

Auditorium  
*Chamber Music*  
Series  
UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO



University of Idaho

Lionel Hampton School of Music

## Invoke

Nick Montopoli – violin, banjo, vocals  
Zach Matteson – violin, vocals  
Karl Mitze – viola, mandolin, vocals  
Geoff Manyin – cello, vocals

*January 27, 2022 at 7:30PM*

### *Evening with Invoke*

Burlywood by Invoke  
Alchemy by Invoke  
Doorway by Invoke  
Syl by Invoke  
Prohibition Song by Invoke  
Souls in the Mud by Invoke  
Strum by Jesse Montgomery  
Project 131 by Invoke

*PROGRAM SUBJECT TO CHANGE*

“...versatile and musically adventurous, way more than classical...” - Capital Gazette

“If the goal was to make classical music relevant, it couldn't have proven the point any more clearly.” - Columbia Free Times

Described by one pretty important radio guy as “not classical...but not not classical” (David Srebnik, SiriusXM Classical Producer), Invoke continues to successfully dodge even the most valiant attempts at genre classification. The multi-instrumental band's other ‘not-nots’ encompass traditions from across America, including bluegrass, Appalachian fiddle tunes, jazz, and minimalism. Invoke weaves all of these styles together to create truly individual music, written by and for the group.

2018 was a banner year for the band, winning First Prize at the M-Prize International Chamber Arts competition in Ann Arbor, MI (Open Category), as well as First Prize in the Coltman Competition in Austin, TX, and most recently, the Concert Artists Guild Victor Elmaleh Competition in New York, where they were named “New Music/New Places” Ensemble.

Invoke was the Young Professional String Quartet in Residence at the University of Texas from 2016 to 2018, and the group has previously been selected to participate in the Emerging String Quartet Program at Stanford, as Artists in Residence at Strathmore, and as the Emerging Young Artist Quartet at Interlochen. Invoke has shared the stage with some of the most acclaimed ensembles in the country, ranging from the Ensō Quartet to the U.S. Army Field Band, and has also appeared with musicians in greatly varying genres – from chamber rock powerhouse San Fermin to DC beatboxer/rapper/spoons virtuoso Christylez Bacon.

Invoke’s 2015 debut release Souls in the Mud, and their 2018 follow-up Furious Creek, both feature original works composed by and for the group, and the quartet has also performed and recorded numerous world premieres. Invoke believes in championing diverse American voices, including their ongoing commissioning project American Postcards, which asks composers to pick a time and place in American history and tell its story through Invoke’s unique artistry.

### **NICK MONTOPOLI**

When he’s not banjo pickin’ or fiddle scrapin’ with Invoke, you might find Nick at the recording studio of composer Graham Reynolds, where he works as Graham’s assistant, or pumping iron at the Montopoli Barbell Club. He also loves kicking back with a prime bourbon, relaxing to the soothing tones of power metal, or stalking around the stage of a reunion show as lead singer of the former D.C. hair metal band, Sextacy.

### **ZACHARIAH MATTESON**

A man of many origins (i.e. Maryland, Siberia, Montana), Zach is proud to call Austin, TX his home base. When he’s not making tunes with Invoke, you can find him at a local coffee shop writing down some haikus, slurping down ramen from Ramen Tatsuya, or adding to his crazy collection of shirts from the local goodwill.

### **KARL MITZE**

When he isn’t performing and teaching with Invoke, Karl enjoys baseball, board games, and walking his dog Max. A huge baseball fan, he follows the Cincinnati Reds avidly and listens to as many games as possible, usually when running at the park. Karl is also kind of a nerd: he’s a weekend Xbox player, loves fantasy novels, and enjoys anything Dungeons and Dragons related. You can often find him enjoying a beer at a trivia night somewhere in Austin, TX.

### **GEOFF MANYIN**

Geoff is passionate about scrumptious vegan food, always searching for Austin’s best tacos or Thai or tofu scramble. Don’t forget about good drink too - just be sure to think twice before asking him about mezcal or whisk(e)y. An avid videogamer, you’ll often find him enjoying a role-playing game, a story-rich one-off, or whatever may strike his fancy that month. Sometimes though, all he needs to be happy is a stroll through a local park on a crisp afternoon, a great Netflix show, or a nice chat with an old friend.