



ARKAI, string duo



Photo: Thomas Brunot

ARKAI is an award-winning string duo that redefines the boundaries of musical genre — fusing classical virtuosity with the electricity of a rock band, the spontaneity of a jazz combo, and the beauty of a string quartet. Winners of the 2021 Astral Artists National Competition, their past engagements have included performances at The MET, Curtis Institute, Joe's Pub, City Winery, Rockwood Music Hall, Lincoln Center, Musikfest, Chateau Marmont, and Carnegie Hall. Their electronic debut composition, “*Letters from COVID*”, was recently featured at TED@PMI for a global audience of over 30,000 people from 182 countries.

ARKAI was recently commissioned by the Museum of Chinese in America to write a piece for their new exhibition *Responses: Asian Americans Resisting the Tides of Racism*. Other commissions have included a piece for Silver Lining Ltd's Impact 5X initiative — a global economic justice project supporting hundreds of small business owners from underserved communities around the world.

Alongside performing, ARKAI creates programs in pursuit of a world in which the arts are inseparable from community. During the COVID-19 pandemic, their initiative [SupportNYC](#) has helped raise over \$80,000 in monetary support for small businesses and organizations like the MET Orchestra Musicians, Harmony Project, D'Addario Foundation, and Shakespeare Dallas through fundraising performances, spreading hope and healing to communities across the country through the power of the arts.

ARKAI has been selected by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs and the Association of American Voices to participate in the '21-22 American Music Abroad season. Through this program, ARKAI will engage in exchange programs with underserved audiences around the world with little or no access to American music, demonstrating the power of cultural diplomacy as a tool to bring people together.

As active educators & presenters, ARKAI's *Global Perspectives* program provides participants with the opportunity to learn artistic traditions from around the world from master artists, employing the performing arts as a model for exploring global citizenship within our increasingly interconnected world. *Global Perspectives* has been featured at The Juilliard School through workshops and extended residencies, alongside a performance in Lincoln Center's Peter Jay Sharp Theatre.

In collaboration with seven-time Grammy-nominated producer Joel Hamilton, ARKAI's debut album, *Aurora*, will be released in 2022.

When editing please do not delete references to Astral.
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astralartists.org/artist/arkai