

FRANK HORVAT

From
Oblivion
to
Hope

ODIN QUARTET

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FRANK HORVAT

From Oblivion to Hope

ODIN QUARTET

Alex Toskov (violin), Tanya Charles Iveniuk (violin),
Matthew Antal (viola), Samuel Bisson (cello)

All music composed by Frank Horvat

1	Oblivion (2018)	8:19
2	String Quartet No. 2 (1997)	6:28
3	Life Span (2018)	7:06
	The Four Seasons...in High Park (2013-14)	23:02
4	I. Spring	5:03
5	II. Summer	6:53
6	III. Fall	6:24
7	IV. Winter	4:42
8	Unity in Distress (2020)	1:41
9	Hope (2022*)	8:26

*commissioned by Odin Quartet

Recorded at Canterbury Music Company, Toronto Canada, from July to September 2022

Composed by **FRANK HORVAT**

Produced by **FRANK HORVAT & ALEX TOSKOV**

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www.odinquartet.com

www.frankhorvat.com

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ODIN QUARTET

Passionate about chamber music, the Toronto-based Odin Quartet represents the diversity and the promise of youth in Canada: violinist Alex Toskov is originally from Belgrade, Serbia; Tanya Charles Iveniuk, also a violinist, grew up in Hamilton, Ontario with roots in St. Vincent and the Grenadines; Matt Antal, is an Italian/Hungarian violist born in Toronto, Ontario; and Samuel Bisson, cellist and composer, hails from Ottawa, Ontario.

In June 2015, the Odin Quartet took part in the Luminato Festival's epic production of R Murray Schafer's 1980 oratorio *Apocalypse*. Since their 2017 debut at the opening gala of the Music Niagara Festival, the Quartet has been a recurring performer at the summer festival, in 2019 and 2021. Other festival appearances include the University of Toronto's New Music Festival, Midday Music with Shigeru, the Ottawa Valley Music Festival, Guelph Connections, and Music Mondays Toronto.

The Odin Quartet has enjoyed multiple collaborations with the Scarborough Philharmonic Orchestra as its ensemble-in-residence since 2018.

In 2021 Odin Quartet released their debut album titled "Journey Through Night".

FRANK HORVAT

One of the most inventive songwriters to come out of the contemporary scene in Canada (*WholeNote Magazine*), Frank Horvat is an accomplished multi-genre composer with premieres on four continents and a continuously growing discography. He explores a wide array of themes in his music from love to the environment, mental health, and social justice issues, giving his audiences the space to reflect in this fast-paced world.

From Oblivion to Hope starts pessimistically, which is an easy headspace to live in these days, especially in the context of the pandemic and its outcomes. As the album progresses, the tone evolves into something more optimistic, ending with a heartfelt work simply called **Hope**. The idea of going from the negative to the positive is a mindset and a mental health issue that fascinates me these days. The hope is that we can all unearth a life with more hope.

OBLIVION

Oh, how “delightful” to go through life completely oblivious to the world around you - oblivious to the abuses against our air and water, against the fundamental rights of all humans, against love and compassion. No, you live in this mindless bubble where you can do no wrong; nothing (and no one) can touch you. What a “glorious” life you lead. #sarcasm

STRING QUARTET NO. 2

I was manic and full of anxiety when I composed this piece. Life was uncertain, and every day felt like I was flying by the seat of my pants. Inspired by hard rock and metal, this piece mimics musical characteristics most often found in these genres. From thick textured orchestration to crunchy riffs to melodic shrieks, the four instrumentalists constantly push the intensity envelope to the limit.

LIFESPAN

When I composed this piece, I had been living on this planet for 44 years, 5 months, and 14 days. According to one of those online life expectancy calculators, I can expect to live until age 85. That means I have 40 years remaining on Earth. This piece musically depicts my personal coming to terms with the time I have lived and the time I have remaining.

THE FOUR SEASONS...in High Park

I never tire of listening to Vivaldi's The Four Seasons. The intensity and rhythmic nature of the string playing, the programmatic elements, and the beautiful melodic moments make it one of the great musical works in western-music history. As a Torontonionian, I am equally captivated by the beauty and natural qualities of High Park.

In recognition of these two greats, I composed a string quartet that combines them. Each movement aims to encapsulate a scene from each season in High Park.

- I. Spring: everything coming back to life.
- II. Summer: heat, humidity, languid movement, sound of cicadas.
- III. Fall: wind through the trees, blowing of the leaves. The musical themes transition gradually, so the end is entirely different than where it started.
- IV. Winter: chilling tranquility, blinding brightness and beauty of snow on vast empty fields.

UNITY IN DISTRESS

I composed this in Spring 2020 when much of the world was at the apex of a COVID-19 lockdown. I feel deeply for everyone who faced mental anguish from having to be alone, losing loved ones, and losing their livelihoods. Throughout these times, the world was united by many of the same emotions, although we were each experiencing them in isolation. The string quartet passionately plays closely in unison, giving all those who suffered a united voice to express their distress.

HOPE

I envisioned the concept for **Hope** many months before I started composing it on March 1, 2022, which coincided with Russia's military invasion of Ukraine. Honestly, it was challenging to compose about hope while hearing stories of suffering. Between this, the pandemic, crippling inflation, and climate change, what can a human on this planet feel hope for?

Despite all this, I am personally still filled with the spirit of optimism for our plights. What other choice do we have? The external strife of the world must never overwhelm our inner spiritual goal of happiness, goodness, and positivity. Please take a moment, breathe, ponder, and find some hope. Dedicated to every person on this planet who yearns for a hopeful future.

- Frank Horvat