

## Turtle Island Quartet performs New York premiere of David Balakrishnan's *Aeroelasticity* at the 2017 Chamber Music America conference

The Grammy-winning ensemble performs the newest full-length work by founding member Balakrishnan, the fruition of a 2014 Chamber Music America Commissioning grant.

In 2014, the **Turtle Island Quartet** was one of 44 recipients of a prestigious Chamber Music America Commissioning grant, supporting the composition of a new full-length work by TIQ founder and violinist David Balakrishnan. The finished work, ***Aeroelasticity***, will have its New York premiere on **January 15, 2017 at 3pm** as part of the 2017 Chamber Music America Conference. This free concert, which will also feature other new works created with support from CMA's classical and jazz commissioning programs, will take place at the **DiMenna Center for Classical Music**. Visit [chamber-music.org](http://chamber-music.org) for more information.

*Aeroelasticity* is a four-movement work dedicated to and inspired by Balakrishnan's father, Dr. A.V. Balakrishnan, professor of engineering at UCLA. "Aeroelasticity" was the subject matter and title of Dr. Balakrishnan's last book, and though his son did not inherit his love of numbers, the younger Balakrishnan still finds parallels below the surface between his work and his father's: "[My father's] book intends to make meaningful and useable sense out of the incredibly complex patterns that continually changing air currents create when they interact. I see that as mirroring my own lifelong pursuit of composing stylistically integrated music drawing from apparently disparate musical genres and dialects, sifting for universal congruities buried beneath the cultural overlay." As in most of Balakrishnan's compositions, *Aeroelasticity* incorporates musical elements from all over the globe, from bluegrass to classical Indian music.

### About Turtle Island Quartet

Its name derived from creation mythology found in Native American Folklore, the Turtle Island Quartet, since its inception in 1985, has been a singular force in the creation of bold, new trends in chamber music for strings. Winner of the 2006 and 2008 GRAMMY® Awards for Best Classical Crossover category, Turtle Island fuses the classical quartet esthetic with contemporary American musical styles, and by devising a performance practice that honors both, the state of the art has inevitably been redefined. Cellist nonpareil Yo-Yo Ma has

proclaimed TIQ to be “a unified voice that truly breaks new ground – authentic and passionate – a reflection of some of the most creative music-making today.”

The Quartet’s birth was the result of violinist David Balakrishnan’s brainstorming explorations and compositional vision while writing his master’s thesis at Antioch University West. The journey has taken Turtle Island through forays into folk, bluegrass, swing, be-bop, funk, R&B, new age, rock, hip-hop, as well as music of Latin America and India ...a repertoire consisting of hundreds of ingenious arrangements and originals. It has included over a dozen recordings on labels such as Windham Hill, Chandos, Koch and Telarc, soundtracks for major motion pictures, TV and radio credits such as the Today Show, All Things Considered, Prairie Home Companion, and Morning Edition, feature articles in People and Newsweek magazines, and collaborations with famed artists such as clarinetist Paquito D’Rivera, vibraphonist Stefon Harris, guitar legends Leo Kottke and the Assad brothers, The Manhattan Transfer, pianists Billy Taylor, Kenny Barron, Cyrus Chestnut and Ramsey Lewis, singers Tierney Sutton and Nellie McKay, the Ying Quartet and the Parsons and Luna Negra Dance Companies.

###