PUNAHOU MUSIC DEPARTMENT AND MUSIC SCHOOL

WINTER CHAMBER MUSIC RECITAL

Saturday, December 14, 2024
4 p.m.
Dillingham Hall
Punahou School

String Quartet in E-flat Major, Op. 33 No. 2 Hob. III:38 “The Joke”
.....Franz Joseph Haydn
IV. Finale: Presto (1732-1809)

Cooke String Quartet
Ethan Chow and Tara Krishnagopalan, violins
Carter Lau, viola Ines Kim, cello

Maile Reeves, coach

String Quartet in C Major, Op. 33 No. 3, Hob. III:39 “The Bird”
.....Franz Joseph Haydn
IV. Finale: Rondo - Presto (1732-1809)

Gladys Hirano Memorial String Quartet
Noah Tanaka and Dominic Chi, violins
Diego Chang, viola Haruko Nagai, cello

Steven Flanter, coach

String Quartet No. 13 in A Minor, D. 804, “Rosamunde”.....Franz Schubert
I. Allegro ma non troppo (1797-1828)

Arthur Y. & Misako M. Akinaka String Quartet
Julie Kang and Kotori Bilharz, violins
Ethan Camp, viola Reese Walther, cello

Kysha Bradshaw, coach

String Quartet No. 62 in C Major, Op. 76 No. 3, Hob. III:77 “Emperor”
.....Franz Joseph Haydn
IV. Finale. Presto (1732-1809)

Keller String Quartet
Aya Okimoto and Ellie Chung, violins
Alex Woo, viola Ty Tokunaga, cello

Steven Flanter, coach

String Quartet No. 12 in F Major, Op. 96 "American"..... Antonín Dvořák
IV. Finale (1841-1904)

Saburo Watanabe String Quartet
Brennin Lee and Nicholas Chi, violins
Ethan Chung, viola Donald Lee, cello

Maile Reeves, coach

String Quartet No. 4 in E Minor, Op. 44 No. 2..... Felix Mendelssohn
I. Allegro assai appassionato (1809-1847)

Chang String Quartet
Max Shinno and Ethan Loo, violins
Lulu Wang, viola Nessa Michaud, cello

Rachel Saul, coach

String Quartet in D Major, Op. 76 No. 5..... Franz Joseph Haydn
IV. Finale: Presto (1732-1809)

String Quartet No. 2, Op. 92..... Sergei Prokofiev
I. Allegro sostenuto (1891-1953)

Peter Mesrobian Memorial String Quartet
Kai Asakura and Ashley Jisue Hong, violins
Albert Ko, viola Cody Kajioka, cello

Iggy Jang, coach

String Quartet in F Major..... Maurice Ravel
II. Assez vif - trés rythmé (1875-1937)

Kathryn Kennard Vaught Memorial String Quartet
Preston Chi and Gwyneth Tenn, violins
Swan Kim, viola Ian Jun, cello

Dr. Clara Kim, coach

Joseph Haydn wrote a lot of string quartets—sixty-eight in all! Many of the most famous have been made even more famous by being given nicknames. For example, there are the six "Sun" Quartets, dating from 1772, whose nickname comes from the image of a rising sun on the first published edition. Usually, though, the nickname comes from something in the music itself. "**The Joke**," which dates from 1781, owes its nickname to the music toward the end of this finale movement, in which Haydn sets up and then thwarts expectations. Does the music do what you think it's going to do?

Another nicknamed Haydn quartet is "**The Bird**," found in the same 1781 quartet set as "The Joke." "The Bird" as a whole gets its nickname not from this finale movement, but from the first movement, which is seeded with grace notes that resemble chirping. The finale is not entirely bird-free, though! Here, the bird is a cuckoo. Do the two notes that the first violin keeps repeating remind you of a cuckoo clock?

Continuing with quartet nicknames, Schubert's "**Rosamunde**" gets its name from music appearing in the piece's second movement, a melody that Schubert extracted from music he had already written for a play called Rosamunde. But this doesn't tell us anything about the first movement being heard today. What is helpful to know is that, if Haydn was a great composer of quartets, Schubert was a great composer of songs—he wrote more than 600 of them! One of his famous songs was called "Gretchen at the Spinning Wheel." Schubert was wonderful at turning words and images into sounds, and he depicted the spinning wheel in that song with a sort of repetitive, hypnotic pattern. Music writers like to note how similar that spinning music is to the second violin part heard here. Can you hear the music making circles and spinning out a thread?

