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Welcome



Dear Friends.

Welcome to tonight's concert by the Viano String Quartet, winner of the 2019 Banff International String Quartet Competition! We're pleased to be back to A&M United Methodist Church to enjoy this vibrant ensemble in person and also, to offer the livestream of tonight's concert.

This and two other concerts of the 27th season are free of charge, as are the educational programs offered to local music students by our guest artists. Friends of Chamber Music series would not be possible without support from patrons and charitable trusts and foundations. Our special thanks go to Hays and Robin Glover, the 27th Season Sponsors, and to all our loyal donors for helping us bring the Viano Quartet to Brazos Valley for the first time. We receive and greatly appreciate support from the Plass Arts Foundation, the Arts Council of Brazos Valley, the Texas Commission on the Arts, the National Endowment of the Arts, and the Nina Astin Winkler and Rea Charitable Trusts.

With the coming holiday season, I'd also like to remind you of the concert by legendary violinist Midori on February 7. If you are looking for the perfect holiday gift for that friend or family member who has everything, tickets to the Midori concert might just be what you're looking for! Ticket prices for this event (available now at the MSC Box Office) are heavily subsidized by grants and your donations.

We thank you for sharing in your love of fine music tonight. Your reviews mean a great deal to us, and your support helps Friends of Chamber Music enrich the cultural life of our community.

Andreas Kronenberg

audies

President, Friends of Chamber Music

Friends of Chamber Music Mission

Morenly

Friends of Chamber Music brings music from diverse periods and cultures, performed by world-class musicians, to the Brazos Valley. Through concerts and outreach programs at area schools, we strive to enhance the cultural life of the community.

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Student Volunteers

Friends of Chamber Music is grateful to have a team of Texas A&M University student volunteers. Tonight, we're helped by Lauren Douglas, McKenna Dudley, Sarah Fischer, Shianne Holmes, Macey Parr, Alexis Willis.

Educational Outreach

Today, Viano String Quartet worked with the 32 students of the Chamber orchestra at Rudder High School and the players in the school's newly formed string quartets. The focus of the clinic was group communication and chamber ensemble skills which their director, Joseph Daigle, believes to be the "backbone to good ensemble playing regardless of the size of the group." Based on his choice, Viano artists used pieces from "Ten Miniatures for String Quartet" by Cécile Chamindade as the music for the event.

Brazos Civic Orchestra String Quartet

Tonight's pre-concert music is provided by a string quartet from the Brazos Civic Orchestra.

Paul Duston, violin Bronius Motekaitis, violin Jennifer Weaver, viola Amanda Byrne, cello

PROGRAM



VIANO STRING QUARTET

Hao Zhou, violin Lucy Wang, violin Aiden Kane, viola Tate Zawadiuk, cello

Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809) String Quartet Op. 76, No. 1

I. Allegro con spirito

II. Adagio sostenuto

III. Menuetto. Presto

IV. Allegro ma non-troppo

Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

String Quartet Op. 41, No. 3

I. Andante espressivo

II. Assai agitato

III. Adagio molto

IV. Allegro molto vivace

INTERMISSION

P. I. Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

String Quartet Op. 11, No. 1

I. Moderato e semplice

II. Andante cantabile

III. Scherzo: Allegro non tanto

IV. Finale: Allegro giusto

PROGRAM NOTES



String Quartet in G major, Op. 76, no. 1 Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)

Haydn is often called the "father of the string quartet;" over the course of his life he composed over eighty of them, and he brought the form to high level of sophistication. His string quartets can be compared to lively four-way conversations among friends. In 1796 a music-loving Hungarian nobleman, Count Jozef Erdödy, commissioned the set of six quartets comprising Haydn's opus 76. At that time, Haydn had recently returned from an extended tour of England, and he was at the culmination of his long career. He completed the "Erdödy Quartets" in 1797 and published them two years later, but it is unknown when they were first performed.

After a three-chord call to attention, the cello introduces the first theme, followed by the viola; the second and first violins, respectively, add a kind of descant to this theme.

The slow second movement has a hymn-like theme; syncopated chords in the accompaniment add emotional fervor.

The third movement is called a Menuetto, but its rapid tempo seems a precursor to the fiery Scherzos of Beethoven. A middle section or "Trio," featuring a solo in the first violin with a pizzicato (plucked) accompaniment, provides contrast before the return of the Presto.

