

## Musical Program

### Megan Holland & Friends

Megan Holland, Violin  
Robyn Julyan, Violin  
Laura Chang, Viola  
Amy Huzjak, Cello

### Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

String Quartet No. 16 in E-flat Major, K. 428 (1783)

- I. Allegro non troppo
- II. Andante con moto
- III. Menuetto: Allegro, Trio
- IV. Allegro vivace

### Osvaldo Golijov (b. 1960)

Tenebrae (2002)

## INTERMISSION

### Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

String Quartet No. 2 in a minor, Op. 51, No. 2 (1873)

- I. Allegro non troppo
- II. Andante moderato
- III. Quasi Minuetto, moderato
- IV. Finale. Allegro non assai

### Alice Chance (b. 1994)

Nose Scrunch Reel (2020)

## Endowment Fund

Rondi & Duane Thornton

### Upcoming Events

April 19 - Violin Wizardry  
at Placitas Community Library

Hosted by Oliver Prezant in partnership  
with the children's committee

### Opera Basics

Offered by Santa Fe Opera In partnership with PAS

April 11, 2026: Madama Butterfly

April 25, 2026: The Magic Flute

May 2, 2026: Eugene Onegin

May 23, 2026: Rodelinda

June 6, 2026: Lili Elbe

### How to Support PAS

Sponsor a Concert • Become a Donor  
Purchase Tickets  
Contribute to the Endowment Fund

Our Next Concert:  
April 26, 2026

David Felberg & Luke Gullickson  
Violin & Piano Duo

For tickets and other concert information, visit our website:

[PlacitasArts.org](http://PlacitasArts.org)



Placitas Artists Series projects are made possible in part by New Mexico Arts, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

# The Placitas Artists Series

Presents

Megan Holland  
& Friends

String Quartets

Sunday, April 12, 2026



Concert generously sponsored by

Anonymous ~ Silver

## Notes On Today's Concert

Austrian composer and virtuoso musician **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** is a giant in the world of Western classical music. He began composing at age five, and by the time he died at age 35 he had completed more than 800 works, including symphonies, concertos, chamber music (including 23 string quartets), operas, and choral music. Nearly 250 years after his death, he is still one of the most widely performed of classical composers.

Mozart began composing the set of six quartets that includes today's No. 16 directly following the 1781 publication of a six-quartet set by fellow Austrian composer Josef Haydn, who was 24 years older than Mozart and considered a master of the form. Mozart dedicated this set of quartets, published as his Op. 10, to Haydn. In notes about No. 16, musicologist Jane Vial Jaffe said, "Its lyrical warmth contrasts greatly with the other five quartets while showing every bit as much originality." [ParlanceChamberConcerts.org]

Haydn was present when today's quartet was premiered in Vienna in 1785 and afterwards said to Mozart's father, "Before God, and as an honest man, I tell you that your son is the greatest composer known to me, either in person or by name. He has taste and, what is more, the most profound knowledge of composition."

**Oswaldo Golijov** is an Argentinian-born composer known for his vocal and orchestral work. He moved to the U.S. from Israel in 1986 and earned a Ph.D. in composition at the University of Pennsylvania studying with George Crumb. He is currently composer-in-residence at the College of the Holy Cross in Massachusetts.

Among Golijov's compositions are *The Dreams and Prayers of Isaac the Blind* (for clarinet and string quartet), the soundtracks for "Megalopolis" and two other Francis Ford Coppola films, and more recently, *LAI/AA* written for countertenor Anthony Roth Costanzo and the Met Orchestra Chamber Ensemble. [OswaldoGolijov.com]

"Tenebrae" is a Latin word meaning "darkness" or "shadows." The term also refers to a Christian service during Holy Week commemorating the sufferings and death of Christ.

Golijov was inspired to write *Tenebrae* after witnessing a wave of violence in Israel during a visit in 2000 and shortly thereafter taking his son to a New York planetarium "where we could see the Earth as a beautiful blue dot in space. I wanted to write a piece that could be listened to from different perspectives. That is, if one chooses to listen to it 'from afar,' the music would probably offer a 'beautiful' surface but, from a metaphorically closer distance, one could hear that, beneath that surface, the music is full of pain." The piece was originally composed for soprano, clarinet, and string quartet.

