

Musical Program

The Erinys Quartet

Elizabeth Stewart, Violin
Joosep Reimaa, Violin
Marija Räisänen, Viola
Stergios Theodoridis, Cello

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

String Quartet No. 6 in B-flat Major, Op. 18, No. 6

- I. Allegro con brio
- II. Adagio ma non troppo
- III. Scherzo: Allegro
- IV. La Malinconia: Adagio – Allegretto quasi allegro

Béla Bartók (1881-1945)

String Quartet No. 3

- I. Prima parte: Moderato
- II. Seconda parte: Allegro
- III. Ricapitulazione della prima parte: Moderato
- IV. Coda: Allegro molto

INTERMISSION

Anton Webern (1883-1945)

Langsamer Satz

Leoš Janáček (1854-1928)

String Quartet No. 2 "Intimate Letters"

- I. Andante
- II. Adagio
- III. Moderato
- IV. Allegro

*Erinys Quartet appears by special arrangement with
Curtis Artist Management at the Curtis Institute of Music.*

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Presents

The Erinys Quartet String Quartets

Sunday, December 8, 2024



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Notes On Today's Concert

German composer and pianist **Ludwig van Beethoven** died almost 200 years ago but listeners to classical music radio stations or online streaming services are likely to hear his music daily. He was most influenced by Josef Haydn and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, but the trajectory of his career coincided with the transition from the Classical Period to the Romantic Period in Western classical music.

Beethoven's six Opus 18 string quartets were published in 1801, near the end of what critics have labeled his "early period." Other highlights of that period include his first two symphonies, eight piano sonatas, and two piano concertos.

Musicologist William Kinderman, in notes from the 1992 Guarneri Quartet CD of the Op. 18 quartets, said, "The opening *Allegro con brio* of the final quartet... shows a humorous spirit and lightness of tone. The delicately ornamented *Adagio ma non troppo* that follows shares with it a certain economy in form and expression. The most innovative and challenging movements of this work are the energetic, syncopated scherzo, and above all the finale, with its juxtaposition of radically contrasting material. The finale is a highly original conception that does not suggest the influence of Haydn or Mozart."

Béla Bartók was a Hungarian composer, pianist, and musicologist. He is considered one of the most important composers of the 20th century. Along with fellow Hungarian Zoltán Kodály, he traveled around rural areas in 1908 collecting Magyar and other folk melodies. Both composers incorporated elements of this folk music in their compositions.

Bartók wrote his six string quartets between 1909 and 1939, composing this third quartet in 1927. He submitted it to an international chamber music competition sponsored by the Musical Fund Society of Philadelphia, where it was awarded a top prize. The shortest of the six quartets, it is played as one continuous piece.

In program notes for the LA Philharmonic, Susan Key quoted this 1929 statement by musicologist Theodor Adorno: "What is decisive is the formative power of the work; the iron concentration, the wholly original tectonics." Key goes on to mention the "coloristic effects" Bartók employs: "glissando, pizzicato, mutes, tapping the strings with the bow, bowing near the fingerboard or the bridge, and strumming."

Austrian composer, conductor, and musicologist **Anton Webern** grew up in a musical family and studied musicology at the University of Vienna. He also studied composition with Arnold Schönberg. Webern and Schönberg, along with fellow composer Alban Berg, are known as "founding fathers" of the Second Viennese School, breaking from standard composition approaches to write music referred to as "atonal" or "12-tone."

It may be a relief, at least for some listeners, to know that *Langsamer Satz* ("Slow Movement") predates that period in Webern's career. Written in 1905, the piece, according to music publisher Edition Silvertrust, "was said to have been inspired by a hiking holiday in the mountains outside of Vienna that Webern took with his soon-to-be fiancée and later wife. He intended to write an entire quartet but put it aside after completing this one movement." They go on to describe it as "a highly charged work, clearly rooted in post-Brahmsian romanticism and tonality" and expressing "a plethora of emotions from yearning to dramatic turmoil to a tranquil peaceful denouement."

Notes (Continued)

Leoš Janáček was a Czech composer, organist, and folklorist who was greatly inspired by Moravian, Bohemian, and other Slavic music. Janáček developed a unique personal style that incorporated not only regional folk music but also melodies he derived from spoken languages. In addition to his chamber works, he composed many orchestral, choral, and keyboard works, as well as nine operas.

In 1917, Janáček met a much younger woman while he and his wife were on vacation. He became infatuated with the woman, Kamila Stösslová, who was also married, and while she apparently did not reciprocate his feelings, they exchanged hundreds of letters and she essentially functioned as his "muse" for the rest of his life.

Classical music blogger Alex Burns (classicalexburns.com) posted a piece on Janáček's String Quartet No. 2 ("Intimate Letters") in November 2021: "Famously telling the stories of their many letters, [the quartet] was premiered posthumously in September 1928, just one month after Janáček died. Not one movement of this quartet is in sonata form; instead Janáček takes the initial melody and harmony and juxtaposes, reverts, and combines them to create a musical smorgasbord that is as theatrical as it is musical." She also says, "It is generally accepted that the viola is the personification of Stösslová."

[Notes compiled by Jay Rodman from sources mentioned above and from Wikipedia.]

About The Erinyes Quartet

Named for the Erinyes (a.k.a. the Furies) from the Greek tragedy *Oresteia* by Aeschylus, and with roots in Estonia, Lithuania, Greece, the United States and Finland, the Erinyes Quartet was founded in 2018 at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki where they worked closely with cellist Marko Ylönen. Since Autumn 2023 Erinyes has been the Nina von Maltzahn String Quartet-in-Residence at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia.

The Erinyes Quartet has performed throughout Finland, the rest of Europe, and in the United States. They have been featured at festivals and concert series including Indiana University Summer Music Series, Mimir Chamber Music Festival, and Festival Groba in Pontearreas, Spain. They have also taken part in the inaugural Dover Quartet Workshop at the Curtis Institute of Music as well as the Professional String Quartet Seminar with the Pacifica Quartet and Atar Arad (Cleveland Quartet) at Indiana University.

At the Bad Tölz International String Quartet Competition in 2023 they were awarded the Audience Prize Award of the City of Bad Tölz, as well as the Esterházy Foundation Special Prize for best interpretation of a Haydn string quartet.

Since 2021 Erinyes Quartet has been supported by Le Dimore del Quartetto where they are also a part of the European Union-sponsored MERITA platform.

Exhibit Two Artists

Michelle D'Amour

"My oil paintings are mostly florals and fauna but in recent years I have painted waters from various sources, landscapes and desert cactus and vegetation. I like to get up close and personal with subjects."

Virginia Primozić

"Paper is my paint. I layer the unique textures, weights, and colors from an array of options - sheer lace paper from Japan, heavy bark paper from Mexico, and varieties in between. The process makes each canvas an experiment in technique and method."

Katie Thomas

"I have always had an interest in a wide variety of art forms. I have made quilts, spirit women, shaman and most recently, I have been creating mixed media pieces using beads and recycled jewelry."

LWren Walraven

"The wildlife that I portray are filtered through my own life experience in choice of color, expression, texture, and experimentation. Although the work is playful, I am laser focused on the fragility of wildlife and wild lands."

Art On Exhibit 11/1/2024 - 12/12/2024



Michelle D'Amour
Oil on Canvas



Virginia Primozić
Paper on Canvas



Katie Thomas
Mixed Media Art



LWren Walraven
Mixed Media Art