

## **BIOGRAPHIES**

### **The Knights**

The Knights are a collective of adventurous musicians dedicated to transforming the orchestral experience and eliminating barriers between audiences and music. Driven by an open-minded spirit of camaraderie and exploration, they inspire listeners with vibrant programs rooted in the classical tradition and passion for artistic discovery. The Knights evolved from late-night chamber music reading parties with friends at the home of violinist Colin Jacobsen and cellist Eric Jacobsen. The Jacobsen brothers together serve as artistic directors of The Knights, with Eric Jacobsen as conductor.

Proud to be known as “one of Brooklyn's sterling cultural products... known far beyond the borough for their relaxed virtuosity and expansive repertory” (The New Yorker), the orchestra has toured extensively across the United States and Europe since their founding in 2007. The Knights are celebrated globally, appearing across the world's most prestigious stages, including those at Tanglewood Music Center, Ravinia Music Festival, the Kennedy Center, the Vienna Musikverein, and Hamburg's Elbphilharmonie. The orchestra has collaborated with many renowned soloists including Yo-Yo Ma, Dawn Upshaw, Béla Fleck, and Gil Shaham.

Artistic collaborators in the 2022-23 season included GRAMMY-winning countertenor Anthony Roth Costanzo; violinist Ray Chen, who joined the orchestra for an eleven-stop European Tour; and genre-shattering pianist/composer Aaron Diehl, with whom The Knights released a GRAMMY-nominated album of Mary Lou Williams' Zodiac Suite in September 2023.

The Knights kick off the 2024 summer season with a return to the Naumburg Orchestral Concerts in Central Park, followed by performances at Ravinia and Caramoor with Aaron Diehl and Tanglewood with Emanuel Ax. The Knights' 2024-25 season at Carnegie Hall will feature new works commissioned as part of the Rhapsody project, a multi-year initiative inspired by the 2024 centennial of George Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue. The ensemble will be joined by Aaron Diehl, Aoife O'Donovan, and Reena Esmail, among other esteemed collaborators. For the latest on our season and a complete list of artistic partners and collaborative projects, please visit our website: <https://theknightsnyc.com/>.

### **Eric Jacobsen – Artistic Director and Conductor**

Conductor and cellist Eric Jacobsen has built a reputation for engaging audiences with innovative and collaborative projects. As conductor of The Knights, he has led the ensemble at New York venues ranging from Carnegie Hall to Central Park, and at such renowned international halls as the Vienna Musikverein, Cologne Philharmonie, and Hamburg Elbphilharmonie. Jacobsen, who also serves as the Music Director for the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra, is the newly-named Music Director of the Virginia Symphony, and is much in demand as a guest conductor, recently leading the Camerata Bern, Detroit Symphony, Alabama Symphony, ProMusica Chamber Orchestra, Deutsche Philharmonie Merck, and the Silkroad Ensemble, founded by Yo-Yo Ma.

To learn more about Eric Jacobsen, please visit [jacobseneric.com](http://jacobseneric.com).

### **Colin Jacobsen – Artistic Director**

Violinist and composer Colin Jacobsen is “one of the most interesting figures on the classical music scene” (The Washington Post). An eclectic composer who draws on a range of influences, he was named one of the top 100 Composers Under 40 by NPR listeners. He is also active as an Avery Fisher Career Grant winning soloist and has toured with the Silkroad Ensemble since its inception in 2000. For his work as a founding member of two game changing, audience-expanding ensembles — The Knights and the string quartet Brooklyn Rider — Jacobsen was selected from among the nation's top visual, performing, media, and literary artists to receive a prestigious and substantial United States Artists Fellowship.

To learn more about Colin Jacobsen, please visit [colinjacobsen.com](http://colinjacobsen.com).