

PHILADELPHIA CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

a life more beautiful

PREVIEW
NOTES

MUSICIANS FROM MARLBORO III

Yoolin Jang, *violin*; Joseph Lin, *violin/viola*; Kei Tojo, *viola*;
Sarah Rommel, *cello*; Gabriele Carcano, *piano*

Wednesday, May 8 – 7:30 PM

Perelman Theater, Kimmel Center

PROGRAM

String Quartet in C Minor, D. 703, *Quartettsatz*

Franz Schubert

Born: January 31, 1797, in Vienna, Austria

Died: November 19, 1828, in Vienna, Austria

Composed: 1820

Duration: 10 minutes

A distance of nearly half a decade separates the last string quartet composed during Schubert's prentice years and the first he wrote as a fully mature composer. This is the Quartet in C Minor, D. 703 of December 1820, popularly known as the *Quartettsatz* because only a single movement of the piece was finished -- putting it in the same celebrated and lengthy catalog of unfinished Schubert compositions that includes the famous B Minor Symphony of 1822.

String Quartet No. 5

Béla Bartók

Born: March 25, 1881 in Nagyszentmiklós, Hungary

Died: September 26, 1945, in New York, NY

Composed: 1934

Duration: 30 minutes

In the six years separating the fourth and fifth string quartets, Bartók wrote comparatively little music, but the works he did complete pointed to his mature style of the 1930s and 1940s, in which directness of compositional technique is coupled with a new concern for clear communication. *The Cantata Profana* (1930) and *Piano Concerto No. 2* (1931) demonstrated a new linear style that incorporated elements of unabashed triadic

harmony; while the 44 Duos for 2 Violins (1931), were pivotal to a number of artistic roads Bartók would shortly travel. As teaching pieces they rekindled Bartók's interest in creating learning material based on Eastern European folk music, and as explorations of string technique, they paved the way for the String Quartet No. 5, easily Bartók's most virtuosic essay in the form.

Piano Quartet in G Minor, Op. 25

Johannes Brahms

Born: May 7, 1833, in Hamburg, Germany

Died: April 3, 1897, in Vienna, Austria

Composed: 1857-61

Duration: 40 minutes

Brahms's G Minor Piano Quartet for piano, violin, viola, and cello (his first), was seemingly conceived in 1857 and polished up in 1861. The genesis of the G Minor quartet spans from the turbulent years of the mid-1850s to the more considered, classical stance of Brahms's late 20s. It combines a troubled romantic vocabulary with a poised, almost symphonic mastery of musical architecture. The finale, with its unbridled gypsy music, displays all the young Brahms's taste for vigorous horseplay. The whole quartet seems to strive continually towards an orchestral sense of color, scope of expression, and range of development.