



HANCHER AUDITORIUM

# JACK QUARTET PLAYS JOHN ZORN



**Wednesday, December 6, 2023 / 7:30 p.m.**  
**Old Capitol Museum / Senate Chamber**

*Presented in collaboration with the University of Iowa String Quartet Residency Program, Feed Me Weird Things, University of Iowa Center for New Music, and the University of Iowa Old Capital Museum*

Photo: Shervin Lainez

**IOWA**



Proud Sponsor of  
*Living Room Recitals*  
for *80+ Years*

From first notes and fidgety concerts to show-stopping performances, we're here for every one of your musical milestones.

Level up with lessons, a step up your instrument, or inspire others to play. We've got everything you need to  
*Play Now, Play for Life.*

Pianos • Band & Orchestra • Guitars & Ukuleles • Drums • Lessons • Repair • And More



**WEST**music  
*Play now. Play for life.*

[westmusic.com](http://westmusic.com)

Coralville • Marion  
Davenport • Cedar Falls

# JACK QUARTET

## PLAYS JOHN ZORN

CHRISTOPHER OTTO, violin  
AUSTIN WULLIMAN, violin  
JOHN PICKFORD WRICHARDS, viola  
JAY CAMPBELL, cello

Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.  
Old Capitol Museum, Senate Chamber, the University of Iowa  
*Part of Hancher Auditorium's 2023–2024 Season*

---

### PROGRAM

---

John ZORN

*Cat o' Nine Tails*

*The Alchemist*

INTERMISSION

*The Remedy of Fortune*

*Necronomicon*

Conjurations  
The Magus  
Thought Forms  
Incunabula  
Asmodeus

---

### Management:

GREGORY BROWN | Pink Noise Agency  
867 Lafayette Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11221  
gb@pinknoiseagency.com | 301-478-4410  
pinknoiseagency.com

[jackquartet.com](http://jackquartet.com)



## HANCHER EVENT PARTNERS

---

Richard & Judith Hurtig



# ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Hailed by *The New York Times* as “our leading new-music foursome,” the Grammy-nominated JACK Quartet is one of the most respected experimental string quartets performing today, synchronized in its mission to create international community through transformative, mind-broadening experiences and close listening. Comprising violinists Christopher Otto and Austin Wulliman, violist John Pickford Richards, and cellist Jay Campbell, JACK was founded in 2005 and operates as a nonprofit organization dedicated to the performance, commissioning, and appreciation of 20th and 21st century string quartet music. Through intimate, longstanding relationships with many of today’s most creative voices, the quartet has a prolific commissioning and recording catalog and has been nominated for three Grammy Awards.

JACK is featured in the ongoing celebrations of John Zorn’s 70th birthday, including an album release of his complete string quartets, major global tour dates, and a premiere with Barbara Hannigan. Other season highlights include a three-concert day at Wigmore Hall, the premiere of Natacha Diels’ *Beautiful Trouble* in Philadelphia, an Australian tour, and the fifth edition of JACK Studio.

Through its successful nonprofit model, the quartet has both self-commissioned and been commissioned to create hundreds of new works. The world’s top composers choose JACK because of its singular dedication to innovation and experimentation, realized through the invisible labor of extensive studio time and the support of full-time leadership staff and a board of directors.

Committed to helping dismantle outmoded classical music pipelines for composers, JACK’s all-access initiative JACK Studio funds collaborations with a selection of artists each year, who receive money, workshop time, mentorship, and resources to develop new works for string quartet. JACK receives more than 500 applications each season, and selects up to 15 composers or artists. More than 40 composers have worked with JACK through JACK Studio thus far.

Among many honors, JACK has earned an Avery Fisher Career Grant and Fromm Music Foundation Prize; been selected as *Musical America*’s 2018 Ensemble of the Year; and received Lincoln Center’s Martin E. Segal Award, New Music USA’s Trailblazer Award, and the CMA/ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming.

