



SCHOOL OF  
**MUSIC, THEATRE & DANCE**  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

FACULTY/GUEST RECITAL

# **BEROFSKY PIANO QUARTET**

**AARON BEROFSKY, VIOLIN**

**KATHRYN VOTAPEK, VIOLA**

**SEBASTIAN BEROFSKY, CELLO**

**CHARLES BEROFSKY, PIANO**

*Saturday, October 10, 2026*

*Moore Building, Britton Recital Hall*

*8:00 PM*

**Piano Quartet in E-flat Major, op. 16**

Ludwig van Beethoven

Grave – Allegro ma non troppo

(1770–1827)

Andante cantabile

Rondo: Allegro ma non troppo

**Piano Quartet (2017)**

Danny Elfman

Ein Ding

(b. 1953)

Kinderspott

Duett für Vier

Ruhig

Die Wolfsjungen

*Intermission*

**Piano Quartet No. 2 in E-flat Major, op. 87**

Antonín Dvořák

Allegro con fuoco

(1841–1904)

Lento

Allegro moderato, grazioso

Finale: Allegro ma non troppo

*This program was drafted and created by the artist in support of their performance  
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Violinist **Aaron Berofsky** has gained wide recognition as a soloist and chamber musician. As soloist, he has performed with orchestras in the United States, Germany, Italy, Spain, Korea and Canada. France's Le Figaro called his playing "beautiful, the kind of music-making that gives one true pleasure".

Aaron was the first violinist of the Chester String Quartet for fifteen years. The Chester Quartet was in residence at both the University of Michigan and at Indiana University South Bend. He is Professor of Violin at the University of Michigan, and Chair of Strings at the Chautauqua School of Music. He was visiting Professor at the Hochschule für Musik in Detmold, Germany and has given masterclasses at such places as Seoul National University, Indiana University, the Cleveland Institute, Tianjin Juilliard, Eastman, the Richard Luby International Symposium and Domaine Forget. He performed with the acclaimed chamber orchestra Tafelmusik on period instruments and has recorded with them for the Sony label. He also runs University of Michigan's Baroque Chamber Orchestra along with harpsichordist Joseph Gascho.

Aaron has worked with many leading composers of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, performing, commissioning and recording music by John Cage, William Bolcom, Zhou Long, Michael Daugherty, Aaron Jay Kernis, Paul Schoenfield, Morton Subotnick, Paul Fetler and Bright Sheng. Mr. Berofsky's recordings can be found on the Sony, Naxos, New Albion, ECM, Audio Ideas, Blue Griffin, Equilibrium and Chesky labels, and he was soloist on the debut recording of Paul Fetler's Violin Concerto No. 2, performed with the Ann Arbor Symphony for the Naxos label. He recently released a recording of Mozart sonatas on the MSR label with his son, Charles, on period instruments. His recording of the complete Beethoven sonatas with pianist Phillip Bush has been met with great acclaim as well. Aaron Berofsky is concertmaster of the Ann Arbor Symphony.

A member of the Chester String Quartet for 15 years, violinist/violist **Kathryn Votapek** now maintains an active career as a soloist and guest artist at chamber music festivals throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe. She has participated in numerous commissioning projects and premieres and can be heard with the Chester Quartet on the Koch International Classics and New Albion labels. Along with pianist Ralph Votapek and clarinetist Paul Votapek, she is the violinist and violist of the Votapek Trio. Additionally, she performs with husband Aaron Berofsky and sons Charles and Sebastian Berofsky in the Berofsky Piano Quartet.

Votapek has been on the faculty of the Bowdoin International Music Festival, the Meadowmount School of Music, the Interlochen Arts Camp, the Madeline Island Music Camp, the Quartet Program, the Banff International Festival, the Accademia Musicale Chigiana (Italy), the Peter de Grote Summer Academy (Holland), and Music & More Summerfest (Bosnia and Herzegovina), as well as performing at the Klosterkammerfest (Germany), Speedside Festival (Canada), the International Deiá Festival (Spain), the Garth Newel Festival, the Fontana Festival, and with the Chicago Chamber Musicians, and the Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings.

Votapek is currently on the faculty at the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance. She serves as the Chair of Chamber Music at the Chautauqua School of Music, and is the Associate Concertmaster of the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. Previously she was Associate Professor of Violin and Artist-in-Residence at Indiana University South Bend. Votapek received her bachelor of

music degree at Indiana University and master's degree from The Juilliard School. Her teachers were Robert Mann, Franco Gulli, and Angel Reyes.

