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## **2019 Saint Paul String Quartet Competition Finalists Selected**

ST. PAUL – April 5, 2019

The **Saint Paul String Quartet Competition** will host America's best high school string quartets on Saturday, April 13, 2019. Six outstanding quartets have been selected by a renowned professional jury and will be coming to Hamline University's Sundin Music Hall to compete for prizes, national recognition and the opportunity to play great chamber music. The competition begins at 1:00pm and is free and open to the public. Live web stream: <http://portal.stretchinternet.com/hamlineadmin/>

Six stellar young ensembles from across the United States will perform chamber music masterpieces in the excellent acoustic of Sundin Music Hall at Hamline University. The stellar young quartets, in two rounds of competition (1pm & 2pm) will perform three movements from the chamber music repertoire before the distinguished jury, the Brentano Quartet. Prizes and awards will follow the performances. The selected quartets in performance order:

**Xena String Quartet**  
**Alendo Quartet**

**Odyssey String Quartet**  
**Nova String Quartet**

**BEAR Quartet**  
**The Rader Quartet**

This year's finalists were selected from applicants across the country by an esteemed preliminary jury of professional string quartet players: violinist Mari Sato (Cavani Quartet), violist Ivo Jan van der Werff (Medici Quartet), and cellist Jean-Michel Fonteneau (Ravel Quartet). Each quartet was required to perform a movement from a Haydn Quartet, a work from the Romantic/Nationalist era, and a Modern work.

The jury for the 2019 SPSQC Final Rounds on April 13, 2019 will be the renowned Brentano Quartet. They will evaluate and rank each quartet for Tone Quality, Intonation, Ensemble & Balance, and Musical Ideas. There will also be an audience prize awarded. Over 1000 votes are cast online each year.

The Saint Paul String Quartet Competition was created as a performance showcase for advanced high school quartet studies. Laureates have won top prizes in the Fischhoff/M-Prize/and Discover Competitions. This unique national event has received superlative acclaim by *Strings* magazine, was featured on the Violin Channel and is recommended by many of the most renowned teachers in the country. Its stated aim is to "celebrate excellence in String quartet playing and foster an increased appreciation for the chamber music art form, and enhance the music culture in this country."

Founded in 2006 by Artaria String Quartet violinist Ray Shows, the competition is open to high school string quartets from around the country and is always adjudicated by a professional string quartet. With only string quartets competing, it is a simple comparison of 'apples to apples'. Groups from across the country submit video recordings of three masterworks of the repertoire. These unedited performances are evaluated by independent jurors in the categories: Tone Quality, Intonation, Ensemble & Balance, and Musical Ideas. The top scoring quartets are invited to compete in the Final Round each April.

[www.spsqc.org](http://www.spsqc.org)

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