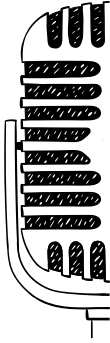
JACK has been nominated for three GRAMMY Awards, the most recent being their albums of music by John Luther Adams—nominated in the 2022 and 2023 Best Ensemble Performance category. Other albums include music by Helmut Lachenmann, Catherine Lamb, Du Yun, Elliott Sharp, Zosha Di Castri, Iannis Xenakis, and an upcoming release of the complete quartets of Elliott Carter.

The JACK Quartet makes its home in New York City, where it is the quartet-in-residence at the Mannes School of Music at The New School. They also teach each summer at New Music on the Point in Vermont and at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity. JACK has long-standing relationships with the University of Iowa String Quartet Residency Program, where they teach and collaborate with students each fall and spring, as well as with the Lucerne Festival Academy, of which the four members are all alumni. Learn more at [jackquartet.com](http://jackquartet.com).

✓ I'm not a robot



***AND NEITHER ARE WE!***



***Real Instruments***

***Real People***

***Real Music***



Listener-Supported Public Radio from Kirkwood Community College  
[www.kcck.org](http://www.kcck.org)

# Discover the Baird Difference



Private Wealth  
Management

We are proud to support Hancher Auditorium



The Vander Leest & Wenzel Group

319-365-3397 . 800-365-3397

[thevlwgroup.com](http://thevlwgroup.com)

[vlwgroup@rwbaird.com](mailto:vlwgroup@rwbaird.com)

Discover the *Baird Difference*

©2023 Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated. Member SIPC.

# PROGRAM NOTES

## JOHN ZORN

Born: September 2, 1953, New York City

“Music is about people for me. It’s not about sounds... it’s about putting people into challenging situations. And for me, challenges are opportunities.”

-John Zorn

The music of John Zorn defies categorization—deliberately so. For a man of such wide-ranging eclectic interests and tastes, any label becomes a straitjacket, restrictive and limiting. Over the course of his long career, the New-York-based saxophonist—composer—conductor—band leader—arranger—producer has created music that spans a broad range of genres, including jazz, metal, avant-garde, punk, classical, and world sounds. “Just as some people have a command of several languages, I can express myself fluently in several musical genres,” he says.



John Zorn  
photographed by Nick Ruechel

Zorn’s innate curiosity about just about everything has led him down many creative rabbit holes. Tonight’s program, a sampler of Zorn’s classical music from the last three decades, features four works for string quartet.

## ***Cat o’ Nine Tails***

WORK COMPOSED: 1988. Commissioned by the Kronos Quartet.

ESTIMATED DURATION: 15 minutes

When the Kronos Quartet approached John Zorn about writing a string quartet for them, it gave Zorn the opportunity to create music in a new—for him—manner. Zorn’s music up to this point relied on improvisatory, spontaneous contributions from the musicians he wrote for, whether the music was jazz, metal, punk, or some unclassifiable amalgamation of his own. Writing classical music presented a new challenge for Zorn: to make music in his own voice and also commit all the music to notation, rather than ask the players to improvise in performance. As Zorn explained, “Composing *Cat o’ Nine Tails* was a breakthrough for me in terms of being able to relate to classical players on their own terms. To take advantage of classical musicians at their best, you give them written material, because that’s what they do best.”

When it comes to classical music, Zorn is an autodidact, so it follows that his classical works do not adhere to typical classical structural norms, or develop their ideas in the manner of Beethoven or Bartók. *Cat o’ Nine Tails*, like the eponymous fearsome nine-tailed whip, flings styles and genres about, sometimes with breathtaking speed. Waltzes, popular tunes, old-timey string band music, and sound effects that suggest emotion or movement are all juxtaposed without any connective tissue.

# UNITED BY PURPOSE

*to*  
*Make a Difference!*



For our family, selling cars is just part of the story. Driven by a mission to positively impact the lives of our guests, and make a difference in our community, **McGrath** has served Eastern Iowa for four generations.