**Johannes Brahms** was a German composer, virtuoso pianist, and conductor of the mid-Romantic period. His published works number in the hundreds, including choral, symphonic, chamber, and solo pieces. Among his best-known compositions are his four symphonies, two piano concertos and one violin concerto, the clarinet quintet, the *Hungarian Dances*, and the *Academic Festival Overture*.

Although he wasn't even born until several years after Ludwig van Beethoven had died, Brahms lived in the musical shadow of that great composer, even to the extent of having a marble bust of Beethoven on display in his composition room. According to the late music critic Bernard Jacobson, in notes on the Alban Berg Quartet's CD of the Brahms string quartets, "String quartet and symphony were the two spheres that evoked for Brahms with especial

## Notes Continued:

vividness the supremacy of Beethoven." Jacobson quotes a young Brahms saying, "You do not know what it is like hearing his footsteps constantly behind one." Brahms would be 40 years old before he would release his first two (of only three) string quartets – after having destroyed some 20 others along the way that he deemed unacceptable.

Today's quartet and its companion, Op. 51, No. 1, were published in 1873, a year that also included the premiere of the orchestral arrangements of three of his popular Hungarian Dances and his Variations on a Theme by Haydn. It would be another three years before his first symphony would finally appear.

According to her website, Australian musician **Alice Chance** "is a sought-after composer, conductor, singer, artist, arranger, writer and educator." Collaborators include "all kinds of musicians and artists spanning contemporary classical music, choral music, musical theatre, theatre, and sound art." [alicechance.com] The Australian Music Centre lists 38 compositions for various vocal and instrumental combinations, including two string quartets.

Chance has composed many works on commission, including today's piece, written for the Australian String Quartet as an encore piece. "I thought it was the perfect chance to invite them to get their fiddle on," she wrote in notes for *Nose Scrunch Reel*. She was inspired by memories of "some rather surprising harmonies" that she created while learning to play traditional Irish music on an accordion years before, sound combinations that "made me scrunch my nose up with delight. In this piece, I lean into such crunchy chords, made all-the-more nose-scrunch-worthy by the grit and scrub of bow chops and volatile melodies. In the score, I gave a list of words which might describe a performance of this piece. It included: 'Raucous,' 'Grinning,' 'Cheeky,' and 'Slightly Psychedelic?'" [asq.com.au]

Program notes were compiled by Jay Rodman from sources cited above and Wikipedia.

## About The Performers

Bringing together distinguished performers and dedicated educators, this quartet reflects a shared commitment to musical excellence across national and international stages. Violinist **Megan Holland**—widely recognized for her "poised" and "powerful" playing—has performed throughout North America and Europe and remains an active presence in New Mexico's chamber music community.

A central artistic voice in the ensemble, violinist **Robyn Julyan** has built a multi-faceted career as performer, pedagogue, and collaborator. A longtime faculty member at Regis University and director of the Intensive Strings Program at Orvieto Musica, she has appeared as a soloist and chamber musician across the United States, Europe, and Singapore. Her orchestral experience includes positions with the Colorado Symphony, Charleston Symphony, and Colorado Springs Philharmonic, and she continues to perform widely while maintaining a vibrant private studio. A native of Albuquerque, she brings both international perspective and deep local roots to her work.

Violinist and violist **Laura Chang**, a Peabody Conservatory graduate, has performed extensively across the United States, Canada, and Europe, with orchestral engagements including the National Philharmonic, Maryland Symphony, Colorado Symphony, and Colorado Springs Philharmonic. Now based in Albuquerque, she is principal violist of the New Mexico Philharmonic.

**Amy Huzjak**, principal cellist of the New Mexico Philharmonic, is an active collaborator with organizations including Chatter, Opera Southwest, and the Santa Fe Symphony, and is a founding member of the Chasqui Quartet.

## Mosaic New Mexico

Fifteen local mosaic artists and members of Mosaic New Mexico are exhibited through the remainder of the season at Las Placitas Presbyterian Church. Whether new to mosaics or professional, all share their love of the art form. The artists' varied approaches to their imagery include design oriented, whimsical, literal, and abstract.



Marina Rabinowitz



Kyle Erikson



Holly Kuehn



Lilith Ren



Laura Robbins



Leslie J. Whited



Roger Evans



Nova DeNise



Erica Wendel-Oglesby



Caroline LeBlanc

Art On Exhibit 3/6/2026 - 5/29/2026