

Another founding member of ETHEL, cellist Dorothy Lawson, has performed with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, the White Oak Dance Project, Philharmonia Virtuosi, the American Symphony Orchestra, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, and numerous new music ensembles. Canadian-born, she completed degrees at the University of Toronto, the Vienna Academy, and the Juilliard School. She teaches at the Mannes College at the New School in New York City.

Violinist Kip Jones is known for his ebullient and innovative solo performances in a style he describes as “experimental folk.” A modern musical troubadour, he has performed at scores of eclectic venues, such as Ecuador’s Ministry of Economic Inclusion; Albania’s Liceu Artistik “Jordan Misja”; two miles inside Chom Ong Tai cave in Laos; the summer homes of nomadic Mongolian herders; and the platforms of subway systems in North America. As a composer, his work has been commissioned by ensembles, including the Lake Superior Chamber Orchestra and A Far Cry. A native of Minnesota, Jones earned his degree in violin performance from the Berklee College of Music.

Corin Lee is one of the most sought-after violinists of his generation. He has appeared at great American venues, including Carnegie Hall’s Stern Auditorium, the Smithsonian’s National Portrait Gallery, Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center, and EDC Las Vegas. Lee’s performances have been broadcast on Fox, CBS, and NBC News. His “musically marvelous” (Steve Reich) electronic arrangements have set the new standard for innovation in solo string performance. Lee received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the Juilliard School and the Yale School of Music, respectively. In addition to concert work, he directs Liberated Performer, a program that guides and trains musicians to defeat performance anxiety.

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**Cover** Amedeo Modigliani, *Gypsy Woman with Baby* (detail), 1919, National Gallery of Art, Washington, Chester Dale Collection

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## 76TH SEASON OF CONCERTS

MARCH 4, 2018 / NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART



# Program

## ETHEL

Kip Jones, violin  
Corin Lee, violin  
Ralph Farris, viola  
Dorothy Lawson, cello

**MARCH 4, 2018 / 3:30**  
**WEST BUILDING, WEST GARDEN COURT**

*Blue Dress for String Quartet*

Program listed alphabetically by composer; order to be announced from the stage.

Anna Clyne (b. 1980)  
*Roulette*

After Stevie Nicks  
Arr. Corin Lee  
*The Music There*

After Aretha Franklin  
Arr. Kip Jones  
*Natures*

Julia Wolfe (b. 1958)  
*Blue Dress for String Quartet*

After Janis Joplin  
Arr. Ralph Farris  
*Sweet Janis*

Dorothy Lawson (b. 1958)  
*Chai*

Dorothy Lawson  
*Grandmother*

Missy Mazzoli (b. 1980)  
*Quartet for Queen Mab*

## The Musicians

Established in New York City in 1998, ETHEL quickly earned a reputation as one of America's most adventurous string quartets—heir to the likes of the Kronos Quartet and Soldier String Quartet. These musicians are part of a generation of young artists blending uptown conservatory musicianship with downtown genre-crossing, performed with the intensity and accoutrements of a rock band. *The New York Times* has described ETHEL's musicians as “indefatigable and eclectic,” the *New Yorker* has deemed them “vital and brilliant,” and *Pitchfork* has called them “infectiously visceral.” Nearly two decades later, the quartet has, in turn, become seminal in its own right, a pathbreaker for younger, genre-spanning ensembles and a prolific commissioner of new music.

At the heart of ETHEL is a collaborative ethos—a quest for a common creative expression that is forged in the celebration of community. In addition to premiering twenty-first-century works by a broad range of groundbreaking composers, the quartet creates and tours rich, often multimedia productions in which community engagement is a key element. The quartet is currently touring *ETHEL's Documerica*, inspired by the tens of thousands of images shot as part of the Environmental Protection Agency's decade-long *Project Documerica*. Launched in 1971, the agency's initiative commissioned photographers across America to document the state of the environment and its impact on society. *ETHEL's Documerica*—directed by OBIE Award-winner Steve Cossin, with projection design by Deborah Johnson—features new work by the quartet, as well as music it has commissioned from other American artists. The quartet released a *Documerica* album in 2015.

ETHEL also tours three other programs: *The River*, a collaboration with Taos Pueblo flutist Robert Mirabal; *Blue Dress*, which pays homage to women making their musical mark on the twenty-first century; and *Circus—Wandering City*, which explores the phenomenon of the circus through the eyes and insights of the people who have created its special thrills and illusions. The program includes original music composed and performed live by ETHEL.

The quartet regularly performs works by all of the ensemble members, alongside music by such luminaries as Philip Glass, Julia Wolfe, David Lang, Mary Ellen Childs, Raz Masinai, John Zorn, and Pamela Z. Over the past five years, the quartet premiered over 150 new works, many of them commissioned by the quartet. ETHEL is the ensemble-in-residence at Denison University and the resident ensemble at the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Balcony Bar.

Violist Ralph Farris, one of ETHEL's founding members, is a Grammy-nominated arranger, an original Broadway orchestra member of *The Lion King*, and the former musical director for singer Roger Daltrey of The Who. He has worked with Leonard Bernstein, Martin Scorsese, Depeche Mode, Natalie Merchant, Harry Connick Jr., Allen Ginsberg, Yo-Yo Ma, and Gorillaz. A graduate of Walnut Hill School for the Arts, Farris earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from the Juilliard School.