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PREVIEW
NOTES

Musicians from Marlboro II

*Anthony McGill, clarinet; David McCarroll, violin; Emilie-Anne Gendron, violin;
Daniel Kim, viola; Marcy Rosen, cello*

Thursday, January 21 – 8:00 PM

Perelman Theater, Kimmel Center

Program

String Trio in C Minor, Op. 9, No. 3

Ludwig van Beethoven

Born: December 16, 1770, in Bonn, Germany

Died: March 26, 1827, in Vienna, Austria

Composed: 1797-98

Last PCMS performance: Divertimento in 2001

Duration: 25 minutes

Beethoven's String Trio in C Minor No. 3 is often described as the most dramatic in the set of Op. 9. Furthermore, it fully reveals the unmistakable personality of Beethoven. The first movement of this Trio is marked by dramatic tension and a sense of urgency, in complete contrast with the heavenly slow movement in C Major. Here Beethoven writes the opening bars in four parts, as if he was already warming up for the string quartets to come. The *Scherzo*, back in C Minor, has great vitality and rhythmic bite, and a contrasting *Trio* section in major. The work ends with an even quicker *Presto*, full of scurrying scales and a whimsical, Haydnesque ending. It should be noted that C Minor is one of Beethoven's most important keys. Three of his piano sonatas (Op. 10, No. 1; Op. 13, "Pathétique," and Op. 111) and the fifth symphony were written in C Minor.

Quartet for Clarinet and String Trio

Krzysztof Penderecki

Born: November 23, 1933, in Dębica, Poland

Composed: 1993

First PCMS performance

Duration: 16 minutes

Penderecki's eclectic Quartet for Clarinet and String Trio creates the impression of a retrospective of European art music from the first half of the twentieth century, perhaps the missing link in Penderecki's own *oeuvre*. The first and last movements evoke a solitary feeling with their sustained tones and expressive melodies.

Penderecki maximizes the clarinet and viola timbres in achieving that character. These movements also benefit from the slightly darker and warmer clarinet in A, whereas the middle movements use the B-flat clarinet. This melancholy music sounds rather more Scandinavian than Central European.

Clarinet Quintet in B Minor, Op. 115

Johannes Brahms

Born: May 7, 1833, in Hamburg, Germany

Died: April 3, 1897, in Vienna, Austria

Composed: 1891

Last PCMS performance: Pacifica Quartet in 2015

Duration: 37 minutes

When Clara Schumann first heard this quintet, she wrote: "It is a really marvelous work, the wailing clarinet takes hold of one; it is most moving. And what interesting music, deep and full of meaning!" From the first movement, the music pulsates with yearning. In its opening measures are the seeds that germinate in the rest of composition, which is equally perfect in its power of evocation and its structural rigor. The autumnal mood of the work results in part from the subtle shifts throughout between the closely related keys of D Major and B Minor. Most notable is the second movement *Adagio*, a tender love song whose wistfulness seems to reflect the entire decline of the late Romantic musical ethos. Of course there is more to this piece than its dream-like evocations. Listen to the *Presto*, with its Hungarian folk-dance style and the finale's intriguing variations, the last of which returns full circle to the opening theme of the first movement.