And now, more Haydn. Haydn's Opus 76 quartets date from 14 years later than "The Bird" and "The Joke." The third of the set is called "**The Emperor**," for the simple reason that its second movement incorporates a hymn to Austria's emperor. This finale movement starts off in an un-hymn-like and non-imperial way, in the very stormy key of C minor. The music embodies a style called sturm und drang, that is, "storm and stress." Sturm und drang was the name of a 1776 play set contemporaneously during the American Revolution that featured highly emotional content. The play gave its name to an approach to writing and music at that time which tended to express turmoil more than rationality. And so this Presto starts in a stormy manner. But "The Emperor" Quartet as a whole is mostly in C Major, and this movement eventually reaches the same key. Listen for the moment near the end where Haydn drops the stormy emotion in favor of imperial harmoniousness.

Dvořák was a proud Czech composer, at a time when Czech lands were still ruled by the Austrian empire. It's somewhat ironic that he is as famous for this "**American**" String Quartet and the "New World" Symphony as for anything else he wrote. In 1892, Dvořák arrived in America for a three-year stay, to head up a music school in New York. During this time, he heard a lot of American music and did a lot of traveling. The experience can be heard in his "American" Quartet. Does the beginning of this finale movement remind you of any particular mode of transport the composer may have used to cross the country?

Felix **Mendelssohn** was sort of like the mountain climber of composers, or else the race car driver of composers. So many of his pieces—for example, his String Octet, or the first movement of his Violin Concerto, or the third movement of his Violin Concerto, if you know any of these—start with a dramatic upward movement of pitch. If you try singing a series of pitches that rise dramatically, you'll find it takes a lot of energy right from the first breath. That kind of rise has a very dramatic effect. This opening movement of his E minor quartet is one of those pieces that just goes up right away. The syncopated accompaniment from the second violin and viola takes its own special energy to achieve.

The finale of **Haydn's Op. 76, No. 5** is incredibly fun, full of surprises and games. Now that you've heard three other Haydn pieces with nicknames, what nickname would you give this one?

Prokofiev's Second String Quartet is nicknamed "Kabardinian" because during World War II the composer was evacuated from Moscow to the Caucasus Mountains, to an area where the Kabardinian tribe of the Circassian people lived. Prokofiev used folk melodies of the Kabardinians in the quartet he wrote while there. There is a special simplicity and energy in this first movement, which is based on a Kabardinian march, along with some crunchy harmony that was typical for Prokofiev. Listen for the accents, which are surprising, propelling the music along while also jolting listeners.

Ravel's Quartet is a masterpiece of imaginative sound colors. The pizzicato scherzo might be the most famous part, and has been heard in concert halls, on commercials, and in movies. When Ravel was fourteen, an Indonesian gamelan orchestra (made up mostly of percussion) came to Paris and Ravel heard them. Many scholars think this movement was inspired by the gamelan. Can you hear the pizzicato as a form of percussion?

- Sasha Margolis

The Gift of Music:
Celebrating 60 Years of the Punahou Chamber Music Program

The Punahou Chamber Music Program celebrates its 60th anniversary this year, marking six decades of nurturing student musicians and fostering the art of chamber music. The program was established through an endowed fund created in 1964 by Dr. Raymond Vaught, dedicated to the memory of his wife, Mrs. Kathryn Kennard Vaught. With Dr. Vaught's visionary foresight inspiring the inception of the program, generations of students have had meaningful opportunities to engage deeply with music and develop important skills of collaboration, communication, and artistry.

We celebrate the ongoing impact of the program and the many individuals and families who have generously donated to the program throughout its history. We look forward to many more years of empowering students' artistic growth and personal development, while celebrating the enduring gift of music.

About Dr. & Mrs. Vaught:
Dr. Raymond Vaught was a distinguished Professor of Musicology at the University of Hawai'i. He performed as a violinist and violist in the Portland Symphony, Rochester Philharmonic, and Honolulu Symphony; and also performed as a chamber musician and founded the Tacoma String Quartet and the Honolulu String Quartet. His contributions also extended beyond performance and teaching. He wrote for the Honolulu Advertiser, and penned program notes for the Honolulu Symphony and the Honolulu Chamber Music Series. Mrs. Kathleen Kennard Vaught served as the principal cellist with the Honolulu Symphony and performed as a member of the Honolulu String Quartet. She was also a dedicated educator, teaching cello at Punahou Music School and University of Hawai'i.

Winter Greetings from the Program Co-Coordinators

We are grateful for the many gifts chamber music brings into our lives. It is about creating beautiful music but it is also about more; it is a celebration of connection, conversation, and shared purpose.

This program helps our students embrace these gifts with gratitude, growing not only as musicians but as empathetic leaders and collaborators. Their dedication, supported by the guidance of their coaches, the encouragement of their families, and the generosity of the program sponsors, has made their growth and achievement possible.

We hope today's performances fill you with joy and gratitude for the gift of music and the relationships it fosters. As we move into the holiday season, we hope this spirit of connection and gratitude continues to inspire and uplift us in the days ahead.

Thank you for supporting the Punahou Chamber Music Program.

With warmest wishes for a joyful holiday season,

Helen Chao-Casano & Craig Young
Co-coordinators, Punahou Chamber Music Program

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