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Hal Myers Traudi Nichols Allan Tractenberg Diane Tractenberg If you're one of our donors and attended our annual donor-appreciation event at Plaza Palomino, then you already have in your hot little hands AFCM's 2019–20 season announcement, which is growing as thick as the federal tax code. We will offer a superabundance of concerts for your delectation and distraction, spurred largely by our celebration of the 250th anniversary of the birth of Ludwig van Beethoven.

If you didn't attend the reception, the brochure should be arriving in your mailbox any day now, if it hasn't already. And if you're not on our mailing list, you can find a copy on the table near the box office.

It's an unprecedented number of concerts for us. You may feel overwhelmed. Remember, though, that you are under no obligation to attend everything. We've broken things down into the usual subscription packages to help you keep your life under control. By subscribing to a series, you can enjoy a substantial discount over the course of the season, and stake a claim to the same seats for each concert.

If you'd rather enjoy a bit of this series and a bit of that series, or add the extra Beethoven festival concerts to your package, that's fine, too. You can piece together your own private series at the full single-ticket price, but without the seating guarantee. (I know that some of us won't give up our particular, precious seats until they haul us out in a body bag.)

As much as I would encourage you to attend every AFCM event, I know that's a huge commitment of time and money. You don't personally have to help fill the hall every night or afternoon. But you can help fill it by proxy: Tell all your friends and enemies why you love this vibrant and fascinating music, and AFCM. You have a passion for chamber music; share that passion with everyone you know. Take a few extra season brochures and disseminate them with evangelical zeal. Just please don't shout "Hallelujah" until the end of tonight's performance.

JAMES REEL
President

ames Reel



# JERUSALEM QUARTET APRIL 3, 2019



Jerusalem Quartet Alexander Pavlovsky, violin Sergei Bresler, violin Ori Kam, viola Kyril Zlotnikov, cello

David Rowe Artists 24 Bessom Street, Suite 4 Marblehead, MA 01945

## **JERUSALEM QUARTET**

"Passion, precision, warmth, a gold blend: these are the trademarks of this excellent Israeli string quartet." Such was the New York Times' impression of the Jerusalem Quartet. Since the ensemble's founding in 1993 and subsequent 1996 debut, the four Israeli musicians have embarked on a journey of growth and maturation. This journey has resulted in a wide repertoire and stunning depth of expression, which carries on the string quartet tradition in a unique manner. The ensemble has found its core in a warm, full, human sound and an egalitarian balance between high and low voices. This approach allows the quartet to maintain a healthy relationship between individual expression and a transparent and respectful presentation of the composer's work. It is also the drive and motivation for the continuing refinement of its interpretations of the classical repertoire as well as exploration of new epochs.

A regular and beloved guest on the world's great concert stages, the quartet makes regular bi-annual visits to North America, performing in cities such as New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Washington, and Cleveland, as well as in the Ravinia Festival. In Europe, the quartet enjoys an enthusiastic reception with regular appearances in London's Wigmore Hall, Tonhalle Zürich, Munich Herkulessaal, Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, and festivals such as Salzburg, Verbier, Schleswig-Holstein, Schubertiade Schwarzenberg, Rheingau, and St. Petersburg White Nights.

The Jerusalem Quartet records exclusively for Harmonia Mundi. The quartet's recordings, particularly the albums featuring Haydn's string quartets and Schubert's "Death and the Maiden," have been honored with numerous awards such as the Diapason d'Or and the BBC Music Magazine Award for chamber music. In 2018, the quartet released two albums, an album of Dvořák's String Quintet Op. 97 and Sextet Op. 48, and a much-awaited recording of the celebrated quartets by Ravel and Debussy.

We last heard the Jerusalem Quartet in April 2016, and they will be part of our 2019–2020 season.

# EVENING SERIES

# TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

# **JOSEPH HAYDN (1732-1809)**

String Quartet in G Major, Op. 76, no. 1

Allegro con spirito Adagio sostenuto Menuetto: Presto

Finale: Allegro ma non troppo

# **CLAUDE DEBUSSY (1862-1918)**

String Quartet in G Minor, Op. 10

Animé et très décidé Assez vif et bien rythmé Andantino, doucement expressif Très modéré

# INTERMISSION

# **DMITRI SHOSTAKOVICH (1906-1975)**

String Quartet No. 3 in F Major, Op. 73

Allegretto Moderato con moto Allegro non troppo Adagio Moderato—Adagio This evening's concert is partially sponsored by the generous contribution of George & Irene Perkow.

