

Rachel Kuipers Yonan Viola

“Gorgeous lyrical approach to the instrument.”

“Poised playing- exciting and clean fast technical passages.”

Praised for her expressive playing and rich evocative tone, violist Rachel Kuipers began her career in Minnesota, playing chamber music with her siblings. In the following years she has become a presence in the music world, performing as a soloist and chamber musician in concert halls across the United States, Switzerland, Italy, Austria and China. National Public Radio featured her on “From the Top” from the Ravinia Festival, and Canadian Public Radio broadcast her from Le Festival du Domaine Forget. Rachel’s appearances include concerts at the Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival, Open Chamber Music at Prussia Cove, Ascoli Piceno Festival, Bay Chamber Concerts and the Rochester Chamber Music Society.

A lover of chamber music, Rachel recently co-founded the Marinus Ensemble with her brother, cellist Joseph Kuipers. The Ensemble is a passionate group of international artists, dedicated to the performance of great music from the Baroque to Modern. Their aim is to allow culture and excellence—in short, *beauty*—to reach broader audiences, and to find ways to reduce the distance between the artist on stage and the audience in the hall.

Beyond her own innovative work with the Marinus Ensemble, Rachel has been invited to perform at festivals such as the Marlboro Music Festival, the Prussia Cove’s Open Chamber Music, Festival Mozaic, the Taos Music Festival, and the Perlman Music Program. Ms. Kuipers has collaborated with such renowned artists such as Roberto Díaz, Joseph Silverstein, Claus-Christian Schuster, James Dunham and Robert Levin; and coached extensively with Pamela Frank, Peter Wiley and Edgar Meyer.

Over the years, the viola has become Rachel’s instrument of service and intercultural communication. After the horrific earthquake in Haiti, she organized a benefit concert for the Haitian orphans, raising over \$30,000, and received personal thanks from the Haitian Ambassador. A year earlier in Baranquilla and Santa Marta, Colombia, she performed concerts to benefit impoverished Colombian orphans at the Hogar de la Providencia. Whether in schools or churches or orphanages, Rachel loves to share music with those who normally have no access.

Rachel serves as Artistic Director of the Marinus Ensemble, and was recently invited to join the faculty of Eastern University as an Adjunct Instructor of Viola. In 2011, she completed her Diploma in Viola Performance with Roberto Díaz at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia as the H.F. “Gerry” Lenfest Fellow. She graduated *Magna cum Laude* from Rice University in 2008 with a Bachelor of Music Degree in Viola Performance under James Dunham and a concentration in German Literature.

Beyond music, Rachel loves running in the rain, reading the literature of Hugo, Austen and Dickens, traveling to out-of-the-way places, and baking delicious fresh bread.