



ETHEL Biography

ETHEL redefines contemporary concert music with groundbreaking performances, engaging touring programs, innovative collaborations, mind-bending multi-media productions, imaginative compositions, bold commissions, and inspired recordings.

ETHEL burst onto New York City's music scene in 1998 and was quickly hailed as one of America's most adventurous string quartets – the upstart heir to the likes of Kronos and the Soldier String Quartet. ETHEL led the way as a generation of artists began to apply their uptown conservatory musicianship to downtown genre-smashing music that embraced the intensity of rock and the grooves of jazz, hip-hop, indie, roots, and worldbeat bands. Since then, ETHEL has traveled the country and around the world, creating and collaborating and celebrating community with artists and audiences. In that spirit, the quartet has also composed and commissioned nearly 200 works. The New York Times has lauded ETHEL as “indefatigable and eclectic.” The New Yorker praised the band as “vital and brilliant.” Pitchfork called ETHEL “infectiously visceral.” Two decades into its singular career, ETHEL is recognized as a pioneer in its own right, nationally acclaimed as a trail-blazer in redefining contemporary concert music.

ETHEL creates and tours a rich array of provocative programs and mind-bending multimedia productions that currently include: ETHEL's Documerica, inspired by the EPA's archive of thousands of images of 1970s America; The River , a collaboration with Taos Pueblo flutist Robert Mirabal; and Grace, a journey highlighting musical iterations of redemption and featuring ETHEL's own adaptation of Ennio Morricone's moving score to the 1986 film, The Mission, works by Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, Hildegard von Bingen, and Zuni and Hawaiian ritual chants. ETHEL's most recent and most ambitious project is Circus: Wandering City. Commissioned by The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art and the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Circus is a multimedia experience with a dynamic original score by ETHEL that conjures the daring spectacle, beauty, and thrill of the American circus, as well as its cultural significance through the centuries.

The quartet's debut album, ETHEL, was a Billboard “Best Recording of 2003.” Light ranked #3 on Amazon's “Best of 2006.” Heavy (2012) was a Q-2 “Album of the Week.” The recording of ETHEL'S Documerica (2015) was featured on The New York Times' “Press Play” and iTunes's classical front page. The River featuring guest artist Robert Mirabal debuted in 2016 and was nominated for a NAMMY award. ETHEL's original score for Circus: Wandering City will be released in 2018-19. The quartet also recorded Oshtali: Music for String Quartet for the Chickasaw Nation in 2010 — the first commercial recording of American Indian student work in our nation's history.

Since 2005, ETHEL has premiered nearly 200 works by new music luminaries as well as emerging composers; many of these works were commissioned by the quartet. The ensemble's repertoire focuses on works created since 1995 and includes music by Philip Glass, Julia Wolfe, John King, Phil Kline, David Lang, Dan Friel, John Zorn, Missy Mazzoli, Anna Clyne, Steve Reich, Don Byron, Aleksandra Vrebalov, Marcelo Zarvos, Pamela Z, Evan Ziporyn and Terry Riley. All quartet members are also composers and contribute new work to ETHEL's repertoire.



Columbia Artists

ETHEL has appeared as a guest artist on recordings released by over a dozen music labels including Laurence Hobgood's tesseterra (label TBD, 2018); The Paha Sapa Give-Back by Jerome Kitzke (Innova, 2014); Cold Blue Two (Cold Blue Music, 2012); Glow by Kaki King (Velour Recordings, 2012); Blue Moth by Anna Clyne (Tzadik, 2012); The Duke by Joe Jackson (Razor & Tie, 2012); A Map of the Floating City by Thomas Dolby (Redeye Label, 2011); John the Revelator: A Mass for Six Voices by Phil Kline, with vocal group Lionheart (Cantaloupe Music, 2008); and the Grammy Award-winning Dedicated to You: Kurt Elling Sings the Music of Coltrane and Hartman (Concord Records, 2009).

ETHEL builds relationships and engages community with innovative outreach performances and educational programs. ETHEL is currently the Resident Ensemble at The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Balcony Bar and the Ensemble-in-Residence at Denison University. In 2018-19, ETHEL will be the quartet-in-residence at Face the Music, a music education program at the Kaufman Music Center. This dynamic initiative for young New York City musicians is dedicated to the study and performance of music by living composers.

ETHEL is Dorothy Lawson, Ralph Farris, Kip Jones and Corin Lee.

For more information, please visit www.columbia-artists.com