HAYDN WROTE HIS Opus 76 set of six "Erdődy" String Quartets (1796–1797, published 1799) as a commission for Count Joseph Erdődy, a Hungarian aristocrat who was also an early supporter of Beethoven. Now retired from his long employment at the remote Esterházy estates, Haydn had benefitted artistically from his two trips to London (1791-92 and 1794-95) under the auspices of the impresario Johann Peter Salomon. At this late stage of his career, Haydn now conceived his works for professionals performing in large concert halls rather than staff performers in small music rooms. Haydn's reputation grew quickly after these immensely successful visits, and he was lionized internationally as Europe's greatest living composer—an accurate assessment, since Mozart had recently died and Beethoven had not yet established his reputation.

Although Haydn had composed string quartets for forty years, his Opus 76 set reveals new confidence. Greater technical assurance is evident in the profound slow movements, energetic menuetto movements, and intellectually challenging finales. Because of the high level of workmanship in these imaginative quartets, Opus 76 is considered to be a peak of eighteenth-century chamber music.

The emphatic three-chord opening to Opus 76 No. 1 suggests an orchestral fanfare. The Allegro con spirito then introduces two themes that undergo fragmentation and inventive recombination as the movement develops. The warmly romantic Adagio sostenuto (C major) expressively develops three ideas—a chorale theme heard in all instruments; a dialogue between the first violin and viola; and a violin line accompanied by short, repeated notes in the other instruments.

The rapid Menuetto anticipates the energetic scherzo movements of Beethoven; its slower central section suggests Austrian folk influence. The Finale, which begins in the key of G minor, recalls Haydn's early "storm and stress" movements until its cheerful G major recapitulation and coda.

ENERGETIC DIVERSITY characterized late nineteenth-century French chamber music. Nurtured by a government that had miraculously survived strains such as the Dreyfus Affair, numerous Parisian chamber series flourished in this time of artistic and scientific achievement. Promising composers and performers were now trained in France rather than Germany, a new phenomenon that contributed to the formation of a national French voice. The romantic sensibilities of Franck, Fauré, and Saint-Saëns elevated the medium above its frequent role of dance accompaniment, and the forward-looking creations of Claude Debussy and Maurice Ravel brought French chamber music into the modern era.

Musical impressionism flowered with Debussy, who in the 1890s continued the movement generated twenty years earlier by the painter Monet and the symbolist poet Mallarmé. Debussy sought to impart a similarly ineffable atmosphere by emphasizing color and nuance rather than systematic thematic development. He achieved his sensitive and haunting style through brief melodies, often based on ancient or exotic scales, supported by shifting harmonies and rapidly changing meters.

An early work, the Quartet in G minor (1893) reveals both established techniques and evidence of Debussy's revolutionary new language. Its movements conform to traditional sonata, scherzo, and three-part song form structures. The influence of his older contemporary César Franck can be heard in the quartet's cyclic form—a unifying device in which related thematic material permeates all movements. Yet the quartet's evocative sonorities anticipate the fully impressionistic world Debussy created in his next work, *Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune* ("Prelude to The Afternoon of a Faun," 1894).

The Quartet opens with a strongly accented theme in the ancient Phrygian mode. Kaleidoscopic permutations of this material recur throughout the entire quartet. The second movement, a piquant scherzo animated by colorful pizzicato figures, led César Franck to observe that "Debussy creates music on needle points." At the 1889 Paris Exposition a Javanese gamelan orchestra had enchanted Debussy, and his contemporary critics heard similarly exotic effects in this scherzo.

The third movement, cast in three-part song form, is framed by a passionate aria for muted strings; a lyrical episode for viola and cello falls at its center. The finale opens with a quiet introduction and accelerates with a fugato section based on the quartet's opening theme. This agile movement inventively synthesizes material from the preceding three movements. The movement concludes with a brilliant coda.

