

PHILADELPHIA CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

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PREVIEW
NOTES

Takács Quartet
Sunday, March 15 – 3 PM
Perelman Theater, Kimmel Center

PROGRAM

Quartet in G Major, Op. 18, No. 2

Ludwig van Beethoven

Born: December 16, 1770, Bonn, Germany

Died: March 26, 1827, Vienna, Austria

Composed: 1798-1800

Duration: 24 minutes

Beethoven wrote his Op. 18, No. 2 string quartet in G major between the years of 1798 and 1800. Although this piece is numbered as second in the Op. 18 set, it is generally believed to be the third in Beethoven's chronological order of composition. He put off writing in the quartet form for a long time in his compositional life, and numerous sketches and revisions show that it was not an easy task for the young composer.

Quartet in F Major, Op. 135

Ludwig van Beethoven

Composed: 1826

Duration: 25 minutes

Beethoven wrote the bulk of this, his final quartet, in a two-month burst of activity amid health problems and shortly after his nephew Karl attempted to commit suicide. But there's not a hint of self-pity or anguish in this compact, good-natured work. For Beethoven's valedictory composition, this quartet is surprisingly small-scaled, finding inspiration in the quartets of Beethoven's one-time teacher Haydn. The first movement, Allegretto, takes standard sonata form. Its principal theme in 2/4 hints at a march; this, the light textures, and Beethoven's reliance on very short phrases give the movement a playful nature that is emphasized by Beethoven's abrupt melodic and harmonic shifts and frequent interruptions in mid-phrase.

Quartet in C-sharp Minor, Op. 131

Ludwig van Beethoven

Composed: 1826

Duration: 40 minutes

Despite its opus number, this quartet came after the Fifteenth (1825), one of three composed to meet a commission from Prince Nikolai Golitzin. The others were Nos. 12 and 13. Like the Thirteenth and Fifteenth, this C sharp minor Quartet consists of more than the usual three or four movements. There are, in fact, seven movements to this massive work, and its form, as one might suspect, is also most unusual.