



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
04/27/2026

## **Four Chamber Music Connection Artists to Perform at National Competition**

The **Congredi Quartet** has reached the quarterfinal stage of the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition. They're soon setting off to the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana to compete on May 8-10, 2026.

The Congredi Quartet is comprised of:

**Charlie Cheng**, a senior at Upper Arlington High School who is enjoying his fifth year with CMC. Outside of school and CMC, he plays in the Columbus Symphony Youth Orchestra, competes in Science Olympiad and enjoys collecting rocks. His band directors are Todd Fessler and Kolin Redman, orchestra teachers are Gretchen Zunic and Chris Lape. Cheng's private instructor is Lydia Roth.

**Prateek Kunchala** is currently a sophomore at Olentangy Liberty High School. He began playing oboe in sixth grade in Aaron Given's band program, and began studying with CMC in seventh grade. His Olentangy Liberty music director is Jill Bixler. Prateek serves as principal oboist in the Columbus Symphony Youth Orchestra. His private music instructor is Karen Pfeifer of Dublin, Ohio. When he's not busy with music, he enjoys playing tennis, camping, and working toward his Eagle Scout award.

**Jacob Meland** is a sophomore at Centennial High School who is enjoying his second year with CMC. Outside of school and CMC, he plays in the Columbus Symphony Youth Orchestra and Newark Granville Youth Orchestra. When he's not practicing or rehearsing, he enjoys playing chess and the NYT games. Jacob began his musical journey in sixth grade at Port Charlotte Middle School in Florida. His first band director and flute teacher was Amanda Miller and Michael Algeria, respectively. His current band director and current flute teacher is William Compton and Kimberlee Goodman, respectively.

**Lake Weeks** began studying viola at the age of six and is a student of Karl Pedersen. He also plays in Olentangy's Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Michelle Beck. Since 2022, Lake has nurtured a passion for chamber music through Chamber Music Connection. He is also a principal with the Columbus Symphony Youth Orchestra, and with the OMEA All-State Orchestra in 2025. Lake has attended Interlochen Arts Camp since 2024, earning the prestigious Maddy Summer Artist Award in 2025. He will return in 2026 on a full-tuition Orchestral Scholarship.

The four have been playing as the Congredi Quartet together since January 2026.