GUIDED BY THE musical preferences of Joseph Stalin, Soviet authorities urged composers to create heroic works that drew from folk tradition. Shostakovich indicated that his projected Symphony No. 9 (1945) would offer the desired uplifting statement. However, at its premiere the symphony was heard as mere entertainment, and Shostakovich was denounced for "formalism"—defined by the Soviets as "elitist catering to purely individual experiences of a small clique of aesthetes while rejecting the classical heritage." Shostakovich did not undertake another symphony until Stalin's death in 1953; more private composition of his quartet series offered a refuge. Soon after the debacle of his Ninth Symphony, Shostakovich began his Quartet No. 3.

Shostakovich originally conceived his Opus 73 (1946) as a war statement, and he created programmatic subtitles for its five movements:

- I. Calm awareness of the future cataclysm
- II. Rumblings of unrest and anticipation
- III. The forces of war unleashed
- IV. Homage to the dead
- V. The eternal question: Why? And for what?

Shostakovich suppressed these subtitles, but many groups such as the Borodin Quartet insist on their inclusion whenever they perform the work.

The musical progression of Opus 73 generally follows the emotional affect of its subtitles. The sonata form Movement I begins in a lighthearted atmosphere, but ever more frenzied development (a double fugue with fast-moving harmonies) and a final acceleration of tempo conjures agitation.

Movement II is a sardonic waltz. Passagework grows lugubrious near the end as the instruments descend into their lower registers.

# "Life is beautiful. All that is dark and ignominious will disappear. All that is beautiful will triumph."

**DMITRI SHOSTAKOVICH** 

Movement III (F minor), perhaps an echo of the sinister Scherzo movement from Symphony No. 5, is a ferocious and martial statement. Its two themes, heard in the violin and cello, are accompanied by strident chords in the other instruments. The movement ends abruptly.

Movement IV is a passacaglia (a stately seventeenth-century form built on a repeating bass line) that opens with all instruments in unison. A violin soliloquy leads to a somber cello lament, accompanied by pizzicati in the viola; the viola assumes the lament, now accompanied by cello pizzicati. After fugal development, the movement ends quietly.

Movement V opens with a jaunty cello theme that recalls the opening of the quartet. As the tempo grows faster, the atmosphere becomes anguished. Sustained notes in the solo cello halt the momentum. The violin plays a poignant theme that is possibly of Jewish origin. The violin plays ever higher as it poses its question: Why? What is it for?

Notes by Nancy Monsman

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# Haiku

GOZAN 吾山, 1789

The snow of yesterday That fell like cherry blossoms Is water once again

Public Domain.

