**Welcome**

We believe that live performance actively supports the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). As the arts also require complex thinking skills, learning by doing and an innovative interpretation of theme, mood and drama, these common elements are strategically aligned to the progressive learning required of today's students.

The Mondavi Center Arts Education department’s School Matinees embody the Mondavi Center’s mission to “present a rich program of diverse artists and thinkers in public performance and as the basis for education and engagement programs on our campus and in our region”.

---

**About Alexander String Quartet**

The Alexander String Quartet returns for its 15th consecutive season at the Mondavi Center, this year featuring works by composer Benjamin Britten and his contemporaries. Our school matinee, a combination of performance and discussion, features excerpts from Benjamin Britten's String Quartet No. 2 (1945) and William Walton's String Quartet No. 2 in A Minor (1946), as the Quartet explores works that reflect the broader European experience of World War II, which in Europe began in 1939 and ended in 1945, and was the single most devastating event of the twentieth century.

A major artistic presence in San Francisco, the Alexander String Quartet was formed in New York City in 1981 and captured international attention as the first American quartet to win the London International String Quartet Competition in 1985. Since 1989, the Quartet has served as Ensemble in Residence for San Francisco Performances and Directors of the Morrison Chamber Music Center in the College of Liberal and Creative Arts at San Francisco State University.

**Zakarias Grafilo – Violin 1**
Zakarias Grafilo received his early musical training at the Preparatory Division of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Liberal Studies from San Francisco State University.

**Frederick Lifsitz – Violin 2**
Frederick Lifsitz studied violin in his native Boston with Marylou Churchill and at Indiana University with Paul Biss.

**Sandy Wilson – Cello**
A native of Northumberland, England, Sandy Wilson completed his graduate studies at the Royal Danish Conservatory in Copenhagen. In 1979, Mr. Wilson moved to the United States, completing a degree at Yale University.

**Paul Yarbrough – Viola**
Paul Yarbrough is a native of Clearwater, Florida. His teachers have included Elaine Lee Richey, Lillian Fuchs, Raymond Page, and Sally Peck.

---

**LEARN MORE:**

- [http://www.asq4.com/about.htm](http://www.asq4.com/about.htm)
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benjamin_Britten](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benjamin_Britten)
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AEIj08gIOM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AEIj08gIOM)

---

**Edward Benjamin Britten (1913–1976)**

was an English composer, conductor and pianist. He was a central figure of 20th-century British classical music. He began composing at a young age, and retained great interest in writing music for children. Among his known works is the orchestral showpiece, *The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra* (1945).

---

**The viola is slightly larger than a violin in size and has a lower and deeper sound than a violin.**
Think About It

Dear Students,

1. Did the music seem to tell a story or have a mood or emotion?
2. A string quartet has no conductor. How do they communicate with each other while playing?
3. Is this your first time watching and listening to a string quartet play? Was it what you expected?

MC Fun Facts:

- The outside walls of the Mondavi Center are made from sandstone from India that is 1.8 billion years old.
- What look like fossils in the sandstone tiles, are really iron and manganese crystal dendrites.
- The building sits on 200 pillars to keep the sounds and vibrations of the freeway and trains from being heard or felt inside the theater.
- There are hot water pipes running underneath the Vanderhoef Studio Theatre that heat the floor, so that performers (especially dancers) can more easily warm up.

Attending the Theater

What is expected of student audiences at the matinee:

- To facilitate starting the performance on time, get a drink of water and use the restroom before entering the seating area
- Enter the auditorium quietly and take your seats immediately (note that all matinees have reserved seating)
- Show courtesy to the artist and other guests at all times
- Demonstrate appreciation for the artist’s work by applauding
- Refrain from making unnecessary noise or movements
- Please eat lunch before or after the performance. Food is not allowed in the theater
- Use information learned from the pre-matinee discussion to enhance the performance experience
- Please do not photograph or record the artists

What your students can expect of their experience at the Mondavi Center:

A theater is a charged space, full of energy and anticipation. When the house lights (the lights that illuminate the audience seating) go down, the excitement level goes up! Theaters are designed so that the voices of the singers and actors and the music of the musicians can be heard. But this also means that any sound in the audience: whispering, speaking and moving about, can be heard by other audience members and by the performers. Distractions like these upset everyone’s concentration and can spoil a performance.

The performers on stage show respect for their art form and for the audience by doing their very best work. By watching attentively the audience shows respect for the performers. Appreciation can be shown in many different ways, depending upon the art form and the culture(s) of the people in the audience. For instance, while the audience at a dance performance may sit quietly, other types of performances may invite audience participation.

Applause is the best way for audience members to share their enthusiasm and to show their appreciation for the performers. Applaud at the end of a performance! Sometimes the audience will clap during a performance, as after a featured solo. Audience members may feel like laughing if the action on stage is funny, crying if the action is sad, or sighing if something is seen or heard that is beautiful.

Mondavi Center Arts Education

Arts Education provides CueSheets for all performances in the Mondavi Center 2016-17 School Matinee Series. They are intended to help teachers prepare their students for the school matinee that they will attend at Mondavi Center, UC Davis.

Support provided by the Friends of Mondavi Center