

KONTRAS QUARTET

A HISTORY OF THE STRING QUARTET

The string quartet is one of the most important genres of classical music, a medium that has excited and challenged most important composers from the past few centuries. String quartet music is heard in prestigious concert halls and in living rooms. It is called up to entertain country leaders, but is also enjoyed by the most unsophisticated of audiences.

When, where, and how did the remarkable journey of the string quartet begin? Why did it become so popular? We answer these and many other questions during our highly entertaining and informative program, *A History of the String Quartet*.

Our unique *History of the String Quartet* program prefaces each work or excerpt by a brief introduction by one of the members of the Kontras Quartet. The program, which can be tailored to any type of audience, delivers a satisfying blend of music by the great string quartet composers, and by composers from each of our home countries. For instance, audiences might hear how African ethnic folk music has been incorporated into the string quartet format; learn how Mendelssohn was influenced by his predecessors; or learn about the unique place that string quartet repertoire (and classical music in general) occupies in modern Japanese culture.

Tour three centuries of string quartet repertoire with us, explore the evolution of the genre, and enjoy musical selections ranging from Telemann to television, and everything in between.

SAMPLE PROGRAM

Introduction to Georg Telemann (1681 - 1767) Dmitri Pogorelov
Quartetto in A Major, TWV 43:A6 G. Telemann
Introduction to F. J. Haydn (1732 - 1809) Dmitri Pogorelov
String Quartet in D Major, Op. 64 No. 5 "The Lark" F. J. Haydn
Introduction to W. A. Mozart (1756 - 1791) Jean Hatmaker
String Quartet No. 21 in D Major, K. 575 W. A. Mozart
Introduction to L. van Beethoven (1770 - 1827) Ai Ishida
String Quartet No. 11 in F Minor, Op. 95 "Serioso" L. van Beethoven
Introduction to F. Mendelssohn (1809 - 1847) François Henkins
Scherzo in A Minor, Op. 81 No. 2 F. Mendelssohn

Intermission

Introduction to Claude Debussy (1862 - 1918) Jean Hatmaker
String Quartet in G Minor, Op. 10 C. Debussy
Introduction to Igor Stravinsky (1882 - 1971) Dmitri Pogorelov
Three Pieces for String Quartet I. Stravinsky
Introduction to Mokale Koapeng (1963 -) François Henkins
Komeng M. Koapeng
Introduction to Dan Visconti (1982 -) Jean Hatmaker
Ramshackle Songs D. Visconti
Introduction to Joe Hisaishi (1950 -) Ai Ishida
G Minor, from the film "Quartet" J. Hisaishi