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**JUNE 5, 2019** 

Michelle Abraham, violin Peter Takács, piano

7:00 pm, Holsclaw Hall

**JULY 24, 2019** 

Bin Hu, guitar Jing Xia, guzheng 7:00 pm, Holsclaw Hall

**AUGUST 14, 2019** 

Arizona Wind Quintet 7:00 pm, Holsclaw Hall

**OCTOBER 23, 2019** 

Russian String Orchestra 7:30 pm, Leo Rich Theater

**NOVEMBER 20, 2019** 

Naumburg Trio

7:30 pm, Leo Rich Theater

**NOVEMBER 24, 2019** 

Nathan Lee, *piano* 3:00 pm, Leo Rich Theater

**DECEMBER 4, 2019** 

Takács Quartet 7:30 pm, Leo Rich Theater

**DECEMBER 12, 2019** 

**Neave Trio** 

7:30 pm, Berger Performing Arts Center

**JANUARY 15 & 16, 2020** 

**St. Lawrence String Quartet** 7:30 pm, Leo Rich Theater

**JANUARY 30, 2020** 

New York Festival of Song

7:30 pm, Crowder Hall

FEBRUARY 12 & 13, 2020

**Shanghai Quartet** 7:30 pm, Leo Rich Theater

•

Lineage Percussion

3:00 pm, Leo Rich Theater

MARCH 1-8, 2020

Tucson Winter Chamber Music Festival

Leo Rich Theater

**MARCH 22, 2020** 

Narek Arutyunian, *clarinet* Steven Beck, *piano* 

3:00 pm, Leo Rich Theater

**APRIL 1 & 2, 2020** 

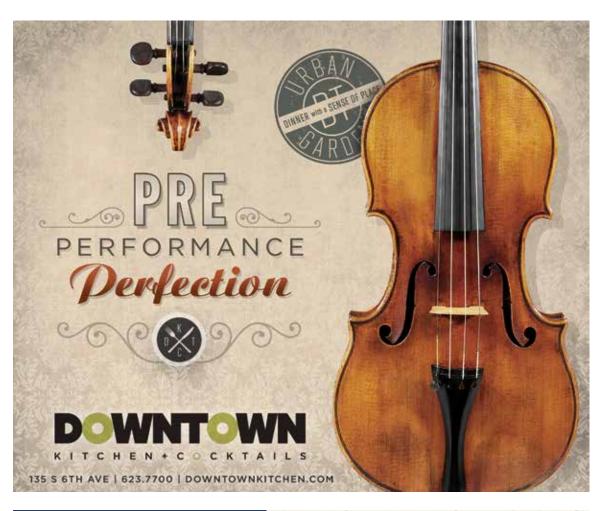
Jerusalem Quartet

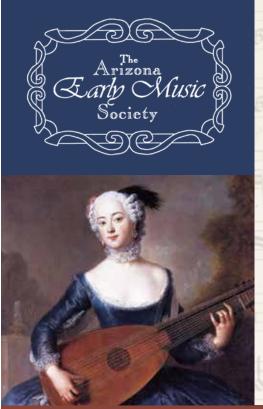
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**APRIL 9, 2020** 

Poulenc Trio

7:30 pm, Berger Performing Arts Center





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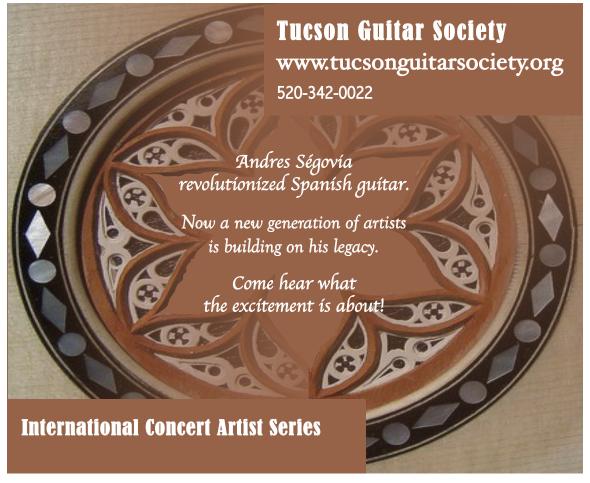
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**November 17 & 18, 2018** – Bernstein's Candide Overture, Arutiunian's challenging Trumpet Concerto, Jobim's chart-topping *Girl from Ipanema* and Borodin's Symphony No. 2.

**February 2 & 3, 2019** – Brahms' Double Concerto for Violin and Cello plus two works by Mendelssohn – The Hebrides (inspired by a visit to a sea cave in Scotland) and Symphony No. 5, *The Reformation*.

*March 2 & 3, 2019* – Offenbach's *Orpheus in the Underworld*, inspired by Greek mythology, plus the premiere of White's Concertino, Dukas' spritely *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* and Rimsky-Korsakov's Capriccio Espagnol.

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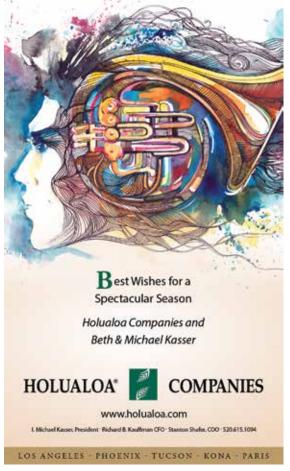


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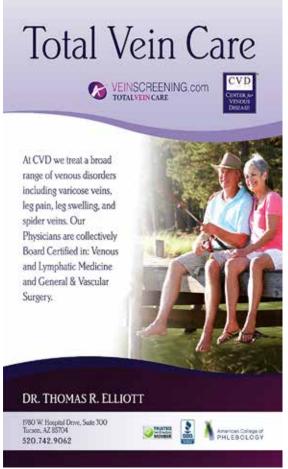




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