

**Debussy String Quartet
2011-2012 Tour Programs**

A Day in France

This program of French and Belgian composers from the 20th century, features Guillaume Lekeu's Quartet in 6 movements, the major work on the quartet's soon to be released CD dedicated to Lekeu. This program will also give an insight of the French "Les Six", with the first quartet by Germaine Tailleferre, and include a touch of impressionist art from either Ravel's or Debussy's quartet.

Germaine Tailleferre, String Quartet n°1
Maurice Ravel or Claude Debussy, String Quartet
Guillaume Lekeu, String Quartet in 6 parts (*)

Land of Passion

This program illuminates the very romantic nature of French music from the turn of the century. Debussy's or Ravel's Quartets are very intimate and sensitive, the *Molto Adagio* and the meditation by Guillaume Lekeu (*) show great passion and intensity mixed with either despair or contemplation of the world, whereas Lalo's string quartet is fiercely fiery and heroic.

Guillaume Lekeu, *Meditation* or *Molto Adagio* (*)
Maurice Ravel or Claude Debussy, String Quartet
Edouard Lalo, String Quartet

Classical Standards

A gorgeous program that rediscovers the essence of the string quartet form and sees it bloom. Haydn is the basis: His op.20, #4 presents the nature of sound, and demonstrates with complete sincerity the essence of both the delicacy and the power through this as yet unknown ensemble, the String Quartet.

This formation then wins his spurs thanks to Beethoven; the *Serioso* quartet shows how deep and powerful the quartet format can become. Of course, as later Ravel and Debussy change the fundamentals of music, their string quartets are bound to present the highly magnified colourings of intimate masterpieces, whereas Borodin, in his second String Quartet chooses to favor old traditional music from his country, enhancing it with a bright painting of a joyous yet passionate story.

Haydn, Quartet op.20, #4
Ravel OR Debussy 's Quartet, OR Borodin's String Quartet #2
Beethoven, Quartet op.95, *Serioso*

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Wolfgang's Universe

This program explores Mozart's world, composition, mood, and destiny. Opening with the 15 year-old Mozart, his Divertimento K. 138 is a funny, entertaining and fast-paced piece. Looking at Mozart's interactions with many composers at the end of the 18th century is a great adventure. "It was from Haydn that I first learned the true way to write string quartets," wrote Mozart, and the quartet op.20, # 4 from Haydn, vivacious, thoughtful, natural, was one of the quartets that inspired him. The mature Mozart, is heard through the Requiem he could not finish. It was completed by Franz Xaver Süßmayr, then transcribed by Peter Lichtenthal early 1800 at the request of Mozart's son Karl Mozart. The transcription features the writing for four parts through the original requiem and possessing enough variety of sounds and resources to evoke a full orchestra, while fitting in a salon setting that enabled the performance of the work throughout Europe.

It is this version, slightly re-edited by the Debussy Quartet, featured on the Debussy's widely acclaimed recording, that concludes the tour of Mozart's universe.

Mozart, divertimento K. 138
Haydn, quartet op.20, #4
Mozart, Requiem, transcription P. Lichtenthal

Slavonic Soul

This program features three of the most amazing Russian composers. Borodin, in his second String Quartet, chooses to favor old traditional music from his country, enhancing it with a bright painting of a joyous yet passionate story, whereas Shostakovitch gives the listener an insight into the harshness of the land and the warmth of its inhabitants through his 11th quartet composed to the memory of the 2nd violinist of the Beethoven Quartet, dedicatee of most of Shostakovitch's quartets.

Tchaikovsky, the great "classic" among the Russian composers, shows with his 3rd quartet such humanity, passion, sadness, that the listener is often shocked and enlightened by the power of those sounds.

Shostakovitch, Quartet n°11
Borodine, Quartet n°2
Tchaikovsky, Quartet n°3

(* work included in the newest CD by the Debussy Quartet, to be released in 2011)