**Sebastian Berofsky** is a twenty-three-year-old cellist from Ann Arbor, MI who began cello lessons at age six. He is pursuing his Master of Music in Cello Performance studying at the Juilliard School with Astrid Schween. He received his Bachelor's degree from Rice where he studied with Desmond Hoebig. He previously studied with Richard Aaron and he has also studied with, and played in master classes given by, Blaise Déjardin, Leonid Gorokhov, Steve Doane, Brandon Vamos, the Fauré Quartet, the Horszowski Trio, Pavel Haas Quartet, the Callisto Quartet, and the Escher Quartet.

Last summer he attended the Taos School of Music where he studied with Yeesun Kim of the Borromeo Quartet, Dan McDonough of the Jupiter Quartet, Hye-Jin Kim of the Cooperstown Quartet, and Sasha Kazovsky of the Ariel Quartet. He attended the Tanglewood Music Center where he won the opportunity to play a concert in the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and also won the opportunity to participate in the Shostakovich Festival at the Gewandhaus Leipzig, playing under Andris Nelsons with students of the Leipzig Gewandhausorchester. He has also attended Kneisel Hall Chamber Music Festival, Sarasota Music Festival, the Chautauqua Institution, Bowdoin International Music Festival, and Indiana University Summer String Academy.

The only winner of the Shepherd School String Concerto Competition in 2025, Sebastian was one of three finalists in the Chautauqua Sigma Alpha Iota Concerto Competition and was the winner of the MASTA chamber music prize, Michigan Youth Arts Festival chamber music award, MTNA Senior String Division award (Michigan), and the Michigan Pops Orchestra concerto competition.

Sebastian is a member of the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra and has also served as principal in the Juilliard Orchestra, the Shepherd School Symphony and Chamber Orchestras, and the Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra. In 2018 he performed the Mendelssohn A Major Viola Quintet with faculty members and peers after winning the summer chamber music competition at the IU Summer String Academy. Sebastian has been a guest artist with the Pressenda Chamber Players in Washington, D.C. on several occasions. With the Berofsky Piano Quartet, he has played on the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra's chamber series, as well as the Chautauqua Chamber Music series, University of Delaware Master Players, and the Crystal Valley Concert series.

Sebastian was a member of Trio Riso, an ensemble that was selected as a semifinalist for the Coltman Chamber Music Competition and a quarterfinalist for the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition in 2024.

Equally at home as a soloist, collaborator, and composer, **Charles Berofsky** seeks to engage audiences through a myriad of styles and genres of music. Charles grew up in Ann Arbor, Michigan and began piano lessons when he was six years old. He also developed an interest in composition from a young age and started organ lessons at age 14. Charles performs frequently as soloist and a chamber musician in the United States and Europe, both on the modern piano and on period instruments.

Charles has been a prizewinner at various international piano competitions, including Campillos (First Prize & Orchestra Prize), New York (Third Prize to a solo performer & First Prize for the piano four-hands ensemble), and Thousand Islands (First Prize, senior division). Charles has also won concerto competitions at both the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York and the New England Conservatory in Boston, Massachusetts. For his compositions, he has received a commission from the American Guild of Organists and four prizes from the Eastman School of Music.

Charles has participated in festivals and master classes in the United States and Europe, including the Four Seasons Chamber Music Festival, Music Academy of the West, International Lieven Foundation of Vienna, IMS Prussia Cove, Taos School of Music, and Chautauqua Institution. He has had the opportunity to work with pianists such as Thomas Adès, Ya-Fei Chuang, Jeremy Denk, Alexander Kobrin, Robert Levin, Andreas Staier, and Arie Vardi, as well as working closely in chamber music settings with Robert McDonald, Yeeseun Kim, Angelo Xiang Yu, and Thomas Sauer. He has recently appeared as a soloist with the Residenz-Solisten of Munich, Germany and with the Symphony Orchestras of Málaga and Segovia in Spain, and he has given solo recitals at Schloss Nymphenburg in Munich and Temple Emanu-El of New York.

Charles was recently named a member of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center's Bowers Program (2027-2030). An avid chamber musician, Charles has been featured regularly as a guest artist with the Jupiter Symphony Chamber Players (New York) and the Pressenda Chamber Players (Washington, D.C. area). He was a recipient of the Borromeo String Quartet's Guest Artist Award ('23) and was a member of the New England Conservatory's Honors Ensemble Program for two consecutive years, with Trio Sponte ('23-24) and the Newbury Trio ('22-23). In Munich, Charles has been featured on the Löwenberg Chamber Music Festival.

Charles will begin doctoral studies at The Juilliard School in New York in the fall, studying with Robert McDonald. He obtained a post-Master's degree from the Hochschule für Musik und Theater München in Germany, a Master's degree from the New England Conservatory, and a Bachelor's degree with a double major in Piano Performance and Composition from the Eastman School of Music. Past mentors include Antti Siirala, HaeSun Paik, Alan Chow, and Logan Skelton.