

## TESTIMONIALS

"In the summer of 2024, the Balourdet Quartet will return to Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival for a residency for the third year running. We host 200 students and 35-40 faculty at Green Mountain, and the Balourdets have had an outsized impact on our community with their visits in 2022 and 2023. The quartet's career was already on a steep upward trajectory at the time of their first visit in 2022, but many in our community had not yet encountered the group. Their electrifying performances ensured that everyone who was in the audience will be following this group for the rest of their career. The imagination, commitment, and visceral excitement they brought to their performances of Beethoven Opus 130 and 131 will stay with our students for a lifetime.

As spectacular as their performances were, the Balourdets thoroughly won the hearts of our students with their teaching work during their residencies. The quartet held open rehearsals, sharing their painstaking daily Bach chorale warm-up routine, outlining a step-by-step explanation about how they approached rehearsing the Grosse Fugue, and sharing anecdotes about their ups and downs in their journey as a quartet and as individuals. Quartet members went into separate rooms and coached a total of 28 string quartets each year, with students ranging in age from 14-30. Student feedback praised their meticulous attention to detail, probing musical insight, and practical ensemble advice. More intangibly, our students were touched and inspired by how relatable the Balourdets were—open about their struggles, down-to-earth as people, easy to connect with as generational peers.

The opportunity to host a group of this caliber was a great privilege for our festival. I believe they have unique gifts to offer as performers and teachers!"

***-Elizabeth Chang, Artistic Director of Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival (VT)***

"The Balourdet Quartet spent an entire day at Sleepy Hollow Middle and High School courtesy of the Friends of Music organization! They performed for the orchestras of both schools and then held mini clinics with each of my chamber orchestras, as well as all of my quartets in both schools! My students learned so much in such a short time and were inspired for years to come! Thank you so much! It was a pleasure to hear [them] perform and this experience was invaluable to my string players!"

***-Brittney Concia, Music Director of Sleepy Hollow Middle and High School (NY)***

"My experience with the Balourdet Quartet has been a truly exceptional and remarkable journey. Their magnificent and immersed playing conveyed their strong passion and dedication toward music as they seemed to have a deep understanding of the piece they were playing. The excellent teaching of Balourdet Quartet fostered an engaging atmosphere that has constantly motivated and aspired students to achieve higher goals. Moreover, their unique approach of music has enriched learning experience which I felt privileged to be guided by such talented and inspiring musicians."

***-Jian Lee, Student, JDR Summer Music Academy (TX)***

"The members of the Balourdet Quartet are amazing performers and extremely helpful teachers. They are entertaining and fun to work with, and they are experts of technique, musical interpretation, and instrumental balance. Each of the individual members are exceptional musicians, and I have learned a lot from their different ideas and styles of teaching at camp."

***-Stephen Chang, Student, JDR Summer Music Academy (TX)***

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