Coleman and Chesapeake International Chamber Music Competitions. As a teacher, Brendan serves on the faculty of the Mahanaim School in Huntington, New York, and joins that of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music in the spring of 2017. In the fall of 2016, he became the second violinist of the Euclid Quartet and a member of the faculty of Indiana University South Bend, teaching violin.

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Violist **LUIS ENRIQUE VARGAS** joined the Euclid Quartet in 2001 and teaches viola and chamber music at Indiana University South Bend since 2007. Born in Venezuela, he is a former member of the world renowned “El Sistema,” touring Europe and South America several times, performing with two of its most prominent orchestras, the Simon Bolivar Orchestra and the Lara Symphony. During his formative years in Venezuela he studied at the Vicente Emilio Sojo and the Simon Bolivar conservatories of music. Subsequently, he moved to the USA to continue graduate studies at Miami University of Ohio and at Northern Illinois University, where he pursued his Master’s in Music Performance and Performer’s Certificate. With the Euclid Quartet, he has recorded the full cycle of string quartets by Bela Bartók, released on the Artek label. He has served as an adjudicator for nationally and internationally recognized chamber music competitions, including the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition and the annual chamber music competition of the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA). From 2005 to 2014, he was a member of the Board of Directors of the Hugo Kauder Society and helped with organizing and judging their annual international music competition. He currently serves as a voting member of the National Academy of Recordings Arts and Sciences, the Grammy Awards® organization.

JACQUELINE CHOI, applauded as “an emerging star” by *The Boston Globe*, is a pioneering cellist, chamber musician and teacher around the globe. Dr. Choi has appeared as soloist with numerous orchestras, including the Boston, Brockton and Allentown symphony orchestras, New England Philharmonic and Bucheon Philharmonic Orchestra, among others, while her recent solo performances have brought her to New York City’s Alice Tully Hall and Merkin Concert Hall, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Boston’s Symphony Hall and Jordan Hall, Musée du Louvre, Jerusalem Music Center, Mozarteum Brasileiro and Seoul Arts Center. In December 2016, she will appear in her New York City debut recital at Carnegie Hall’s Weill Recital Hall. A lover of chamber music, Dr. Choi appeared with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, toured internationally as a member of the Kumho Soloists and performed at numerous festivals, including Music@Menlo, Yellow Barn Festival, The Banff Centre, The Perlman Music Program and Schleswig-Holstein Musikfestival, collaborating with Itzhak Perlman, Krzysztof Penderecki, John Adams, John Harbison and Stephen Coxe. Dr. Choi was awarded first prize at numerous competitions, among them the Eisenberg-Fried Concerto Competition (2012) and the Edwin H. & Leigh W. Schadt String Competition (2010). Having completed her Bachelor’s degree at the New England Conservatory and Master’s degree at The Juilliard School, she earned her Doctor of Musical Arts degree in 2015 at the Manhattan School of Music in New York. She is currently serving on the faculty of Indiana University South Bend as Lecturer in Music and cellist of the Euclid Quartet, its Resident String Quartet.