



PERFORMING ARTS ORGANIZATION

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Del Sol Quartet's [Joy Project](#) premieres online, Saturday December 12, 2020 @ 6PM PT (9PM ET). [Tickets and registration](#) or <https://bit.ly/3gbmmLG>

Del Sol Quartet has hit the streets with brand-new music composed to spread joy here and now. This is music for sharing — in person and outdoors — short and sweet and unexpected. Music that lets a worker on her lunch break go bananas to a Turkish folk-dance. Music so your neighbors perk up their ears and say hello on their city block. Music so a child can hear the flute-playing tree-spirit who just might live in that pine.

Del Sol is performing these specially composed pieces in free concerts at public settings around the Bay Area — parks, schoolyards, open-spaces — where people can enjoy the music while safely practicing social distancing in the open air. “We’re all rediscovering that music can, and should, happen anywhere,” says Del Sol cellist Kathryn Bates. “It’s incredibly satisfying to find this way of connecting with our local communities. Now this online concert allows us to spread our reach and invite everyone, near and far, to a big Zoom party with our favorite composers. Everyone has their own unique experience of joy, from Mark Orton’s playful groove to Jungyoon Wie’s calm meditation or Lukas Ligeti’s polyrhythmic ecstasy.”

An all-star team of local and internationally renowned composers quickly stepped up to write music for the Joy Project’s ever-growing setlist. Saturday’s Zoom concert includes music by Danny Clay, Erberk Eryilmaz, Jonah Gallagher, Michael Gilbertson, Takuma Itoh, Lukas Ligeti, Erika Oba, Mark Orton, Samuel Weiser, Jungyoon Wie, and Theresa Wong alongside live conversations with the composers.

More about Del Sol Quartet

Del Sol began as a thought on the night shift at Fermilab. Charlton Lee loved the cutting edge of physics research – always looking for the next discovery, pushing boundaries. But he missed the way music connected people, building community by communicating in ways physics never would. What if he could bring that scientific passion for exploration to a string quartet?

Twenty-eight years later, Del Sol is still sharing music that brings out the endorphins. Music that asks why not?



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Fascinated by the feedback loop between social change, technology, and artistic innovation, the San Francisco-based ensemble is a leading force in 21st century chamber music - whether introducing Ben Johnston's microtonal Americana at the Library of Congress, taking Aeryn Santillan's gun-violence memorial to the streets of the Mission District, exploring Andean soundscapes with Gabriela Lena Frank and traditional musicians, or collaborating with Huang Ruo and the anonymous poets who carved their words into the walls of the Angel Island Immigration Station during the years of the Chinese Exclusion Act. The current Del Sol lineup, marked by the arrival of violinist Sam Weiser alongside mainstays Kathryn Bates and Ben Kreith, brings a fresh energy, freedom, and precision to the group.

Recognized as a "vigorous champion of living composers", Del Sol has premiered well over 100 works by composers including Terry Riley, Gabriela Lena Frank, Frederic Rzewski, Ben Johnston, Chinary Ung, Mason Bates, Tania León, Erberk Eryilmaz, Theresa Wong, Reza Vali, Mohammed Fairouz and Peter Sculthorpe.

Many of these works are included on Del Sol's nine critically-acclaimed albums. PopMatters praised Del Sol's "unfettered mastery" on Terry Riley's *Dark Queen Mantra* (2017, Sono Luminus). *Scrapyard Exotica* (2015) elicited this rave in the *New York Times*. "I could be wrong, but I'm guessing it's been a while since you've rocked out to a string quartet recording. See if your foot can stay still once you put on this funky disc of rhythmically infectious (if often warped) music played by the adventurous Del Sol String Quartet."

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