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PREVIEW  
NOTES

## Prazák Quartet

Friday, March 4 • 8:00 PM — *Perelman Theater*

### Background

The Prazak Quartet formed in 1972 while its members were students at the Prague Conservatory. The group quickly secured top prizes from prestigious competitions, including Evian and the Prague International Competition. They perform regularly on major stages throughout Europe, North America, Japan, and Australia, earning critical acclaim for their technical mastery and expressive lyricism. Their recordings (since 1996 exclusively on Praga/Harmonia Mundi) have garnered numerous international awards, including the Grand Prix International du Disque and the Diapason d'Or.

### Program

#### Quartet in G Minor, Op. 74, No. 3, "Rider"

**Franz Joseph Haydn**

*Born: Mar. 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. 6

**Bohuslav Martinu**

*Born: Dec. 8, 1890 in Policka, Czechoslovakia*

*Died: Aug. 28, 1959 in Liestal, Switzerland*

*Composed: 1946*

*Last PCMS performance: PCMS premiere*

*Duration: 23 minutes*

When he wrote this work, Martinu had spent the past 30 years increasingly distant from his Czech homeland. He had joined the generation of artists working in Paris and remained there for years. By 1938 he was planning to return to live permanently in Prague, but had to flee to America when Hitler's forces invaded. Intimate in tone, this quartet blends the composer's hopes and worries about his distant homeland with his own personal pain. Its excellent and idiomatic part writing for all instruments achieves the ideal of the string quartet: the impression of a co-operative conversation among four friends who are equals in every way.

#### Quartet in G Major, D. 887

**Franz Schubert**

*Born: Jan. 31, 1797 in Vienna, Austria*

*Died: Nov. 19, 1828 in Vienna, Austria*

*Composed: 1826*

*Last PCMS performance: Tokyo Quartet in 2006*

*Duration: 45 minutes*

The last of Schubert's string quartets, this piece stands alongside the famous "Death and the Maiden" quartet as proof that the composer was well on his way to writing large-scale works in all genres. Symphonic in organization and structure, it achieves a depth of sound that often belies the presence of only four musicians. In its scope and difficulty, it typifies Schubert's later works.