



SAN FRANCISCO  
**PERFORMANCES**

presents...

## ESMÉ QUARTET

Wonhee Bae | Violin  
Jihyun Baik | Guest Violin

Dimitri Murrath | Viola  
Ye-eun Heo | Cello

## ROBERT GREENBERG | Music Historian-in-Residence

Saturday, October 24, 2026 | 10:00am

Herbst Theatre

### FROM OLD WORLD TO NEW

AMY BEACH

String Quartet in One Movement, Op. 89

INTERMISSION

ANTONÍN DVOŘÁK String Quartet No. 12 in F Major, Op. 96 “American”

*I. Allegro ma non troppo*

*II. Lento*

*III. Molto vivace*

*IV. Finale: vivace ma non troppo*

Esmé Quartet is represented by Christina Daysog Concert Artists, PO Box 529, Alameda, CA 94501

For Tickets and More: [sfperformances.org](https://sfperformances.org) | 415.392.2545

presents...

## ESMÉ QUARTET

Wonhee Bae | Violin  
Eunae Koh | Guest Violin

Dimitri Murrath | Viola  
Ye-eun Heo | Cello

## ROBERT GREENBERG | Music Historian-in-Residence

Saturday, November 7, 2026 | 10:00am

Herbst Theatre

### FROM OLD WORLD TO NEW

FRITZ KREISLER

String Quartet in A minor

- I. Fantasia. Allegro moderato*
- II. Scherzo. Allegro vivo con spirito*
- III. Einleitung und Romanze. Allegretto—andante con moto*
- IV. Finale. Allegro molto moderato*

### INTERMISSION

ERICH WOLFGANG  
KORNGOLD

String Quartet No. 2 in E-flat Major, Op. 26

- I. Allegro*
- II. Intermezzo. Allegretto con moto—Molto più mosso*
- III. Larghetto. Lento—con molto sentimento*
- IV. Waltz. Tempo di Valse*

SAMUEL BARBER

String Quartet in B minor, Op. 11

- I. Molto allegro e appassionato*
- II. Molto adagio [attacca]*
- III. Molto allegro (come prima)*

GEORGE  
GERSHWIN

Lullaby

DARIUS MILHAUD

String Quartet No. 9, Op. 140

Esmé Quartet is represented by Christina Daysog Concert Artists, PO Box 529, Alameda, CA 94501

San Francisco Performances presents the Esmé Quartet for the seventh time. The Esmé Quartet made its SF Performances debut in March 2022. San Francisco Performances presents Robert Greenberg for the 213th time. He made his SF Performances debut March 1999.

Please see page 4 for Esmé Quartet and Dr. Robert Greenberg biographies.

presents...

## ESMÉ QUARTET

Wonhee Bae | Violin  
YuEun Kim | Guest Violin

Dimitri Murrath | Viola  
Ye-eun Heo | Cello

## ROBERT GREENBERG | Music Historian-in-Residence

Saturday, December 12, 2026 | 10:00am

Herbst Theatre

### FROM OLD WORLD TO NEW

IGOR STRAVINSKY      Three Pieces

INTERMISSION

DARIUS MILHAUD      String Quartet No. 9, Op. 140

**Esmé Quartet** is represented by Christina Daysog Concert Artists, PO Box 529, Alameda, CA 94501

*San Francisco Performances presents the Esmé Quartet for the eighth time. The Esmé Quartet made its SF Performances debut in March 2022. San Francisco Performances presents Robert Greenberg for the 214th time. He made his SF Performances debut March 1999.*

**Please see page 4 for Esmé Quartet and Dr. Robert Greenberg biographies.**

## ARTISTS PROFILES

San Francisco Performances presents the *Esmé Quartet* for the sixth time. The *Esmé Quartet* made its SF Performances debut in March 2022.

San Francisco Performances presents Robert Greenberg for the 212th time. He made his SF Performances debut March 1999.



"Their restrained yet intensely nuanced playing evokes a sense of paralysis and desolation—so profound that even the rustic final movement cannot lift it."

—*Süddeutsche Zeitung*

Praised for their warm sound and commanding stage presence, the **Esmé Quartet** has quickly established itself as one of the most captivating chamber ensembles of its generation. Formed in 2016 in Cologne, Germany, by four Korean musicians and lifelong friends, the quartet is driven by a deep artistic connection and a shared passion for music and the arts.

The ensemble garnered international acclaim after winning First Prize and four

special awards at the 2018 Wigmore Hall International String Quartet Competition in London. That same year, they were named HSBC Laureates of the Académie du Festival d'Aix. Additional honors include top prizes at the Trondheim International Chamber Music Competition, the Possehl Musikpreis Lübeck, and the inaugural Hans Gál Prize by the Academy of Sciences and Literature Mainz and Villa Musica Germany.

The *Esmé Quartet* has performed at major venues and festivals across Europe, North America, and Asia, including the Lucerne Festival, Wigmore Hall, Opéra de Lille, L'Auditori Barcelona, Hong Kong Arts Festival, and the Aix-en-Provence Festival. They were the first Artists-in-Residence at Lotte Concert Hall in Seoul for the 2020–2021 season and have appeared in residencies at the McGill International String Quartet Academy, Classic Esterházy, and the Heidelberg String Quartet Festival.

In recent seasons, the Quartet made acclaimed debut tours of North America, Japan, and Australia. Highlights include performances of John Adams' *Absolute Jest* with the Hong Kong Philharmonic, Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra (with John Adams conducting), and Gyeonggi Philharmonic. Their collaborations also include a multimedia project, 'The book of water' by Michel van der Aa and British actor Samuel West at the Hong Kong Arts Festival, and a North American tour with Van Cliburn Gold Medalist Yekwon Sunwoo.

