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# THE JUPITER STRING QUARTET

## THE Strad

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### >> NEW YORK STATE

**BRIAN WISE** ventures out of New York City to report on a summer series of chamber concerts at Caramoor

**THE CARAMOOR FESTIVAL TAKES PLACE** annually on a large estate with well-manicured gardens and Spanish-style architecture, one of the most pleasant locations for outdoor summer concerts near New York City. This year, several major string quartets provided an additional draw, a number of them premiering commissioned works.

The Jupiter Quartet, which has won several major competitions and recently began a residency with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, gave the premiere of John Musto's String Quartet (12 July). A Caramoor commission, the piece moves among the worlds of jazz and rock and displays a colourful use of sonority and texture. Its most noticeable feature is an arresting series of rock-style 'power chords' –

double-stops that segue into squealing glissandos. Musto also gets the quartet to create a sense of swing with a jaunty 12/16 middle movement. The Jupiter clearly had fun with the material, some of which the composer borrowed from a television score he wrote many years earlier. The piece's Maestoso finale was slow and more sombre, though no less engaging.

The Jupiter opened with a taut reading of Beethoven's Quartet in F major op.18 no.1, which was highlighted by some superb unison and octave passages in the first movement and well-timed dramatic pauses in the Adagio. The programme's second half was devoted to a gutsy and visceral performance of Mendelssohn's Quartet in F minor op.80.