Evolving since 1952.



# PROGRAM NOTES

Zorn is a fan of the cartoon music of Carl Stalling, who composed for Warner Brothers' *Looney Tunes* and *Merrie Melodies* for more than 20 years. Zorn, in describing Stalling's music, writes, "This music is episodic—it doesn't develop the way normal music develops. See, to me, cartoon music is important because it follows a visual narrative. It's following the images on the screen. Now separate it from those images and you still have music. Valid, well-made music. But it does not follow any traditional development that I know of. It's following a visual narrative: all of a sudden this, all of a sudden that."

## ***The Alchemist***

---

WORK COMPOSED: 2011

ESTIMATED DURATION: 20 minutes

John Zorn is fascinated by mysticism, occultism, spiritual quests, and religious explorations of the Divine. These subjects have inspired several works, including *The Alchemist*. Zorn's detailed subtitle explains his creative source material: "a true and faithful chronicling of the esoteric spiritual conferences and concomitant hermetic actions conducted by Her Majesty's Alchemist Dr. John Dee and one Edward Kelley invoking the Nine Hierarchies of Angelic Orders to visible appearance, circa 1587."

John Dee (1527-c. 1608) served as the Court Astronomer to Queen Elizabeth I. He was also a mathematician, astrologer, alchemist, and student of magic and the occult. Together with Edward Kelley, also an occultist, the two men experimented with magic and divination.

Zorn's *Alchemist* is structured along the nine sections of Dee's and Kelley's "Order of the Heavenly Host," also known as the Hierarchy of Angels. Zorn describes the music as "a trip through an Alchemist's laboratory. A séance invoking angelic orders. Virtuoso lyricism, numerology, prayers, canons, contrapuntal complexity, alchemical procedures (distillation, calcination, crystallization, sublimation, purification, rotation) and the ghost of a fugue" (Beethoven's *Grosse Fuge* makes an appearance, although it quickly morphs into something far removed from Beethoven's aesthetic). Like *Cat o' Nine Tails*, the music is episodic, mercurial, and full of abrupt mood shifts.

## ***The Remedy of Fortune***

---

WORK COMPOSED: 2015. Commissioned by the JACK Quartet.

ESTIMATED DURATION: 16 minutes

*Le Remède de Fortune*, a medieval narrative poem by the French poet and composer Guillaume de Machaut (c. 1300–1377), serves as Zorn's creative scaffold for his eponymous string quartet. In the poem, Machaut ruminates on the nature of Fortune, or Fate—can humanity escape what Fortune decrees, or is every person's destiny immutable? Or, to put it another way, is there a 'remedy,' for Fortune's inexorability, a way of altering or mitigating its decree? Machaut's poem describes Fortune as



# Where Iowa news, music and culture meet.

• [iPr.org](http://iPr.org) • 90.9 & 95.3 fm • [iPr app](#)

# PROGRAM NOTES

"neither assured nor stable, nor just, nor lawful and true. When she is thought to be charitable, she is greedy, harsh, changing and frightful."

Although inspired by a medieval troubadour, Zorn's interpretation of Machaut's poem is unflinchingly contemporary, as he explores the shifting, dynamic progression of romantic love through pain, desire, devotion, hope, beauty, longing, ecstasy, intoxication, frustration, anger, and—ultimately—despair.

## ***Necronomicon***

---

WORK COMPOSED: 2003. First performed by the Crowley Quartet.

ESTIMATED DURATION: 23 minutes

"[*Necronomicon* is] a tour de force of Black Magic and Alchemy," writes John Zorn, "with perhaps the most intense ensemble writing I've yet achieved ... Because one can never know where the creative spark comes from or why it exists, it must be treasured as Mystery ... The process of composing music is often at its best when the piece is seemingly writing itself and the composer is merely an observer. [*Necronomicon*] came about in such an atmosphere, and months of preparation were involved before putting pencil to paper ... [The piece] transcended my expectation and my abilities."

