

PHILADELPHIA CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

a life more beautiful

PREVIEW
NOTES

Musicians from Marlboro III

Lucy Fitz Gibbon, *soprano*; Alexi Kenney & Lun Li, *violin*; Hélène Clément & Tanner Menees, *viola*; Yi Qun Xu, *cello*; William Langlie-Miletich, *double bass*

Wednesday, April 12 – 7:30 PM

American Philosophical Society, Benjamin Franklin Hall

PROGRAM

Two Pieces for String Quartet, Op. 81

Felix Mendelssohn

Born: February 3, 1809, Hamburg, Germany

Died: November 4, 1847, Leipzig, Germany

Composed: 1827-47

Duration: 10 minutes

Mendelssohn's Op. 81 is a collection of movements written for quartet during various points in the composer's life. The Fugue in E-flat Major demonstrates the young composer's contrapuntal mastery and his extraordinary understanding of the string quartet as an ensemble. The Capriccio exhibits the essential characteristics of Mendelssohn's writing for the medium: balance among the voices and tone coloring which adds luster and memorability even to fleeting musical ideas. The remaining two pieces began as movements for a projected string quartet and are powerfully complex musical statements.

Benkei's Standing Death

Paul Wiancko

Born: 1983, San Clemente, California

Composed: 2020

Duration: 13 minutes

Described by former Marlboro participant Wiancko as "an opera without words," this work takes as its subject the 12th-century Japanese tale of Ushiwakamaru, a young warrior attended by his faithful bodyguard Benkei.

Duos for Soprano & Double Bass from

The Notebooks of G.C. Lichtenberg

György Kurtág

Born: February 19, 1926, Lugos, Romania

Composed: 1999

Duration: 10 minutes

One of the most distinctive developments in György Kurtág's output is his setting of incomplete texts. He entitles these songs 'fragments', suggesting that they are musical scraps that accompany the extracts from great writers' works. Slightly over a decade after his most representative contribution to this genre, the chamber song cycle *Kafka-Fragments*, Op. 24, for soprano and violin (1986), Kurtág selected 22 aphorisms by Georg Christoph Lichtenberg and set them in this vocal chamber cycle for soprano and double bass.

yes I said yes I will yes

Amy Beth Kirsten

Born: 1972 in Belleville, Illinois

Composed: 2012

Duration: 7 minutes

Exploring themes of intimacy, memory, and gender relations, the text for this piece comes from Molly Bloom's last soliloquy in James Joyce's *Ulysses*.

String Quintet in C Major, Op. 29

Ludwig van Beethoven

Born: December 16, 1770, Bonn, Germany

Died: March 26, 1827, Vienna, Austria

Composed: 1801

Duration: 34 minutes

Overshadowed by the fame of his string quartets and the string quintets of Mozart and Schubert, Beethoven's quintet is rarely performed, a special treat to encounter. Known by the nickname "Storm," it is a large-scale work leveraging the great skills Beethoven honed writing his previous string trios and quartets and, like Mozart's quintets, features an expansive richness due to the sonority and independence of the lower strings enhanced with a second viola.