Since 2025, the *Esmé Quartet* is based in San Francisco as ensemble-in-residence with San Francisco Performances. In the first season, they presented a Schubert quartet cycle in collaboration with musicologist and host Robert Greenberg. The 2025–26 season featured a highly praised New York debut at The Frick Collection, continued tours across North America and Europe and culminated in a special 10th anniversary celebration concert at the Seoul Arts Center.

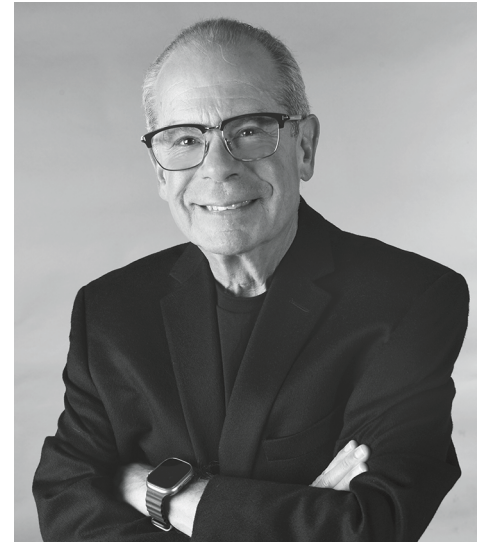
The quartet's discography on Alpha Classics includes *To Be Loved* (2020), named one of the best classical albums of the year by WQXR as well as five stars review by Diapason, *Yessori: Sound from the Past* (2023), and a 2024 Apple Music Classical Sessions EP of Mendelssohn's Op. 13. A third album, *Nui*, featuring music by Fanny and Felix Mendelssohn and Juri Seo, was released in 2026, coinciding with the quartet's 10th anniversary.

Belgian-American violist Dimitri Murath joined the ensemble in 2023, succeeding founding member Jiwon Kim.

The Quartet has worked closely with es-

teemed mentors including Günter Pichler, Oliver Wille, Eberhard Feltz, Christoph Poppen, Jonathan Brown, and Heime Müller.

Their name, *Esmé*, derives from the Old French word for "beloved".



**Dr. Robert Greenberg** was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1954 and has lived in the San Francisco Bay Area since 1978. He received a B.A. in Music, magna cum laude, from Princeton University in 1976 and a Ph.D. in music composition, With Distinction, from the University of California, Berkeley in 1984.

Greenberg has composed more than 50 works for a variety of instrumental and vocal ensembles. Performances of his works have taken place across the United States and Europe.

Dr. Greenberg has received numerous honors, including commissions from the Koussevitzky Music Foundation in the Library of Congress, the Alexander String Quartet, the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players, San Francisco Performances, and the XTET ensemble. His music is published by Fallen Leaf Press and CPP/Belwin and is recorded on the Innova label. Greenberg is a Steinway Artist.

Dr. Greenberg is currently the Music Historian-in-Residence with San Francisco Performances, where he has lectured and performed since 1994. He has served on the faculties of the University of California, Berkeley; California State University, East Bay; the Advanced Management Program at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business; and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, where he chaired the Department of Music History and Literature from 1989 to 2001.

Dr. Greenberg has lectured for some of

the most prestigious musical and arts organizations in the United States, including the San Francisco Symphony (where for 10 years he was host and lecturer for the symphony's nationally acclaimed Discovery Series), the Chautauqua Institution (where he was the Everett Scholar-in-Residence during the 2006 season), the Ravinia Festival, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, the Van Cliburn Foundation, the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, the Hartford Symphony Orchestra, Villa Montalvo, the Phoenix Orchestra, the University of British Columbia (where he was the Dal Grauer Lecturer in September 2006), and Philadelphia's College of Physicians (where he has been the Behrend Lecturer since 2017).

In addition, Dr. Greenberg is a sought-after lecturer for businesses and business schools and has spoken for such diverse organizations as S. C. Johnson, Deutsche

Bank, the University of California/Haas School of Business Executive Seminar and the Goldman School of Public Policy, the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business, Harvard Business School Publishing, Kaiser Permanente, the Young Presidents' Organization, the World Presidents' Organization, and the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco. Dr. Greenberg has been profiled in *The Wall Street Journal*, *Inc. Magazine*, the *Times of London*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, and the *San Francisco Chronicle*, among other publications.

For 15 years, Dr. Greenberg was the resident composer and music historian for NPR's *Weekend All Things Considered* and *Weekend Edition, Sunday* with Liane Hansen. His show *Scandalous Overtures* can be seen on [www.ora.tv/shows](http://www.ora.tv/shows).

In May 1993, Greenberg recorded a

48-lecture course entitled "How to Listen to and Understand Great Music" for The Great Courses/The Teaching Company. (This course was named in the January 1996 edition of *Inc. Magazine* as one of "The Nine Leadership Classics You've Never Read.") Dr. Greenberg has since recorded 30 additional courses. The most recent, "The Great Music of the 20th Century," was released in January 2018.

In February 2003, Maine's *Bangor Daily News* referred to Dr. Greenberg as the Elvis of music history and appreciation, an appraisal that has given him more pleasure than any other.

Dr. Greenberg is currently "blogging, vlogging, performing, Zooming, reviewing, opining, and bloviating 4-6 times a week" on his subscription site at [Patreon.com/RobertGreenbergMusic](https://Patreon.com/RobertGreenbergMusic).