Zorn borrowed his title from the science-fiction writer H. P. Lovecraft, and fused this magical-sounding word with ideas from the writings of British occultist Aleister Crowley (1875–1947). In a 2017 review of a performance by the JACK Quartet, David Wright observed, "Zorn's *Necronomicon* ... evoked mysticism and the occult in their most lurid guises, including hard-driving rock in the opening movement 'Conjurations'; a Hebraic cello melody with persistent noisy interruptions in 'The Magus'; a blaze of fast-fingered virtuosity in 'Thought-Forms'; a rich slow vibrato suggesting primeval depths in 'Incunabula'; and raw Bartókian energy to invoke the mythical sexual demon 'Asmodeus.'"

© Elizabeth Schwartz

---

Elizabeth Schwartz is a musician, writer, and music historian based in Portland, OR. She has been a program annotator for more than 25 years, and writes for ensembles and festivals across the United States, as well as internationally. Ms. Schwartz has also contributed to NPR's *Performance Today*, (now heard on American Public Media). [classicalmusicprogramnotes.com](http://classicalmusicprogramnotes.com)

*I listen to you.*

Serving Iowa City home buyers  
and sellers with creativity  
and attention to detail

Alan Swanson

319-321-3129

Blank & McCune Real Estate

506 E. College Street, Iowa City, IA 52240

Licensed to Sell Real Estate in Iowa



*LifeCare is the difference!*

Call me today for your personal tour  
Steve Roe  
Executive Director

319-351-1720  
Learn more at [www.oaknoll.com](http://www.oaknoll.com)



An active LifeCare Life Plan community since 1996

**Oaknoll**

1 Oaknoll Court • Iowa City, IA 52246 • [www.oaknoll.com](http://www.oaknoll.com) • [oaknoll@oaknoll.com](mailto:oaknoll@oaknoll.com) • (319) 351-1720

# THANK YOU

We thank our 2023–2024 Partners for their unwavering loyalty and crucial support. Their generosity enables us to bring the world’s finest performing artists to university students, staff, our community, and the region.

François M. & Doris E. Abboud

Terry & Johanna Abernathy  
in honor of Chuck Swanson

Kent & Kay Ackerson

Lee & Kazi Alward

Barrie Anderson

Loretta Angerer

Anonymous Donors

Anonymous Family Foundation

Sarah Antin

Artemus Bush-Helen Jones Trust

Dale & Linda Baker

Nora Lee Balmer (1928–2023)

