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PREVIEW
NOTES

Brentano Quartet w/ Hsin-Yun Huang, viola
Wednesday, December 1 • 8:00 PM • Perelman Theater

Background

The Brentano Quartet is named for Antonie Brentano, whom many scholars consider to be Beethoven's "Immortal Beloved" and the intended recipient of his famous love confession. Since its inception in 1992, the quartet has appeared throughout the world and made numerous recordings, including the Opus 71 Quartets of Haydn and a Mozart disc for Aeon Records. The Brentano was quartet-in-residence at Wigmore Hall during the 2000-01 season and has been Resident String Quartet at Princeton University since 1999.

Program

Quartet in F Major, Op. 77, No. 2

Franz Joseph Haydn

Born: March 31, 1732, in Rohrau, Austria

Died: May 31, 1809, in Vienna, Austria

Composed: 1799

Last PCMS performance: Quatuor Mosaiques in 2009

Duration: 27 minutes

Haydn's final complete string quartet begins with a disarmingly simple, graceful tune carried by the first violin and concludes with a polonaise-inspired finale. As Haydn had no idea this would be his last finished quartet, he had no reason to provide a valedictory ending.

Quartet in F Major, Op. 41, No. 2

Robert Schumann

Born: June 8, 1810 in Zwickau, Germany

Died: July 29, 1856 in Endenich, Germany

Composed: 1842

Last PCMS performance: Takács Quartet in 2010

Duration: 23 minutes

This quartet was Schumann's first effort in the form, and one of three eventually published together as Opus 41. Its opening movement commences without introduction of any kind, the listener being drawn in by its congenial three-four meter violin melody.

Quintet in A Major, Op. 18

Felix Mendelssohn

Born: February 3, 1809 in Hamburg, Germany

Died: November 4, 1847 in Leipzig, Germany

Composed: 1826

Last PCMS performance: Musicians from Marlboro in 1999

Duration: 31 minutes

Along with the Midsummer Night's Dream Overture, this Quintet stands as one of the first bona fide manifestations of the mature Mendelssohn. The piece opens with a wonderfully relaxed theme from the first violin and concludes with a vibrant finale featuring great gushes up and down the players' fingerboards.