

PHILADELPHIA CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

a life more beautiful

Philadelphia Orchestra Winds

Yumi Kendall, *cello*

Joseph Conyers, *double bass*

Monday, October 7 – 7:30 PM

Perelman Theater, Kimmel Center

**PREVIEW
NOTES**

PROGRAM (selection of notes)

Serenade in B-flat Major, K. 361, *Gran Partita*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

***Born:* 1756**

***Died:* 1791**

***Composed:* 1781-82**

***Duration:* 45 minutes**

Mozart's *Gran Partita* is a monumental work, likely composed for the Vienna court or an aristocratic patron. Scored for an ensemble of 13 wind instruments and a double bass, it stands out for its grandeur and complexity, often considered one of Mozart's finest compositions for wind instruments. The nickname "Gran Partita," although not given by Mozart, aptly reflects its scale and significance. The piece is notable for its innovative use of winds, particularly in the famous Adagio movement, which gained further fame through its emotional portrayal in the film *Amadeus*. The serenade's length and ambitious structure are unusual for a wind ensemble work of the period, showcasing Mozart's ability to elevate the genre to new artistic heights.

Serenade for Winds in D Minor, Op. 44

Antonín Dvořák

***Born:* 1841**

***Died:* 1904**

***Composed:* 1878**

***Duration:* 30 minutes**

Dvořák composed his Serenade for Winds in just two weeks in January 1878, during a period of prolific creativity inspired by his interest in Czech folk music. Scored for an ensemble of two oboes, two clarinets, two bassoons, three horns, a cello, and a double bass, along with a central part for a contrabassoon, the serenade reflects Dvořák's deep connection to the musical traditions of his homeland. Unlike many serenades of the time, which were light and entertaining, Dvořák's work is rich in character, blending the folk influences with classical form and structure. The piece was well-received and played a significant role in establishing Dvořák's reputation outside of Bohemia, particularly in Germany. Johannes Brahms, aged 45 at the time, became a close friend and mentor to Dvořák, admired this piece and helped promote Dvořák's music throughout Europe.