



Malmgren Concert Series

presents

Rudersdal Chamber Players

Sunday, April 13, 2025
4 p.m.

We acknowledge with respect the Onondaga Nation,
Firekeepers of the Haudenosaunee,
the Indigenous people on whose ancestral lands
Syracuse University now stands.

PROGRAM

Welcome: Rev. Brian Konkol, Vice President and Dean of Hendricks Chapel

Helios Overture

Carl Nielsen (1865-1931)
arranged for piano quartet by Karl Aage Rasmussen

Piano Quartet

Poul Ruders (b. 1949)

- I. Awakening
- II. Innocent
- III. Sprightly
- IV. Translucent

Piano Quartet

Amanda Maier-Röntgen (1853-1894)

- I. Allegro
- II. Andante
- III. Presto con fuoco
- IV. Largo espressivo - Allegro vivace - Presto

Rudersdal Chamber Players

Christine Pryn, violin
Marie Stockmarr Becker, viola
John Ehde, cello
Manuel Esperilla, piano

This concert is made possible with funding from the Malmgren fund at Hendricks Chapel,
the Setnor School of Music and Koda's Cultural Funds.



About Rudersdal Chamber Players

Praised for their flawless, outstanding and convincing playing, Rudersdal Chamber Players have performed throughout Denmark and in Sweden, Norway, Germany, Poland and Russia (before the war) at venues such as the prestigious Louisiana Concert Hall and the Sound Ways Festival. The group was founded in 2017 by violinist Christine Pryn at the request of the internationally acclaimed composer Lera Auerbach and her husband, Rafael DeStella. Lera was composer in residence at Rudersdal Sommerkonserter, and they thought it would be an advantage for the festival to have an ensemble of dedicated musicians who could perform in various combinations. In 2018, Rudersdal Chamber Players gave their first concert and have since been a sought-after ensemble, performing around 30 concerts annually. The base of the ensemble is a piano quartet, but they perform in various settings including clarinet quintet, flute quartet, piano trio, string trio and string quartet. They are the ensemble in residence at the Rudersdal Sommerkonserter, a summer festival in a desirable area a little north of Copenhagen. In September 2022 they released their world premiere recording of Poul Ruders' chamber music and got brilliant reviews internationally including 5 stars in BBC Music Magazine and Fanfare Magazine.

Rudersdal Chamber Players perform a wide repertoire that ranges from classics by Mozart, Brahms and Dvorak to contemporary music. They have collaborated with important composers such as Giya Kancheli, Elena Firsova and Poul Ruders and premiered works from Denmark, Sweden, USA, Ireland, Poland and Russia. A particular focus for the group is music by lesser-known composers including female composers from the romantic era such as Amanda Maier-Röntgen and Mel Bonis. Rudersdal Chamber Players regularly collaborate with visual artists, scientists, poets and historians on interdisciplinary projects focusing on topics like the Iron Curtain, the Apocalypse, astronomy, or mythology.

About the composers

Carl Nielsen was born into a modest background. His father was a painter and fiddler, and Carl soon joined him, eventually making his way to the great concert halls as Denmark's most unique and respected composer. *The Helios Overture* was composed when he accompanied his wife, Anne Marie, to Athens, where she had a residency as a sculptor.

The overture is inspired by the sun ascending over the Aegean Sea, rising into the sky, and finally sinking below the horizon.

It is one of Nielsen's most popular works, and the Danish Radio plays it every New Year right after midnight. Bonus info: The Helios Overture is dedicated to Julius Röntgen, a Dutch composer married to Amanda Maier-Röntgen, who is the composer of the final piece on the program.

Poul Ruders is one of today's most successful Danish composers, having been commissioned by great orchestras such as the Berlin Philharmonic and the New York Philharmonic. His opera *The Handmaid's Tale*, based on the novel by Margaret Atwood (composed long before the TV series), has been performed in major opera houses, including those in London, Toronto, and San Francisco.

The Rudersdal Chamber Players collaborated closely with Ruders for the last six years, performing his chamber music in Denmark and abroad. In 2024, they toured Denmark in celebration of his 75th birthday, and in 2022, they released a recording that received excellent reviews, including five stars in *BBC Music Magazine*.

Amanda Maier-Röntgen was born in southern Sweden (only 10 kilometers from Denmark) into a musical family and began playing violin and piano under the guidance of her father. At the age of 16, she was admitted to the Royal Academy of Music in Stockholm, where she studied violin, organ, piano, cello, composition, and harmony. She was the first woman in Sweden to graduate in music direction. She performed as a soloist and premiered her own violin concerto with the famous Gewandhaus Orchestra in Leipzig. The conductor was her teacher Engelbert Röntgen, who later became her father-in-law when she married his son, composer Julius Röntgen.

The marriage ended her career as a performing artist, but she continued composing. Although her works were mostly performed at private salons in their home, their circle of acquaintances included important composers and musicians, such as Edvard Grieg, who acknowledged her work. Her pregnancies weakened her significantly, and she died as a result of aftereffects from an earlier bout of tuberculosis.

The Malmgren Concert Series of Hendricks Chapel

Sundays at 4:00 p.m. in Hendricks Chapel

Join us for music to stir the soul and ignite the spirit as we welcome renowned musicians to the stage of Hendricks Chapel in the heart of Syracuse University! Sundays at 4 PM - free and open to the public.

April 27: Setnor's Spring Choral Concert

Ben O'Connell and D.J. Pickell present their graduate conducting recitals in collaboration with the Hendricks Chapel Choir and University Singers, respectively.

The Malmgren concert series will resume in September.

For more information, visit chapel.syracuse.edu.