

Fry Street Quartet

Touring Programs for '18-'19

Program I – Triumph over Tragedy

-Beethoven Quartet in a minor, Op.132

Intermission

-Bartok Quartet No.1

Both works in this captivating program depict intense struggle with and ultimate victory over personal tragedy. The central essence of Beethoven's Op.132 is a heartfelt thanks to God for recovering from a near-fatal illness, while Bartok's early *First Quartet* initially depicts the intense sadness of unrequited love, and eventually transforms into a work of great energy and joy.

Program II – Decadence and Affirmation

-Anton Webern Langsamer Satz

-Alfred Schnittke Quartet #3

Intermission

-Beethoven Quartet in E-flat, Op.127

The first half of this program features works of Webern and Schnittke that depict nostalgia for and the crumbling of older musical languages, while the second half represents the most positive, life-affirming expression of humanity that classical music has to offer.

Program III – Czech Masters

-Viktor Ullmann Quartet #3 (1942)

-Leos Janacek Quartet #1, 'Kreutzer Sonata'

Intermission

-Smetana Quartet #1, 'From My Life'

Artist Management

This program of Czech music brings together three very personal works. Ullmann's spellbinding *Third Quartet*, written in the Theresienstadt concentration camp, is set next to Janacek's musical depiction of Tolstoy's novella about intense jealousy and revenge, *The Kreutzer Sonata*, and Smetana's very romantic, autobiographical *First Quartet*.

Program IV – The Spiritual String Quartet

-Jennifer Higdon *Amazing Grace*

-Britten *Quartet No.3*

I n t e r m i s s i o n

-Beethoven *Quartet in a minor, Op.132*

This program of spiritual quartet music opens with Higdon's moving arrangement of *Amazing Grace*. Britten's *Third Quartet* was also his last completed work, composed while he was very ill and clearly contemplating the profound notion of life and death, while the central essence of Beethoven's Op.132 is a heartfelt thanks to God for recovering from a near-fatal illness.

Program V – American women composers

-Laura Kaminsky *Rising Tide* (2012, FSQ commission)

-Amy Beach *Quartet, Op.89* (1929)

I n t e r m i s s i o n

-Libby Larsen *Emergence* (2015, FSQ commission)

-Joan Tower *Quartet No.1, Nightfields* (1994)

A mix-and-match program is also possible, subject to artist approval.