The Omer Quartet is quickly gaining a reputation for both “fearless renderings” (The New York Times) of the standard quartet repertoire and compelling performances of works by today’s composers. It burst onto the scene with top prizes at Borciani, Trondheim, and Bordeaux in Europe all in one year, having already captured the Fischoff National Competition Grand Prize. The quartet was awarded First Prize in the 2017 Young Concert Artists (YCA) International Auditions and recently debuted at Carnegie’s Weill Recital Hall.

Frequent collaborations have made the quartet one of the most versatile quartets in the industry. They have shared the stage with David Krakauer, Kim Kashkashian, Ricardo Morales, Clive Greensmith, among others. They relish programming works written by current generation of composers, including those written by Chris Rogerson, Gabriella Smith and Caroline Shaw. The Omer Quartet frequently performs shared recitals with accordionist Hanzhi Wang, the first accordionist to join YCA’s roster.

Its ongoing commitment to community engagement includes the inauguration of a Music for Food concert series from 2017-2019 in the metro-DC/Maryland area to support local hunger relief. Their combined efforts in Maryland created over 10,000 meals and involved collaborations with violist and founder of Music for Food, Kim Kashkashian, cellist Paul Katz, and other University of Maryland faculty. Previous grant projects included a Boston Foundation award to sponsor performances in venues such as homeless shelters and drug rehabilitation centers in areas of Boston.

The Omer Quartet served as Visiting Fellows at Yale School of Music, where its members coached undergraduate chamber music. They were the 2018-19 Ernst Stiefel String Quartet-in-Residence at Caramoor Center for Music and Arts and Chamber Musicians in Residence at Bravo! Vail Music Festival from 2018-2020. Following completion of a graduate residency at the New England Conservatory, its members are tackling their final educational feat, to receive a doctorate degree from the University of Maryland. The quartet has had the honor of working extensively with members of venerable string quartet giants including the Cleveland, Cavani, Brentano, and St. Lawrence Quartets. Some of their other influential mentors include violist Kim Kashkashian, violinist Soovin Kim and consultant Dana Fonteneau.

The word “Omer” is a period of seven weeks in the Jewish calendar between Passover and Shavuot during which prayers centered around self-reflection, improvement of personality, and inner growth invite the possibility of affecting external results and potential. The Omer Quartet’s members hope to bring the spirit of this quest for self-development to everything they do, from music-making to connecting with their audience.

NOTE: When editing, please do not delete references to Young Concert Artists, nor special prizes.
Please do not use previously dated biographies.

08/2021