

## FESTIVAL AND MUSICA DOLCE TO SEND STRING QUARTET TO SCHOOLS IN REGION

The Kingston Chamber Music Festival, in partnership with Musica Dolce, will send a string quartet to perform in as many as 12 schools in the region during the week of February 8-12, 2016.

The outreach represents the festival's 25th annual school music program, which was initiated in 1991 by festival founder David Kim. It will be the first time the festival has sent a string quartet — the classic configuration of instruments for chamber music — to the schools, and the first time Kingston has partnered with another music organization for outreach.

Musica Dolce, founded in 1992, is a core group of musicians from Rhode Island and Connecticut that regularly performs concerts around the region and maintains its own schools music program, as well as a youth string ensemble.

The string quartet will be composed of three members of La Bella Musica, a Rhode Island-based ensemble well known for its performances around the region. They are violinist **Emily Chen**, violist **Ilana Revkin**, and cellist **Morgan Santos**. They will be joined by violinist **Pat Petersen**, a retired North Kingstown school music teacher and former member of the Rhode Island Philharmonic. Chen and Petersen are both members of the Board of Directors of the Kingston Chamber Music Festival. Santos and Petersen are on the board for Musica Dolce.

Violinist Kim, now the concertmaster of The Philadelphia Orchestra, conducted the Kingston schools outreach program by himself for many years. Subsequently, single artists performing on virtually every instrument represented in an orchestra, including percussion, have toured schools for Kingston's outreach.

The school program outreach is always a two-way interaction with young people as the musicians explain how their instruments work, and talk about some of the satisfactions of music-making, as well as something about the music itself. This year's program will explore a 'Musical Time Machine' – relating musical examples of the last 400 years to American history and inventions.

The current artistic directors of both sponsoring organizations, pianists Natalie Zhu (Kingston) and Paul Rosenbloom (Musica Dolce) say that the quartet configuration presents a unique opportunity for music education and appreciation. A string quartet can sound like a symphony in a small room and a performance clearly demonstrates lessons of teamwork and harmony, as well as the intricacies of the music itself, the two said.



## 2016 Kingston Chamber Music Festival: 7 Concerts, July 20-31

Complete music programs and the lineup of artists will be posted in early spring on the festival's web site – [kingstonchambermusic.org](http://kingstonchambermusic.org). Tickets will be available on the web site beginning May 2, or from the festival's box office (401-874-2106) beginning May 9.