

The Apple Hill String Quartet

The Apple Hill String Quartet is unique in the world of music. They represent one of America's most respected ensemble traditions, winning international praise for vital and eloquent performances of chamber music literature from 18th century masterpieces to commissioned works by leading composers.

Additionally, they serve as core faculty for the Summer Chamber Music Workshop held each summer in Nelson, New Hampshire, where they facilitate musical excellence and community between professional and amateur musicians of diverse ages and backgrounds.

Many students come to Apple Hill through *Playing for Peace*[™], a program dedicated to using chamber music as a tool for conflict resolution. Annually since 1988, members of the Apple Hill String Quartet have toured regions including the Middle East, Europe, and Southeast Asia, as well as many U.S. cities — performing concerts, conducting master classes, and awarding *Playing for Peace*[™] scholarships. The dramatic story of their 1992 tour of Israel, Egypt, Jordan, and Syria was documented by Emmy Award-winning Peter Rosen in the namesake PBS video "Playing for Peace," seen by over 4 million viewers.



From left, Elise Kuder, Rupert Thompson, Sarah Kim, and Michael Kelley

ELISE KUDER, *violin*, is a graduate of the Oberlin Conservatory and The Juilliard School. Her teachers have included Monica VanderBaan, Marilyn McDonald, Joel Smirnoff, David Takeno, Eugene Lehner, Felix Galimir, Gilbert Kalisch, Robert Merfeld, and Lenny Matczynski. She attended the Tanglewood Music Center, where she won the Kohn Award for outstanding musicianship and served as concertmaster of the orchestra. As a Fulbright scholar, Elise studied at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, England. She was first violinist of the Tate Quartet, which made its successful debut at Wigmore Hall in London. She began her association with Apple Hill as one of its youngest participants at age 12, and is now the first violinist of the Apple Hill String Quartet.

SARAH KIM, *violin*, began her musical studies at the age of three and has performed extensively in Europe and the United States. She has been a soloist with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, the Guildhall String Ensemble, and the Samara Philharmonic in Russia. As a chamber musician, she has performed at the Wigmore Hall in London and has participated in numerous festivals, including the Yellow Barn Chamber Music Festival, the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, the Taos School of Music, and the Takacs String Quartet Seminar. She has received degrees from Indiana University and the Yale School of Music; her principal teachers have included Josef Gingold, Miriam Fried, Peter Oundjian, and David Takeno. In January 2008, she became second violinist of the Apple Hill String Quartet.

MICHAEL KELLEY, *viola*, received degrees from Oberlin Conservatory and The Juilliard School. His teachers have included Lenny Matczynski, Jeffrey Irvine and Karen Tuttle. A prize winner at the Primrose International Viola Competition at the age of 18, Mike has been performing and teaching internationally with the Apple Hill Chamber Players for over ten years. An active composer and electronic musician, he has been a Teaching Fellow in Electronic Music at Juilliard, and has created scores for everyone from Yale University to the acclaimed Disco group Metro Area. His recent award-winning recording has been described as "gorgeous—one of the top albums of 2005" (Stylus Magazine) and has been highly recommended by Entertainment Weekly, Spin Magazine and the Guardian.

RUPERT A. THOMPSON, *cello*, made his solo debut with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. He has studied with Mihaly Virizlay and Timothy Eddy, holding degrees from the Peabody Institute (BM) in Baltimore, Md., and SUNY Stony Brook of New York (MM and DMA). Rupert has received a career grant from the Concert Artist Guild, as well as the C.D Jackson Memorial Award of Merit from the Tanglewood Music Center. Live radio broadcasts of his solo engagements include WFMT of Chicago and WQXR in New York City. In addition to his active concert schedule, Rupert is also a photographer and film composer.