Blaise Magniere, violin; Marie Wang, violin; Anthony Devroye, viola; Cheng-Hou Lee, cello

First Prize, 1999 Concert Artists Guild Competition

Top Prize, 2000 ARD Munich Competition

2002-2003 Resident Quartet, The Juilliard School

2002 Chamber Music America/WQXR Record Award

Hailed as "one of the most exciting young string quartets in America" (The Washington Post) the Avalon String Quartet has established itself as one of the country's leading chamber ensembles and has earned international acclaim for the bold musicality and passionate intensity of its performances.

Formed in 1995 at the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, the Avalon Quartet came to the fore after participating in Isaac Stern's Chamber Music Workshop at Carnegie Hall in 1997. Mr. Stern subsequently invited the quartet to perform in the Isaac Stern Chamber Music Encounters in Jerusalem and later presented the ensemble's Carnegie Hall debut at Weill Recital Hall. The quartet won the Grand Prize at the 1998 Fischoff National Chamber Music Competition, First Prize at the 1999 Concert Artists Guild Competition, and the highest prize awarded at the 2000 ARD Competition in Munich.

The quartet is in residence at Northern Illinois University, a position formerly occupied by the distinguished Vermeer Quartet. As a part of their residency, they perform four programs annually in DeKalb and Chicago, and the members teach individual studios and coach chamber music at the school. From 2001-2003 the quartet held the Lisa Arnhold Residency at the Juilliard School, where they studied under and assisted the Juilliard String Quartet. They were subsequently engaged as artists-in-residence at Indiana University at South Bend.

The Avalon Quartet has performed in many major chamber music venues including New York's Alice Tully Hall, 92nd St Y, and Carnegie Hall; the Library of Congress in Washington DC; and in Europe at the Wigmore Hall, Auditorium du Louvre and Herculessaal. Other performances include appearances at the Ravinia Festival, Dame Myra Hess series, Caramoor Festival, La Jolla Chamber Music Society, Mostly Mozart Festival at Lincoln Center, Isabella Gardner Museum, and the Music Alp Festival in Seoul, Korea.

Dedicated educators, the Avalon Quartet has taught at the Interlochen Advanced String Quartet Program, Icicle Creek Music Center, the Britten-Pears School in England and the Juilliard School. The quartet is also dedicated to outreach in various communities, having worked with the Center for Abused Children in Hartford, young composers on Hopi and Navajo reservations in Arizona, and elementary school students in East LA.

The Quartet's live performances and conversation have been featured on Chicago's WFMT, New York's WQXR and WNYC, NPR's Performance Today and St Paul Sunday Radio, and the national broadcasting companies of Canada, Australia, France and Germany. Their first recording, "From Dawn to Dusk," was named a 2002 Record of the Year by Chamber Music America and WQXR.

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