



350 word bio

For nearly three decades, the GRAMMY®-winning, fearless string quartet ETHEL has been an electrifying presence on the global stage, fusing virtuosic playing and innovation with the music of our time. The ensemble is a future-focused, pioneering musical force, with a sonic legacy of evocative storytelling and heartfelt human connection, and continues to shatter preconceived boundaries across sound and style.

Premiering over 500 works—many commissions—the quest for building artistic relationships is at ETHEL’s core. In addition to traditional recital formats, its collaborative and multimedia productions are central to ETHEL’s identity. It’s thrilling performances on the world’s top stages range from Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center, to Sydney Opera House, Amsterdam’s Concertgebouw, Ravinia Festival, Holland’s TROMP, Venice Biennale, and FIAC in Mexico. Upcoming is *Reimagine*, an evening-length collaboration with two-time Grammy®-winning soprano Hila Plitmann and director/designer Doug Fitch, commissioning song transformations from seventeen composers in all genres with immersive visuals.

Composer performers—Ralph Farris (viola), Kip Jones (violin), Dorothy Lawson (cello), and Corin Lee (violin)—have been commissioned by a bevy of institutions nationally, including the NEA. The quartet has worked with a kaleidoscopic array of legendary artists including Bang on a Can All-Stars, Vijay Iyer, David Byrne, Sō Percussion, Todd Rundgren, Ursula Oppens, Joe Jackson, Ron Carter, Stewart Copeland, Raven Chacon, Thomas Dolby, and Lionheart.

Its extensive discography features albums on Cantaloupe Music, Sono Luminus, In a Circle Records, Innova, and with jazz legend Kurt Elling, the GRAMMY® Award-winning *Dedicated to You* on Concord. Its album *The River*, with Robert Mirabal, received a Native American Music Award nomination.

Founded in 1998, ETHEL has appeared at TED Conferences, on ABC Radio Australia, SiriusXM, Conan O’Brien, *Performance Today*, Randy Cohen’s *Person Place Thing*, NPR’s Weekend Edition, and on the soundtracks of *Dan in Real Life* and HBO’s *Deadwood*. During the pandemic, ETHEL’s Met Museum *Balcony Bar from Home* virtual series garnered nearly 2 million views.

Passionate educators dedicated to fostering the next generation of audiences and performers, ETHEL has innovative ongoing residencies at Denison University, Peabody Conservatory, CUNY’s Macaulay Honors College, The Metropolitan Museum of Art’s Balcony Bar, and a VR/AI initiative at the University of Oklahoma.



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