Much of the fourth movement is in minor mode, but Haydn brings it through several seemingly unrelated keys back into the quartet's "home" key of G Major. He injects a little of his famous sense of humor with a couple of "false" endings.

PROGRAM NOTES



String Quartet No. 3 in A major, Op. 41, no.3 Robert Schumann (1810–1856)

Schumann composed most of his chamber music, including his three string quartets, in 1842, after applying himself to a close study of the chamber works of Mozart and Beethoven. He completed the third quartet in only two weeks. He dedicated all three quartets to his friend, the composer Felix Mendelssohn.

A slow section introduces the opening idea—a descending perfect fifth—that becomes the basis of the first movement's theme.

Fast-moving contrapuntal sections characterize the second movement.

The slow, melodic, and emotionally intense third movement (Adagio) no doubt contributes to this work's reputation as the most Romantic of Schumann's string quartets. The agitated dotted rhythm that appears in the accompaniment of the third movement is transformed into the driving rhythm of the fourth movement, which is in a modified rondo form. Unlike most rondos, however, this one has a "quasi Trio" section in F major, whereas the rest of the movement is in A major. Schumann often pairs his themes with accompaniments accenting the off beats throughout this string quartet; he employed this technique in his piano music as well.

PROGRAM NOTES



String Quartet No. 1 in D major, Op. 11 Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840–1893)

Most listeners think of Tchaikovsky as a composer of orchestral music, operas, or ballets, but he wrote some chamber music as well. He was a young and financially struggling faculty member at the Moscow Conservatory, so he organized a concert of his own works in early 1871 to raise his professional profile and earn extra income. Since he could not afford to hire an orchestra, he decided to program pieces for a small number of performers. The first violinist in the Russian Musical Society String Quartet, Ferdinand Laub, was one of Tchaikovsky's friends, and he offered to play without a fee. Thus, Tchaikovsky wrote his String Quartet no. 1 for this concert, held in March 1871 in Moscow. Even though it is an early work, it already shows the composer's mastery of thematic development in larger forms.

The first movement has a syncopated rhythm, yet it is moderate in tempo. Many listeners will recognize the simple, lyrical theme of the second movement, which is based on a folk song Tchaikovsky heard on one of his many travels. Through repeated arrangements and transcriptions, it has become one of his most familiar melodies. Leo Tolstoy, the famous Russian author, reportedly burst into tears when he heard it in 1876. The flavor of Russian folk music and dance also permeates the Scherzo and the lively Finale.

Notes by Felicia Piscitelli



Praised for their "virtuosity, visceral expression, and rare unity of intention" by Boston Globe, the Viano String Quartet are First Prize winners of the 2019 Banff International String Quartet Competition. Formed in 2015 at the Colburn Conservatory of Music in Los Angeles, where they were Ensemble-in-Residence through the 2020-21 season, the quartet has performed in venues such as Wigmore Hall, Place Flagey, Konzerthaus Berlin, and Segerstrom Center for the Arts. The quartet has been named the Nina von Maltzahn string quartet-in-residence at the Curtis Institute of Music for 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 season.

Summer of 2022 brought re-invitations to Great Lakes and Rockport Music Festivals, as well as performances at Chamber Music Northwest (Protégé Project 3-week residency), Tannery Pond under the auspice of Capitol Region Classical, Victoria Summer Music Festival, Bard Music Festival finished with a residency at Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity. In the fall Viano are making their Lucerne Festival and Wigmore Hall debuts followed by performances in Oklahoma, California, Texas, Florida, Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, Delaware, Tennessee, Washington DC and Canada. March 2023 marks the beginning of their three year residency with Music in the Morning in Vancouver where they will create programming to include artist collaborations, extensive community engagement and masterclasses.

As part of the Banff International String Quartet Competition prize, the quartet is in residence at the Meadows School of Music at the Southern Methodist University through the 2022–23 season. For two weeks each semester, they will perform side-by-side concerts, coach chamber ensembles, and initiate projects within the SMU community. Recent highlights include performances on three continents, including debuts in Berlin, Paris, Bremen, Brussels, Vancouver, and Beijing, among other cities. They have collaborated with world-class



musicians, such as pianists Emanuel Ax, Marc-André Hamelin and Elisso Virsaladze, violists Paul Coletti and Paul Neubauer, violinist Noah Bendix-Balgley, vocalist Hila Plitmann and clarinetist David Shifrin.

