

Hello, Dalí!

In a **Dalí Quartet** concert, Beethoven rubs shoulders with Turina; Beethoven with Villa-Lobos. The Philadelphia-based ensemble is made up of three Venezuelans (violinists Luigi Mazzocchi and Carlos Rubio and violist Adriana Linares) and a Puerto Rican (cellist Jesús Morales) and has made a specialty of Spanish and Latin American music. But it is rooted in the classics of Central Europe.

made a true commitment to education. Each summer since 2004, the quartet has run a summer program in North Wales, Pennsylvania, thirty miles from Philadelphia. The Dalí Quartet Summer Camp and Festival provides inner-city students, from elementary school to college, with a week of rehearsals, workshops and masterclasses. The foursome is also the quartet-in-residence with Philadelphia's outreach-oriented Black Pearl Chamber Orchestra, founded to foster ethnic diversity in classical music. All of these activities are helping bring chamber music to young musicians and new audiences.

In performance, the Dalís help the audience connect the dots—by pointing out, for instance, how the Native American influences in a Dvořák quartet give it a kinship with *clave* rhythms of Afro-Cuban music. “Even if it’s in a formal venue, one of the things that makes the experience is the interaction between the audience and the performers,” says Linares. “People enjoy the fact that there’s a person behind the performer. Also, the nature of our music is very upbeat. You start with beautiful classical music, and end up with a sense of something party-like that lets the audience have an electric experience.”

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THE DALÍ QUARTET

“Classical music is the *school* of string ensemble playing,” says Adriana Linares, the quartet’s violist. “If you’re able to put together a quartet by Mozart or Haydn, you’ve got all the tools. From there, you can go onto any style.”

One huge inspiration for the quartet’s activities is El Sistema, Venezuela’s national music education system, and a guiding force in the Dalí’s own history. Mazzocchi and Rubio are both products of El Sistema; Linares studied with El Sistema musicians and has herself gone back to Venezuela to teach as part of the system. As if in emulation, the Dalí has