

**Dr. SARITA KWOK**

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Australian violinist Sarita Kwok has been featured on stages in Australia, New Zealand, England, Italy, France, Germany, Poland, Switzerland, Israel, Japan and the United States and has performed as a soloist with the major symphony orchestras in her home country. After being named the James Fairfax Sydney Symphony Orchestra Young Artist she made her debut with the Sydney Symphony at fifteen and went on to win Australia's most prestigious musical award: 'The Symphony Australia Young Performer of the Year (Strings)' shortly after. She has been awarded prizes at the Kloster Schöntal International Violin Competition, Germany, Gisborne International Music Competition, New Zealand, and an Honorary Diploma at the 7<sup>th</sup> Wieniawski and Lipinski International Competition, Poland.

As a founding member and first violinist of the Alianza String Quartet, Ms Kwok has given performances at the Pacific Music festival, Japan, Aldeburgh festival, UK, Aix-en-Provence festival, France, and the French Academy in Rome. The ASQ are Grand Prize winners of the Plowman Chamber Music Competition 2007 and Chamber Music Foundation of New England International Chamber Music Ensemble Competition 2008. From 2006 to 2008 the ASQ were in residence at the Yale School of Music and were closely mentored by the Tokyo String Quartet. The quartet has been described by the New York Times as "musical, well trained and have an unusually elegant sound – they boil over with an edge-of-the-seat eagerness" and recently by the West Palm Beach daily as having "a highly polished, unified sound . . . able to persuasively render the myriad subtleties of quartet composition". With the ASQ, Ms. Kwok has been featured on series such as the Brooklyn Friends of Chamber Music Series, NY, Danbury Concert Association, CT, Cosmos Club, DC, Redbank Chamber Music Series, NJ, Flagler Museum Series, FL, to name a few, and on the stages of Carnegie Hall's Weill and Zankel recital halls, Merkin Concert Hall, Sapporo's Kitara Hall and the Hakodate Arts Hall, Japan, the Villa Medici, Rome, and the Théâtre du Jeu de Paume, Aix-en-Provence, France. The quartet recently returned from an 8-concert tour of France this summer.

Ms. Kwok performs extensively with pianist, Jian Liu and her husband, cellist, Alexandre Lecarme, and has been featured on series such as the Rockport Chamber Music Festival, Thayer Academy Winter Series, Hebron Academy and Temple Emanuel Chamber Series, Hammond Performing Arts Series on the United States east coast, the Concert des Lauréats de l'Académie de Lausanne and on WGBH public radio (Boston), Suisse Romande in Switzerland and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. Last season, Ms. Kwok joined the roster of the Swiss Global Artistic Foundation. This season she was the guest violinist with the award-winning piano quartet 'Ensemble Made in Canada' on their annual Canadian tour.

Passionate about new music, Ms. Kwok has debuted works by Ezra Laderman, Jerome Combier, Jean Giroud and John B. Hedges and worked closely with Martin Bresnick and Michael Jarrell. The Alianza Quartet's recording for Albany records of the three last quartets of Ezra Laderman has recently been released and received excellent reviews. Ms. Kwok is also sought after as an educator, having given master-classes at Wellesley College, Central Connecticut State University, State University of NY at New Paltz, and the University of Arkansas.

Ms. Kwok received both the Doctoral and Masters of Musical Arts degrees from the Yale School of Music as a student of Prof. Syoko Aki and the Tokyo String Quartet. She currently serves on the faculty of the Yale Department of Music, is the Director of the Undergraduate Lessons Program at the Yale School of Music and also serves as adjunct violin faculty at Amherst College. Ms. Kwok performs on a violin by J.F. Guidantus made in 1736.