Douglas & Linda Behrendt

Jo Ann Bell in memory of Jim Bell

John & Carrie Bernat

Loanna & Orville Bloethe/  
HLV Community School Fund

Warren & Maryellen Boe

Susan & Sandy Boyd

Jeff & Sara Braverman

Mace & Kay Braverman

Kenneth G. Brown & Amy Kristof-Brown

Carolyn Brown & Jerry Zimmerman

Alicia Brown-Matthes

John & Ellen Buchanan

Deborah K. & Ian E. Bullion

Richard & Ann Burton

Mary K. Calkin

Norma & David Carlson

Wendy Carter & Don Heistad  
in honor of Doris Preucil

Joe & Rachel Christopher

Charles Richard & Barbara S. Clark

James & Loretta Clark

Ralph H. & Marcia A. Congdon

Dale & Cyndy Crider

Brad & Peggy Davis

The Chris & Suzy DeWolf Family

William Dickinson

Peggy Doerge

Mary & Patrick Dreckman

Edward & Linda Dykstra

Jack & Nancy Evans

Everybody’s Whole Foods

Michael S. & Renee Favo

Dan Feldt in memory of Natalie Feldt

Robert & Karlen (1935–2023) Fellows

John & Randee Fieselmann

Ed & Patricia Folsom

Bruce Gantz

The Gazette



KCRG WELCOMES YOU BACK TO

# Hancher



**kcrg.com**

**YOUR TRUSTED  
LOCAL NEWS SOURCE**

Miriam Gilbert  
Luke & Hillary Granfield  
Daryl K. & Nancy J. Granner  
GreenState Credit Union  
George A. & Barbara J. Grilley  
Mitchell & Melanie Gross  
Peter & Vera Gross  
Brent Hadder  
Leonard & Marlene Hadley  
Hancher Showcase/Hancher Guild  
Kevin & Pat Hanick  
Bruce & Melanie Haupt  
Vernon Hein Fund  
Donald W. Heineking  
Hills Bank and Trust Company  
Albert B & Jean M. (1931–2022) Hood  
H. Dee & Myrene Hoover  
Jim & Judy Houghton  
Michael & Jennifer Hummel  
Richard & Judith Hurtig  
Terry & Jone Johnson  
Kris Jones  
William & Susan Jones  
Will & Wendy Keen  
The Kerber Family  
in memory of Richard E. Kerber, M.D.  
Kenneth K. Kinsey Family Foundation

Jean Koch  
John & Patricia Koza  
Tim & Sarah Krumm  
Jon & Carma Kuhl  
Karl Kundel & Allison Kundel  
Greg & Meredith Lamb  
Mary Jo & John Langhorne  
Robert J. & Sue B. Latham  
Bryan & Jan Lawler  
Michael & Chelle Lehman  
Valdean & Lois Lembke  
Lensing Funeral & Cremation Service  
Jerry & Carol Litton  
Ed & Ann Lorson  
Lowell A. Luhman, M.D.  
Mark & Fran Lundy  
Nancy Lynch  
Little Village  
Peter & Anne Matthes  
Yvonne McCabe  
McGrath Family of Dealerships  
The McIntyre Foundation  
John R. Menninger  
Mary & Jim Merchant  
Mary Mixdorf  
Kevin & Julie Monson  
Frank & Jill Morriss



GreenState.org

Proud  
**Supporter**  
of the  
**Arts**  
GreenState Credit Union



The Hancher Season Cup allows patrons to take drinks purchased in the Stanley Café into the auditorium to enjoy during performances.

Purchase yours at the Box Office, the Hancher Showcase, or the Stanley Café.

**JUST \$5**

*Only beverages purchased from the Stanley Café can be taken into the auditorium. The 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024 Season Cups can be used. Patrons should not bring beverages from home. Also, alcoholic beverages cannot be taken out of Hancher Auditorium in a Hancher Season Cup as this would violate "open container" restrictions.*



Jerry & Judy Musser  
Margaret Neumann  
Neumann Monson Architects, Inc.  
Jeffrey & Kristine Nielsen  
Leslie & Mark Nolte / Nolte Academy  
Oaknoll Retirement Residence  
Gregg Oden & Lola Lopes  
Michael W. O'Hara & Jane Engeldinger  
Joan O'Kones  
in memory of Harold & Annette O'Kones  
OPN Architects, Inc.  
Robert A. Oppliger  
Gary & Nancy Pacha  
Parsons Family  
Dorothy Paul  
Douglas & Linda Paul  
Chuck Peters  
Mary Ann Peters  
Margaret Polson  
John Raley/American Family Insurance  
Mindy Ramsey  
Robert & Cheryl Reardon  
Alan & Amy Reed  
Mark & Sheila Reed  
Chip & Michelle Reeves  
Chad & Erica Reimers  
Herm & L. Dianne Reininga

