How Should a Musician Make a Debut?
Try Going Low-Key

ANTHONY TOMMASINI

“The Verona Quartet, another outstanding ensemble of young musicians, did just that [introduce a new work] in a revealing New York debut on Tuesday at Weill Recital Hall. Presented by the Concert Artists Guild, the Verona opened with an exciting performance of Ravel’s String Quartet in F, cohesive yet full of temperament, and ended with a vibrant, intelligent account of Beethoven’s Quartet in E minor (Op. 59, No. 2).

At the center of the program was the premiere of a quartet by Michael Gilbertson. Mr. Gilbertson, 29, told the audience that he was working on the piece when the presidential election “hit” in November, as he put it. So he altered his original sketches to write something more introspective and comforting. The first movement, “Mother Chords,” unfolds in gentle, pulsing waves of strange, soft, mystical harmonies. The second, “Simple Sugars,” is full of frenetic blips, with the instruments often playing in-sync riffs and screeching sonorities.”