APOLLO CHAMBER PLAYERS

Globally Inspired Music

AMERICAN Story

Season 18 • 2025-2026

Empower

Saturday, February 7, 2026 • 7:30pm

@MATCH in Midtown

EMPOWER by Marlo Saucedo

"...compelling works...brilliant programming..."

- BBC Music Magazine

Chamber Music America **2025 Ensemble of the Year**

EMPOWER: *to make (someone) stronger and more confident, especially in controlling their life and claiming their rights.*
(adapted from Merriam-Webster)

And Still...We Cross. In this perilous moment, truer words could not be expressed.

Just as Kenneth Morris' famous ancestors were witnesses to tyranny, we in the 21st century find ourselves on a similar path. Just as Americans then assisted the enslaved in their pursuit of freedom on the Underground Railroad, Americans today are courageously coming to the aid of our brothers and sisters - and strangers alike - on homeland battlefields. Immigrants and migrants displaced by war, poverty, and climate change *Still* dare to dream of a better life on American soil.

Tonight we emancipate our fears with new art representing the best of humanity - bringing the story of America in full relief with present challenges and new hope for the future. Kenneth Morris' powerful words set to Daniel Bernard Roumain's vibrant music find harmony in the liminal space of beauty, sorrow, culture, and love.

Democratizing artistic expression across generations is also a form of empowerment. The students of the Evergreen Quartet perform with the vitality and unfettered charisma that older generations must meet with wisdom and lived experience. And younger generations must listen for the echoes of their forbearers, staying curious about their lineage and place in this world.

Our national soul rings with cacophony. May this program help it heal and grant us the courage to "stand so others can cross."

Matthew J. Detrick

Matthew J. Detrick, *Founder, Artistic & Executive Director*

Photo/Lynn Lane

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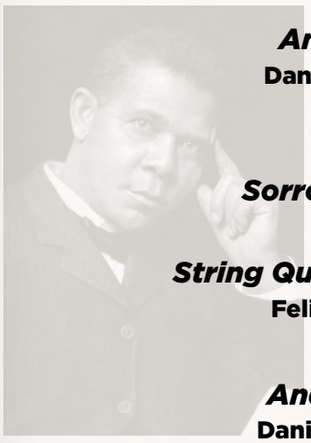

And Still We Cross (2026)*
Daniel Bernard Roumain (b. 1971)
Version for string quartet
WORLD PREMIERE

Sorrow Song & Jubilee (2014)**
Libby Larsen (b. 1950)

String Quartet No. 6 in F minor, Op. 80
Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Intermission

And Still We Cross (2025)**
Daniel Bernard Roumain (b. 1971)
Version for string quartet, vocal quartet (SATB) & narrator
Words/Text by **Kenneth B. Morris, Jr.**

**Commissioned by Apollo Chamber Players and Kinder HSPVA for the Evergreen Quartet*

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APOLLO CHAMBER PLAYERS
Matthew J. Detrick, *Founder, Executive & Artistic Director*

CORE ARTISTS
Matthew J. Detrick, *violin* • Anabel Ramirez, *violin*
Aria Cheregosha, *viola* • Matthew Dudzik, *cello*

GUESTS
Kenneth Morris, Jr., *narrator & speaker*
Daniel Bernard Roumain, *composer*
Mali Gatewood, *speaker (Kinder HSPVA Creative Writing Dept)*
Penelope Campbell, *soprano* • Elizabeth Tait, *alto*
Wayne Ashley, *tenor* • Keaton Brown, *baritone*

EVERGREEN QUARTET
part of the Kinder HSPVA/AFA Chamber Music Partnership
Naoto Osako, *violin* • Claire Loggenberg, *violin*
Drayden Johnson, *viola* • Rashaud Lawrence, *cello*

Program Partner:
Frederick Douglass Family Initiative

Commission Underwriters:
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Major Supporters:
Tom & Terri Kosten • Houston Young Artists' Concert

APOLLO CHAMBER PLAYERS

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Matthew J. Detrick, *violin* • **Anabel Ramirez,** *violin*
Matthew Dudzik, *cello* • **Aria Cheregosha,** *viola*

Photo/
Lynn Lane

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GUEST ARTISTS

Kenneth Morris, Jr.
narrator & speaker

Daniel Bernard Roumain
composer

Mali Gatewood
speaker, Kinder HSPVA

Penelope Campbell
soprano

Elizabeth Tait
alto

Wayne Ashley
tenor

Keaton Brown
baritone

Marlo Saucedo
word artist

MAJOR SUPPORT

FUNDED IN PART BY THE CITY OF HOUSTON THROUGH HOUSTON ARTS ALLIANCE

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Chamber Music America

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Houston Young Artists' Concert

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ANONYMOUS • HOUSTON YOUNG ARTISTS' CONCERT
JOE & VENONA DETRICK • THOMAS & TERESA KOSTEN
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