

2018 CMA's Cleveland Quartet Award
2016 CBC Top 30 under 30 Artist
2016 Banff International String Quartet Competition Winner
Canada's Most In-Demand Ensemble



The 2018 recipient and first international ensemble chosen for the prestigious Cleveland Quartet Award from Chamber Music America, Canada's Rolston String Quartet continues to receive acclamation and recognition for their musical excellence. In 2016, a monumental year, they won First Prize at the 12th Banff International String Quartet Competition (BISQC). That same year, the quartet's winning included Astral's National Auditions and Grand Prize of the 31st Chamber Music Yellow Springs Competition. They were also prizewinners at the 2016 Bordeaux International String Quartet Competition and the inaugural M-Prize competition. There is no wonder they were named among CBC Radio's "30 Hot Canadian Classical Musicians Under 30" that year.

On the heels of their Banff win, Rolston String Quartet immediately embarked upon the BISQC Winner's Tour, taking them to Germany, Italy, Austria, United States, and Canada. As *LudwigvanToronto.org* states, "they performed with a maturity and cohesion rivaling the best string quartets in the world." By the 2017-18 season, they tipped the 100-concert milestone with performances throughout Canada, United States, Germany, Brussels, Italy, and Israel. Their highlights now include the Smithsonian, Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Koerner Hall, and the Esterhazy Palace. 2018-19 season highlights include debut performances at Carnegie Hall, Freer Gallery, Wigmore Hall, Chamber Music Houston, two major tours in Canada under the Prairie Debut and Debut Atlantic touring networks, and three European tours with dates in Leipzig, Berlin, Lucerne, Heidelberg, Barcelona, Graz, and other centres. They have appeared at such festivals as Chamber Music Northwest, La Jolla Summerfest, Rockport Festival, Bowdoin International Festival, Princeton Chamber Music, Tippet Rise Arts Center, Sanibel Festival, and all major Canadian festivals.

Rolston String Quartet has served as quartet-in-residence at both Yale School of Music and Rice University's Shepherd School of Music. They have participated in residencies and fellowships at the Académie musicale de Villecroze, Aspen Music Festival, Banff Centre, McGill International String Quartet Academy, Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, Robert Mann String Quartet Institute, St. Lawrence String Quartet Seminar, and the Yehudi Menuhin Chamber Music Festival.

The Rolston String Quartet – Luri Lee (violin), Hezekiah Leung (viola), Jonathan Lo (cello), and new member as of spring 2018 Emily Kruspe (violin) – was formed in the summer of 2013 at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity's Chamber Music Residency. They take their name from Canadian violinist Thomas Rolston, founder and long-time director of the Music and Sound Programs at the Banff Centre. Luri Lee plays a Carlo Tononi violin, generously on loan from Shauna Rolston Shaw. Emily Kruspe plays a 1900 Stefano Scarampella violin, on loan from the Canada Council for the Arts - Musical Instrument Bank. Rolston String Quartet is endorsed by Jargar Strings of Denmark.

"Playing with an astonishing harmonic maturity."
-Calgary Herald



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