The quartet achieved incredible success in their formative years, with an unbroken streak of top prizes. In addition to their career-defining achievement at the 2019 Banff International String Quartet Competition, where they were among the youngest First Prize winners in history, they also received the Grand Prize at the 2019 ENKOR International Music Competition and second prize at the 2019 Yellow Springs Chamber Music Competition. At the 2018 Wigmore Hall International String Quartet Competition they received Third Prize, the Haydn Prize for the best performance of a Haydn quartet, and the Sidney Griller Award for the best performance of the compulsory work, Thomas Ades' "The Four Quarters". They received the Silver Medal at the 2018 Fischoff National Chamber Music Competition and Third Prize at the 9th Osaka International Chamber Music Competition in 2017.

Since the Covid-19 pandemic started, the Viano String Quartet actively presented virtual and socially distanced live concerts for various organizations, including the Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival, Friends of Chamber Music of Troy, Salt Lake Chamber Music Society, Dallas Chamber Music Society, Schneider Series at the New School, and the Banff International String Quartet Festival. With their colleagues in the Calidore String Quartet, they presented a movement of the Mendelssohn Octet while distanced across countries in a film project "The Way Forward."

Committed to engaging with communities outside the concert hall, the Viano String Quartet has given presentations for school children and students of all ages through residencies in Bellingham, Washington—the "Play it Forward" residency, a collaboration



between the Bellingham Festival of Music and the Whatcom Symphony to reach school children in the northern Washington State area—Northern Michigan University, and the Santa Monica Conservatory. In 2019 they gave multiple performances of "Over the Top", a Musical Encounter Interactive presentation they scripted, developed and performed at the Colburn School for inner city school children.

The Vianos currently work primarily with faculty members of the Curtis Institute of Music, including the Dover Quartet, Shmuel Ashkenasi, Steven Tenenbom, and Peter Wiley. Their past mentors include Colburn Conservatory of Music faculty members Martin Beaver, Scott St. John, Clive Greensmith, Paul Coletti and Fabio Bidini. They have received coachings from artists such as David Finckel, Gary Hoffman, Arnold Steinhardt, Jean-Yves Thibaudet, and members of the Alban Berg, Brentano, Emerson, Miró, Shanghai, St. Lawrence, and Takács String Quartets. They have attended the Ravinia Steans Chamber Music Institute, the St. Lawrence String Quartet Seminar, the Festival d'Aix en Provence, the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, and the McGill International String Quartet Academy.

The name, "Viano," was created to describe the four individual instruments in a string quartet interacting as one. Each of the four instruments begins with the letter "v", and like a piano, all four string instruments together play both harmony and melody, creating a unified instrument called the "Viano."

HAO ZHOU, violin

Described by the Musical America as "personal, impassioned, courageous, and unostentatiously brilliant," American violinist Hao Zhou rose to international acclaim as both the Grand Laureate of the 2019 Montreal International Violin Competition and a First Prize winner of the 2019 Banff International String Quartet Competition. An accomplished soloist and chamber musician, Hao made his Carnegie Hall debut at the age of 12.



He made solo appearances with the Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal, Downey Symphony Orchestra, and Peninsula Symphony Orchestra alongside conductors such as Esa-Pekka Salonen, Alexander Shelley, and Thierry Fischer.

A founding member of the award-winning Viano String Quartet, Hao has also performed worldwide in venues including Konzerthaus Berlin, Izumi Hall, Place Flagey, and Wigmore Hall with such internationally distinguished artists as Emanuel Ax, Roberto Diaz, Noah Bendix-Balgley, Orion Weiss, and Marc André-Hamelin. He was invited to the Kronberg Academy Festival in 2019 and has spent past summers at the Ravinia's Steans Institute for Young Artists and the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival.

Currently, Hao is pursuing post-graduate studies at the Curtis Institute of Music with the Viano String Quartet as the Nina von Maltzahn Graduate String Quartet in Residence. He was the first recipient of the Frances Rosen Violin Prize at the Colburn Conservatory, where he studied with Martin Beaver and received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees.

Hao plays on a 1783 Joseph and Antonio Gagliano violin, on generous loan from the Aftergood Family.

LUCY WANG, violin

Canadian violinist Lucy Wang has garnered praise as an artist whose "technical prowess, tonal mastery and stage presence can come as no surprise to anyone who has seen her work," according to the Peace Arch News. She is a founding member of the Viano String Quartet, First Prize Laureates of the 2019 Banff International String Quartet Competition and the



current Graduate String Quartet-in-Residence at the Curtis Institute of Music, and has performed in venues, such as Walt Disney Concert Hall, Wigmore Hall, Izumi Hall, Carnegie Hall, and Konzerthaus Berlin.

