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PREVIEW
NOTES

Parker Quartet w/ Kim Kashkashian, viola
Sunday, December 12 • 3:00 PM • Philosophical Society

Background

Hailed by the *New York Times* as “something extraordinary”, the Parker Quartet has rapidly distinguished itself as one of the preeminent ensembles of its generation. In 2009 the Quartet was awarded the prestigious Cleveland Quartet Award, given biennially by *Chamber Music America* to a rising young string quartet whose artistry demonstrates that it is in the process of establishing a major career. Violist Kim Kashkashian is herself one of the most accomplished artists of her era. She has made guest appearances with the Tokyo, Guarneri and Galimir Quartets and toured with a unique quartet which included violinists Gidon Kremer and Daniel Phillips and cellist Yo-Yo Ma. She was heard on the PCMS series last season in an all-Armenian program with Tigran Mansurian and Robyn Schulkowsky.

Program

Quartet in G Minor, Op. 74, No. 3, “Rider”

Franz Joseph Haydn

Born: March 31, 1732, in Rohrau, Austria

Died: May 31, 1809, in Vienna, Austria

Composed: 1793

Last PCMS performance: Moscow Quartet in 2009

Duration: 20 minutes

This quartet carries the subtitle "Rider" or "Horseman" owing to some cantering figures in the first movement and galloping rhythms in the last.

Quartet No. 4, Op. 22

Paul Hindemith

Born: November 16, 1895 in Hanau, Germany

Died: December 28, 1963 in Frankfurt, Germany

Composed: 1921

Last PCMS performance: Vermeer Quartet in 2006

Duration: 26 minutes

Hindemith's fourth quartet marks the composer's development between Expressionism and neo-Classicism. Cast in five-movements in an arch-like design, the first movement merges with the second and the fourth movement with the fifth. It was premièred at the contemporary music haven of the Donaueschingen Festival in Baden-Baden and was the showpiece of the legendary Amar Quartet (aka the Amar-Hindemith Quartet in which Hindemith played viola) who performed it in concert well over 100 times.

Quintet in G Major, Op. 111

Johannes Brahms

Born: May 7, 1833, in Hamburg, Germany

Died: April 3, 1897, in Vienna, Austria

Composed: 1890

Last PCMS performance: Tokyo Quartet w/ Michael Tree in 2009

Duration: 30 minutes

Brahms felt most comfortable composing for piano, and for years he hesitated to publish chamber music for strings. This, his second quintet was first performed in Vienna on November 11, 1890, when the composer was well into his fifties. He intended it to be his last work, but fortunately he did not stick to that resolution.