

**Juilliard String Quartet**  
**Japan Tour 2023**  
**Cavatina**  
**Special Interview from NY**

**Q1: What is the appeal of the commissioned piece by Widmann? and what are the highlights the audience expects to hear in it?**

There are two separate quartets that Jörg Widmann wrote inspired by his reactions to Beethoven's monumental Quartet in Bb Major, op 130. His quartet number 8 is a 3-movement work that seems to be inspired by the quirkiness of Beethoven's musical language. It is somewhat light, and generally fun. His quartet number 10, on the other hand, is an extended slow movement, written to reflect his deeply felt response to the Cavatina movement of Beethoven's quartet. I think the audience can hear in the program that we are offering a wonderful example of how a great deal of musical inspiration can be passed down, not only from generation to generation, but from century to century, reflecting the timelessness of the very human ideas and emotions involved in their creation.

**Q2: How did the audience enjoy the piece at the world premiere and European premiere last year?**

The world and New York premieres of the two quartets in the fall of 2022 were greeted with a great deal of enthusiasm from audiences. The European premiere of Quartet no. 10, "Cavatina" was also very warmly received. Quartet no. 8 has not yet been played in Europe.

**Q3: What does the composer Beethoven mean to you all?**

Beethoven is universally beloved as a composer. His music is at the heart of our concert repertoire; our musical education and passion for string quartet playing. Like Shakespeare, Beethoven's understanding of human nature and the emotions that drive us remains powerful and relevant to the present day. For our quartet, Beethoven serves as a model of creativity, invention, dramatic power and beauty. His music offers something for everyone and never fails to capture the imagination.

**Q4: Please tell us your thoughts behind the title of this program “Cavatina”.**

The Cavatina is a very special piece of music. This songful movement from Beethoven’s Quartet Op.130, is one of the shortest, yet powerful pieces in the string quartet repertoire. How did Beethoven manage to create such heartbreakingly beautiful music in such a compact form? It is a question that intrigues us each time we sit down to play the piece. When listening to the Cavatina, one feels transported. It is, perhaps, the saddest piece in a major key. And, as a work that has shaped the listening experience for generations of audiences, the Cavatina was selected as the final entry on the Golden Record aboard the Voyager Space Mission.

**Q5: How would you describe "JSQ sound" in one word?**

Wholeheartedness!!

**Q6: Do you have any special impressions or memories in Japan so far?**

Japan is full of wonderful memories for me. The delicious Japanese cuisine, the beautiful surroundings, the friendly people! But my fondest memories of Japan have to be the gorgeous and vibrant Japanese concert halls. Getting to perform in them feels like a real treat for us every time.

**Q7: What are you looking forward to in Niigata, Tokyo, Hyogo and Nagano?**

We are very much looking forward to reuniting with our audiences there and sharing this special program of Beethoven and Widmann with them!