

## THALEA STRING QUARTET

### PROGRAM NOTES

#### Terry Riley (1935- ) - Sunrise of the Planetary Dream Collector

Originally written for the Kronos Quartet in 1980, Terry Riley's *Sunrise of the Planetary Dream Collector* is a hypnotic jam session for string quartet, influenced by Indian raga and psychedelic rock. The piece is made up of a number of "modules"; short musical fragments that can be organized in any order. Each string quartet composes their own version of the piece, giving the performers the chance to construct an original version of Riley's composition for every performance.

#### India Gailey (1992- ) - New Commission *\*\*Canadian composer\*\**

India Gailey's new work is a musical representation of the life cycle of a butterfly, specifically the stage in which a caterpillar undergoes a complete transformation within the cocoon. The piece was developed through workshopping sessions with the Thalea String Quartet and will receive its world premiere on TSQ's 2026 Debut Atlantic tour.

#### Gabriella Smith (1991- ) - Carrot Revolution

Gabriella Smith's musical language is influenced by the sounds of the natural world, the visual arts, and the entirety of musical history. Inspired by the work of French painter Paul Cézanne, *Carrot Revolution* features musical quotations from Medieval French composer Perotin and the classic rock band The Who, and draws from the sounds of bluegrass and folk music. This thrilling work is a wild musical ride - a true musical revolution and a new contemporary classic!

#### Akshaya Avril Tucker (1992- ) - Radha in the Forest

Composed for the Thalea String Quartet in 2020, this piece imagines the classical Sanskrit heroine Radha transported to a lonely Massachusetts winter. The piece features a unique instrumentation that sees TSQ's second violinist Kumiko Sakamoto serve as both violinist and vocalist in a spell-binding work that celebrates the traditions of Odissi Classical Indian dance.

#### Andrew Yee (1984- ) - Something Golden

Commissioned by Troy Friends of Chamber Music for the Thalea String Quartet, Andrew Yee's stunning and deeply personal work examines the process of discovering and sharing the "gold" that each person holds within them. Yee's profoundly moving work has impacted audiences across North America since its premiere in 2021 and is featured on TSQ's forthcoming debut album.

#### Joseph Haydn (1732-1809) - String Quartet in C major Op. 33, No. 3 "The Bird"

Haydn's immensely charming and clever work is a staple of the string quartet repertoire. Featuring all of Haydn's wit, creativity, and melodic invention, "The Bird" is a delightful work that evokes the carefree spirit of a bird in flight. Bookended by two lively and exciting fast movements, the middle movements contain some of Haydn's most profound musical statements, demonstrating his emotional complexity of his compositional voice.