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PREVIEW
NOTES

Musicians from Marlboro III

Wednesday, May 4 • 8:00 PM — *American Philosophical Society*

Background

Called "a virtual guarantee of musical excellence" by *The Washington Post*, the Musicians from Marlboro touring program was created as an extension of the Marlboro Music Festival in Vermont. Featured musicians for this concert are **Benjamin Beilman**, violin; **Veronika Eberle**, violin; **Beth Guterman**, viola; **Yura Lee**, viola; and **Judith Serkin**, cello.

Program

Quintet in C Major, K. 515

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Born: Jan. 27, 1756 in Salzburg, Austria

Died: Dec. 5, 1791 in Vienna, Austria

Composed: 1787

Last PCMS performance: Guarneri Qt w/ Teng Li in 2008

Duration: 36 minutes

There seems to be little doubt that Mozart planned this work and its successor, the Quintet in G minor, K. 516 as a contrasting pair, in much the same manner as the Symphonies Nos. 40 and 41. The quintet's opening Allegro is one of Mozart's boldest and most substantial conceptions, a truly noble movement that includes a development section of exceptional richness and diversity. The Minuet, more customarily the third movement in such works, follows; its nearly symphonic construction is far removed from a typical stylized dance. And the Andante flows with a heart-easing tranquility that is hardly dissipated by the glowing harmonies of the finale, a movement of deceptive simplicity that Mozart's biographer Alfred Einstein once characterized as "godlike and childlike."

Quartet in C Minor, Op. 17, No. 4

Franz Joseph Haydn

Born: Mar. 31, 1732, in Rohrau, Austria

Died: May 31, 1809, in Vienna, Austria

Composed: 1771

Last PCMS performance: PCMS premiere

Duration: 23 minutes

This quartet in the ominous key of C Minor bears a stronger resemblance to the shifting-emotion *empfindsam* style of C.P.E. Bach than to the *Sturm und Drang* manner that Haydn would soon specialize in. Still, the piece is "progressive" in that although the first still violin takes the lead with most of the melodic material, the other instruments make more texturally interesting contributions than they had in Haydn's earlier quartets.

Quintet in E-flat Major, Op. 97

Antonin Dvorák

Born: Sept. 8, 1841 in Nelahozeves, Bohemia

Died: May 1, 1904 in Prague, Czech Republic

Composed: 1893

Last PCMS performance: Johannes Qt w/ Dalley in 2010

Duration: 33 minutes

This quintet became known as "The American" because Dvorák based it partly on Native American and African American themes gleaned during an extended vacation in the United States (his first), where he spent time at a Czech settlement in northeast Iowa and experienced for the first time the songs and dances of Native Americans.