A native of Vancouver, B.C., Lucy was featured on CBC Radio's List of "30 Hottest Classical Musicians Under 30." A prizewinner in numerous solo competitions, Lucy has soloed with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, Colburn Orchestra, and Philharmonic Northwest, under the batons of Gordon Gerrard, Bramwell Tovey, Otto Tausk, and Xian Zhang. She has collaborated in performance with artists such as Emanuel Ax, Marc-Andre Hamelin, James Ehnes, Paul Neubauer, David Shifrin, and Elisso Virsaladze.

During the early days of the pandemic, Lucy took initiative to continue reaching audiences virtually by sharing music on social media platforms, receiving nearly 50 million views and attracting over 500,000 followers worldwide. Lucy also presented over a hundred virtual and live socially distanced events with the Viano Quartet for organizations and festivals around the world, including the Bravo! Vail Music Festival, Deutschlandfunk Radio, and the Montreal Chamber Music Festival. Lucy has studied with Martin Beaver at the Colburn Conservatory, Carla Birston, and Gerald Stanick.

She performs on a 1715 Dominicus Montagnana violin, generously on loan from the Canada Council Instrument Bank.

AIDEN KANE, viola

American violist Aiden Kane is an award-winning musician and member of the Viano String Quartet. The ensemble won first prize at the 2019 Banff International String Quartet Competition, and has performed internationally in venues such as Die Glocke in Bremen and Wigmore Hall. Aiden is the former violist of the Calla Quartet, the Silver medalist at the 2015 Fischoff Chamber Music Competition. The Calla Quartet



helped launch the Colburn Conservatory's inaugural Musical Encounter Interactive program, where they performed for 1,500 elementary school children.

As a soloist, Aiden has been featured with the Frederick Symphony Orchestra and the National Philharmonic Orchestra. She has performed solo recitals at the Alden Theater's Young Artist Series and the Strathmore Mansion, sponsored by the Friday Morning Music Club. Aiden has participated in many festivals with the Viano Quartet, including the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, St. Lawrence String Quartet Seminar, McGill International String Quartet Academy, and Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival. Additionally, she has attended the Perlman Music Program's Chamber Music Workshop and Summer Music School, and Yellow Barn.

Currently, Aiden is a post-graduate student at the Curtis Institute of Music, as a member of the Nina von Maltzahn String Quartet-in-Residence. Prior to attending Curtis, she studied with the National Symphony Orchestra's principal violist Daniel Foster through the orchestra's Youth Fellowship Program, and then with Paul Coletti at the Colburn Conservatory of Music where she received a Bachelor's and two Master's degrees and (most importantly) an invitation to join the Vianos.



TATE ZAWADIUK, cello

Canadian cellist, Tate Zawadiuk is both an engaging soloist and founding member of the Viano String Quartet. The ensemble won first prize at the 2019 Banff International String Quartet Competition and has performed internationally in venues such as Wigmore Hall, Berlin Konzerthaus, Flagey, and Bremen Die Glocke. As a soloist, Tate has performed with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, the Calgary



Philharmonic Orchestra, the Vancouver Philharmonic, New Westminster Symphony, Richmond Symphony Orchestra, and Vancouver Youth Symphony Orchestra. He has collaborated with world renowned artists such as Emanuel Ax, James Ehnes, Marc-André Hamelin, Inon Barnatan, Clive Greensmith, Scott St. John, Noah Bendix-Balgley, Ida Kavafian, Steven Tenenbom, and Johannes Moser.

Tate has attended many festivals, including Ravinia's Steans Music Institute, Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, St. Lawrence String Quartet Seminar, McGill International String Quartet Academy, Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival, ENCORE Chamber Music Festival, and the Académie de Villecroze where he worked with Colin Carr. In 2016, Tate received an Award of Excellence from the National Youth Orchestra of Canada.

Currently, Tate is in his first year of post-graduate studies at the Curtis Institute of Music, as a member of the Nina von Maltzahn String Quartet-in-Residence. He holds both Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the Colburn Conservatory of Music, where he studied with Clive Greensmith and Ronald Leonard.

Tate plays on a 1701 David Tecchler on loan from David Kerr's Violin Shop in Portland, Oregon.

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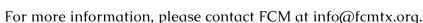
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