



It was then that Zanca knew they had struck gold. The reaction was immediate and unmistakable as crowds ate up the classical renditions of contemporary hits as quick as DSQ could compose them. While they had suddenly found their niche, the group was hesitant to abandon their classical upbringing, so DSQ Electric was born.

DSQ, who will be performing this Saturday at the Strand Center Theatre, continues to create setlists in the same way today with a more classically-themed opening set followed by an energy-soaked and adventurous second half.

"We chose some of the most beautiful, most recognizable classical [efforts like] Chakovsky's violin concertos, and we kind of matched them with different pop songs that we felt [would go] together," Zanca says. "So, that's how we came about."

Boasting that DSQ is where Bach meets Bon Jovi and Mozart meets Rihanna, the quartet has been wowing audiences for years with their innovative, fresh new take not only on classical compositions from hundreds of years ago, but radio hits in a way never done before in the music world.

It's this balance that has allowed that has allowed the group to appeal to fans of all ages and backgrounds, converting followers in every city they visit. They've played for huge crowds with acts like Josh Groban and for sports fans at the College Foot Playoffs, NBA and NFL. The quartet has even played for former President George W. Bush not as any normal performance, but as a thank you for helping change Zanca's life.

In 1988, the woman who would become Zanca's wife was still in Romania.

Her parents successfully escaped the communist government and started a new life in America, but they couldn't take their children.

As time went on, her parents petitioned the U.S. government to allow them

to reunite with their children at their new home in Texas. As a result, they met with former president George Bush Sr. at their church, gave him the file and asked for help. And so, he did and brought their children, Zanca's wife included, to the U.S.

Telling the story to one of Bush Jr.'s generals in Fredericksburg, Zanca informed him they had a show scheduled to play for the president. And DSQ went on to play for Bush.

"He knew about it," Zanca says about the former president's knowledge of the hard road traveled by the Romanian family. "I was like 'I have a son; [and] I have a wife because your family was willing to help back then.' We're very grateful."

Word of DSQ's live performances spread to the next administration as years later the group performed for yet another president: former president Barack Obama during his second inauguration.

While the group has created a larger fan base and found themselves with their unique and compelling compositions, they are certainly far from complacent. Every show, Zanca says, is its own challenge and experience as every theater has its own charm, its own sound and its own crowd.

That special energy means that every time DSQ goes out on stage, they play every song with their whole heart and soul in a way it has never been played before. And once the audience begins its magical music experience, all questions fade, and all expectations go out the window, which is the precise moment that Zanca lives for and the crux of the group's inspirational power.

Dallas String Quartet: Electric will perform at the Strand Center Theatre on Saturday, April 13 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost between \$25 to \$35 in advance or \$30 to \$40 the day of show. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 518-563-1604 ext. 105 or visit strandcenter.org.



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