

PHILADELPHIA CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

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PREVIEW
NOTES

Juilliard Quartet

Tuesday, April 7 – 7:30 PM

Perelman Theater, Kimmel Center

PROGRAM

Quartet in B-flat Major, K. 458, Hunt

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Born: January 27, 1756, in Salzburg, Austria

Died: December 5, 1791, in Vienna, Austria

Composed: 1784

Duration: 26 minutes

Nicknamed the "Hunt" because of the hunting-call motif that opens the work, the B-flat quartet is the fourth of six string quartets composed by Mozart between 1782 and 1785. Over nine years separate the first of this group, K. 387 in G, from its predecessor among the quartets, K. 173 in D minor, composed in 1773. Various factors may account for this long gap. On a practical level, Mozart had been much occupied with long journeys to Italy, Germany, and France. But the string quartet was also, at this time, a relatively new medium still in the process of development.

Ainsi la nuit

Henri Dutilleux

Born: January 22, 1916, in Angers, France

Died: May 22, 2013, in Paris, France

Composed: 1973-1976

Duration: 18 minutes

Henri Dutilleux's work for string quartet, *Ainsi la nuit* (1976) was commissioned by the Koussevitzky Foundation and was intended for performance by the Juilliard Quartet. After making a series of sketches in which he practiced writing for string quartet, the composer sent three completed pieces to the Juilliard Quartet. These pieces, entitled *Nuits* (1974), have musical material which was later used in the final version of *Ainsi la nuit*. Dutilleux completed *Ainsi la nuit* in 1976 and the work was premiered on January 6, 1977, in Paris, but not by the Juilliard Quartet. Actually, the premiere was given by the Quatuor Parrenin. The Juilliard Quartet would first perform the composition in the Library of Congress at Washington, D.C., on April 13, 1978.

Quartet in A Minor, Op. 51, No. 2

Johannes Brahms

Born: May 7, 1833, in Hamburg, Germany

Died: April 3, 1897, in Vienna, Austria

Composed: 1865

Duration: 33 minutes

Johannes Brahms's first two string quartets, the two works of Opus 51, were released for public consumption in 1873.

These are not actually his first efforts in the genre -- we know that he tried his hand at well over a dozen string quartets as a younger man (none of which met with his approval and all of which were eventually scrapped) -- and yet, Brahms spent the better part of a decade working on Op. 51. The A minor quartet, which Brahms dedicated to his friend the Viennese surgeon and amateur string player Theodor Billroth, is, on the other hand, composed along altogether more lyric (but by no means less dramatic) lines.