David & Noreen Revier  
The Rice & Terry Family  
in memory of Tim Terry  
Jean E. & Renée Robillard  
Tom Rocklin & Barbara McFadden  
Gerald & Nancy Rose  
Jo Ellen Ross  
Bill Rubright in loving memory  
of Karen G. Rubright & Emilie J. Rubright  
Jeff & Susan Sailors  
Frank & Mary Scamman  
Scheels  
Steve & Janie Schomberg  
Ralph Schultz Family Foundation  
Charlotte & Rudy Schulz Director's Fund  
Marvin & Helen Schumacher  
Thomas R. Scott  
Nancy J. Sereduck  
Siroos Shirazi & Patti Walden  
Shive-Hattery Architecture + Engineering  
Richard & Vicki Siefers  
John & Dyan Smith  
The Stanford Family in memory of William  
(1930–2023) & Marlene W. (1933–2021) Stanford  
Daniel R. & Beth Holden Stence  
Anna & Jeff Stone  
Edwin & Mary Stone  
Sue (1929–2023) & Joan Strauss

---

NEUMANN MONSON ARCHITECTS



Lyse Strnad & Tom Leavenworth  
Kristin E. Summerwill  
Susanne Summerwill & James Flitz  
W. Richard & Joyce Summerwill  
Mel & Diane Sunshine  
Alan & Liz Swanson  
The Chuck Swanson Executive Directorship  
of Hancher Auditorium Fund  
Think Iowa City  
James & Robin Torner  
Jeffrey R. & Tammy S. Tronvold  
Dick & Buffie Tucker  
Douglas & Vance Van Daele  
Rhoda Vernon  
Bill Waldie & Pat Heiden  
Anne Wallace & William Gay  
Larry & Michelle Weber

Stuart L. Weinstein, M.D. & Mrs. Lynn Weinstein  
Paul Weller & Sara Rynes-Weller  
Ryan & Amanda West  
Stephen & Victoria West  
West Music  
LaDonna & Gary Wicklund  
Candace Wiebener  
Derek & Pamela Willard  
Barbara Wilson & John Lammers  
Sara & Sherwood Wolfson Educational Fund  
Stephen Wolken, M.D. & Sue Montgomery  
Wolken  
George & Carrol Woodworth  
Patty & Steve Yeater  
Catherine Zaharis & Robert Michael  
Deborah & Rodney Zeitler



# RIGHT CARE AT THE RIGHT PLACE



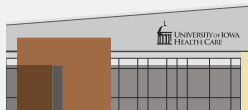
## UI QUICKCARE

When your primary care provider isn't available, UI QuickCare treats patients with minor illnesses and injuries.

**You can even see a provider from the comfort of your own home with a telehealth appointment.**

### HEALTH CONCERNS

- Earaches
- Eye Infections
- Bladder Infections
- Diarrhea, Nausea, Vomiting
- Rash
- Insect Bites
- Minor Burns
- Seasonal Allergies



## UI URGENT CARE

UI Urgent Care treats more conditions than UI QuickCare, including minor injuries requiring X-rays, and can place stitches and administer IV fluids. **Urgent care also offers extended hours, offering a convenient way to receive care during evenings and weekends.**

### HEALTH CONCERNS

In addition to conditions treated at UI QuickCare, UI Urgent Care can treat:

- Broken Bones
- Strains and Sprains
- Cuts and Scrapes
- Dehydration



## EMERGENCY ROOM

Go to the emergency room if you have serious or life-threatening condition. If a person could die or be permanently disabled, it is an emergency.

### HEALTH CONCERNS

- Head Injury
- Stroke
- Severe Bleeding
- Chest Pain
- Abdominal Pain
- Difficulty Breathing
- Severe Pain
- Newborn Fever
- Major Trauma
- Suicidal Thoughts

Learn more about same-day care options from UI Health Care.

→ [uihc.org/same-day](https://uihc.org/same-day)

Specializing in residential  
real estate throughout the  
Iowa City Area.

---



**Tim Conroy**  
**Broker-Partner**  
Blank and McCune,  
The Real Estate Company  
319-321-3679  
Tim@timconroy.com  
[www.timconroy.com](http://www.timconroy.com)

---

Blank and McCune, The Real Estate Company  
506 E. College Street, Iowa City, IA 52240  
Tim Conroy is Licensed to Sell Real  
Estate in the State of Iowa.



2023-2024