

Sean Neukom:

Composer and instrumentalist Sean Neukom began his violin studies at the age of three at joint lessons with his brother, Jason. These lessons, taught by their father, laid the foundation for an intense love, respect, and appreciation for music, making music as brothers, and for new music as their composer father would write works to accommodate their level. This love of music took Sean to Minot State University where as a violinist he received a Bachelor in Music degree. While at MSU Sean's musical curiosity led to the start of composition. At MSU, Sean composed for both the concert choir and the string ensemble. The latter for which a special work was written that had performers scattered across the room including trumpets in the scaffolds! Following Minot, Sean went on to the Cleveland Institute of Music to earn a Master of Music degree in violin performance.

Sean's mainstay as a performer is as the violist, and as a founding member, of Beo String Quartet. The primary goal of Beo is to shape what a string quartet can be in the 21st century. Sean's predilections as a composer have led, along with the members of Beo, to the creation of a series of presentations about how to write for the string quartet. Beo has quickly built a reputation for such presentations and their ability to work with living composers. Prior to Beo, Sean played with the Nashville Symphony, the Dunedin Philharmonic in New Zealand, and as principal 2nd violin with the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra.

As a composer, Sean's works cover a wide range of styles. His concert works have been commissioned by organizations such as the Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble, the Charlotte-based Fresh Ink new music series, the innovative multi-media music and dance group Cadence Collective out of Milwaukee, the Dayton Philharmonic, and most recently by the Dayton Philharmonic Youth Orchestra. Sean's pop-art works are approached through the same creative means as his concert works, but with the goal of reaching ears both in and out of a concert hall. Some of Sean's most exciting projects have been created for Beo String Quartet. This includes Projection1. This work was written for three string quartets where all three parts are performed by Beo. To achieve this live, Beo plays amplified center stage and on either side of them are pre-recorded projected videos of Beo. The sound is designed to be localized to each quartet which creates a highly unique experience for each audience member. Such a project is just one example of works Sean has been creating for Beo in an effort to create one-of-a-kind chamber music.