



presents...

## BROOKLYN RIDER

Johnny Gandelsman | Violin  
Colin Jacobsen | Violin

Nicholas Cords | Viola  
Michael Nicolas | Cello

## AVI AVITAL | Mandolin

Saturday, March 12, 2022 | 7:30pm

Herbst Theatre

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| <b>LUGI BOCCHERINI</b>     | <b>La Musica Notturna Ritratta di Madrid</b>                                    |
| <b>GIOVANNI SOLLIMA</b>    | <b>Prelude for solo mandolin</b>  |
| <b>CAROLINE SHAW</b>       | <b>Entr'acte</b>  |
| <b>COLIN JACOBSEN</b>      | <b>Time and Again</b> ( <i>World Premiere for mandolin and string quartet</i> ) |
| <b>CLARICE ASSAD</b>       | <b>Obrigado</b>   |
| <b>OSVALDO GOLIJOV</b>     | <b>Arum der Fayer</b> ( <i>World Premiere for mandolin and string quartet</i> ) |
| <b>LEV "LJOVA" ZHURBIN</b> | <b>Love Potion, Expired (from <i>Culai</i>)</b>                                 |

**This program to be performed without intermission.**

**This program is made possible in part by the generous support of Robert and Ruth Dell.**

Brooklyn Rider and Avi Avital are represented by Opus 3 Artists  
470 Park Avenue South, 9th Floor, New York, NY 10016    opus3artists.com

## ARTIST PROFILES

San Francisco Performances presents Brooklyn Rider for the fourth time; they first appeared in November 2017 with dancer Wendy Whelan. Tonight, Avi Avital makes his SF Performances debut.



With their gripping performance style and unquenchable appetite for musical adventure, **Brooklyn Rider** has carved a singular space in the world of string quartets over their 15-year history. Defining the string quartet as a medium with deep historic roots and endless possibility for invention, they find equal inspiration in musical languages ranging from late Beethoven to Persian classical music to American roots music to the endlessly varied voices of living composers. Claiming no allegiance to either end of the historical spectrum, Brooklyn Rider most comfortably operates within the long arc of the tradition, seeking to illuminate works of the past with fresh insight while coaxing the malleable genre into the future through an inclusive programming vision, deep-rooted collaborations with a wide range of global tradition bearers, and the creation of thoughtful and relevant frames for commissioning projects.

The 2021–22 concert season is strongly illustrative of the intrepid musical appetite of Brooklyn Rider. In the fall, they premiere a major new work by the great Argentinian composer and close friend, Osvaldo Golijov. The quartet also has two new collaborative projects this year. One is with Israeli mandolin virtuoso Avi Avital, and the other is a brand-new phase of work with Swedish mezzo-soprano Anne Sofie von Otter, where they will explore themes of love and death through the music of Franz Schubert and Rufus Wainwright. Looking further into the future, they will expand work already underway with Syrian clarinetist Kinan Azmeh and

will launch a major new commissioning venture for the 2022–23 season called “The Four Elements”: an exploration of the four classical elements (earth, air, water, and fire) as metaphor for both the complex inner world of the string quartet and the current health of planet Earth.

Brooklyn Rider has remained steadfast in their commitment to generate new music for string quartet at nearly every phase of their history. Shared during the global pandemic at the height of the US lockdown, the Grammy®-nominated recording *Healing Modes* (In A Circle Records) presented Beethoven’s towering Opus 132—the composer’s late testament on healing and the restorative power of new creation—interwoven with five new commissions powerfully exploring topics as wide-ranging as the U.S.-Mexico border conflict, the Syrian refugee crisis, the mental health epidemic, and physical well-being. Described by *The New Yorker* as a project that “...could not possibly be more relevant or necessary than it is currently,” the composers include Reena Esmail, Gabriela Lena Frank, Matana Roberts, Caroline Shaw, and Du Yun.

That same season also saw the release of two projects from vastly different musical spheres—one with the master Irish fiddler Martin Hayes (In A Circle Records) and the other, *Sun on Sand* (Nonesuch Records), featuring the saxophone great Joshua Redman. In fall 2018, Brooklyn Rider released *Dreamers* on Sony Music Masterworks with Mexican jazz vocalist Magos Herrera, and 2017’s *Spontaneous Symbols* (In a Circle Records) featured new commissions by Tyondai Braxton, Evan Ziporyn, Paula Matthusen, Kyle Sanna, and Colin Jacobsen. These records, along with the rest of Brooklyn Rider’s 18-album discography have helped give rise to NPR *Music*’s observation that Brooklyn Rider is “recreating the 300-year-old form of string quartet as a vital and creative 21st-century ensemble.”

The first mandolin soloist to be nominated for a classical Grammy®, **Avi Avital** has been compared to Andrés Segovia for his championship of his instrument and to Jascha Heifetz for his incredible virtuosity. Passionate and “explosively charismatic” (*New York Times*) in live performance, he is a driving force behind the reinvigoration of the mandolin repertory.

Highlights of the 2021–22 season include a North American tour with Les Violons de Roy, returns to the Seattle and Atlanta Symphony Orchestras, a duo tour with the guitarist Miloš, and a three-week tour of the U.S. with Brooklyn Rider.



Avital has commissioned over 100 works for the mandolin, most recently Jennifer Higdon’s *Mandolin Concerto* (2021) and Giovanni Sollima’s concerto in January 2020. His recent orchestral engagements include Los Angeles Philharmonic, the symphony orchestras of Chicago, San Diego, St Louis, Montreal, Baltimore and Detroit, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, and other major orchestras worldwide.

Avital appears frequently at Carnegie Hall, the Berlin Philharmonie, Beijing’s National Centre for the Performing Arts, London’s Wigmore and Royal Albert Halls, Zurich’s Tonhalle, Barcelona’s Palau de la Música Catalana, Paris Philharmonie, Vienna Konzerthaus, Palais de Versailles with a live telecast on TV Arte, and at key festivals such as Salzburg, Tanglewood, Spoleto, and Verbier. Avital collaborates with musicians across many genres including Ksenija Sidorova, Giovanni Sollima, Mahan Esfahani, Kristian Bezuidenhout, Alice Sara Ott, Dover Quartet, Omer Klein, Omer Avital, actress Martina Gedeck and Georgian puppet theatre, Budrugana Gagra.

An exclusive Deutsche Grammophon artist, his sixth album for the label, *The Art of the Mandolin*, has been received with high praise and top reviews in *The Times*, *Independent*, *Gramophone*, *BBC Music Magazine*.

Born in Be’er Sheva in southern Israel, Avital began learning the mandolin at the age of eight. He was the first mandolinist in the history to win Israel’s prestigious Aviv Competition in 2007. He plays on a mandolin made by Israeli luthier Arik Kerman.