



WHITE ROCK
CONCERTS

ST. PETERSBURG STRING QUARTET

ALLA ARANOVSKAYA - 1ST VIOLIN

ALLA KROLEVICH - 2ND VIOLIN

BORIS VAYNER - VIOLA

LEONID SHUKAYEV - CELLO

NOVEMBER 7, 2008

St. Petersburg String Quartet



The St. Petersburg Quartet is unquestionably one of the world's great chamber ensembles. Their rise to fame has included a Grammy nomination, "Best Record" honors in both *Stereo Review* and *Gramophone*, an opening night performance at *Mostly Mozart* at Lincoln Center, a five-year residency at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, and hundreds of concerts on many of North America, Europe and Asia's most prestigious series and festivals. They opened the 2007-08 Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center quartet series (the *New York Times* praised their "sumptuous account of Tchaikovsky's Quartet No.1"), and performed with violist Michael Tree of the Guarneri Quartet at the Library of Congress. The *Washington Post* hailed the quartet's "impassioned performance... unassailable technique and intonation... an astonishingly calibrated range of voicings and dynamics... luscious tonal blend and phrasing that surged with ardor... breathtaking assurance and laugh-out-loud wit." *Strings Magazine* wrote: "At every turn, the quartet seems to find something illuminating. Nothing is routine, nothing taken for granted, and yet it all sounds magically spontaneous."

Over the course of its stellar career, the St. Petersburg Quartet has blazed a trail through chamber music circles, winning numerous prestigious international competitions including 1st Prize at the All-Soviet Union String Quartet Competition; Silver Medal and a Special Prize at the Tokyo International Chamber Music Competition, 1st Prize and both Special Prizes at the Vittorio Gui International Competition for Chamber Ensembles in Florence, Italy, and First Prize and the "Grand Prix Musica Viva" at the Melbourne, Australia International Chamber Music Competition.

Antonin Dvorak

String Quartet No.10 in E flat major, Op.51

The later 19th century brought an increasing consciousness of national identity to various ethnic groups in Europe. Under the Hapsburg regime, the Czechs struggled to keep their national identity and although German was the official language under this regime, they remained obstinately Czech. Dvořák, born in a Bohemian village, where his father was an innkeeper and butcher, emerged as the leading exponent of Czech musical nationalism, yet - as clearly shown in this quartet - remaining firmly within the classical traditions of Central Europe.



2007 Canadian Arts Presenter of the Year

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message from the artistic director

Hello, friends! I'm back [again] wearing my other hat, this time. I certainly welcomed the opportunity to greet you all from the playing side of the stage last month. It meant a great deal to me to be able to launch our 08-09 season...and what a season it is!

Unfortunately, I am away for this concert by the St. Petersburg Quartet, but I look forward to seeing you all again at the stellar events in the New Year - Canadian Brass, Chanticleer, James Ehnes and Angela Cheng.

For 09-10, White Rock Concerts continues its key role in anchoring important B.C. tours. In September, 09 we will bring the MANITOBA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA - with that extraordinary percussion soloist, DAME EVELYN GLENNIE. As a result, they are also appearing in Kelowna, Trail, Mission, Vancouver [at the Chan Centre!] and Whitehorse.

Our November, 09 artist will be Baritone RUSSELL BRAUN. With our date as an anchor, Sechelt, Abbotsford, Salt Spring, Whitehorse, Kelowna, Prince George, Burns Lake, Mission, Vernon, Trail and West Vancouver will all join in presenting him.

In January, 2010 we will present the TOKYO STRING QUARTET, and they also go to Kelowna, Salt Spring and Sechelt. It's another coup for White Rock - here's a group that is accustomed to spending its touring career in New York, Paris, London, Milan, Zurich - and of course Tokyo! As with Ben Heppner before them, we were able to persuade them to devote time in their hectic schedule for the smaller venues in British Columbia. February, 2010 will be another triumph when we present the fabled VIENNA CHOIR BOYS, and our season will conclude with our annual Winter Winds and a solo pianist, yet to be named.

And even while we are busily wrapping up plans for 09-10, we are already looking for feature attractions for 2010-11! So, if you stay tuned, before long the White Rock Concerts 'time machine' will be giving you a musical glance well into the future.

George Zukerman

Franz Joseph Haydn
(1732-1809)

Quartet in F minor, Op.20 no.5
Moderato
Menuet
Adagio
Finale: Fuga a due soggetti

Alexander Borodin
(1833-1887)

Nocturne. Andante (from Quartet No.2)

Dmitri Shostakovich
(1906-1975)

Quartet No.7 in F sharp minor, Op.108
Allegretto
Lento
Allegro

Intermission

Antonin Dvořák
(1841-1904)

String Quartet No.10 in E flat major, Op.51
Allegro ma non troppo
Dumka. Andante con moto
Romanze. Andante con moto
Finale. Allegro assai

The St. Petersburg String Quartet appears by arrangement
with Lisa Sapinkopf Artists, www.chambermuse.com

Franz Joseph Haydn

Quartet in F minor, Op.20 no.5 428

Early in his career Haydn wrote two dozen string quartets, which he entitled "Divertimenti." They were similar in structure to many countless works by Haydn's contemporaries. In 1772, however, Haydn composed a set of six quartets which, at a stroke, redefined the form and initiated the modern concept of the string quartet as musical expression at the highest level. Published as Opus 20, their advanced nature was quickly recognized by musicians of the time, who referred to them as "the Great Quartets." The Quartet in F minor, Op. 20, No. 5 is a splendid example of Haydn's pre-romantic "Sturm und Drang" ("storm and stress") style.

Alexander Borodin

Nocturne, (from Quartet No.2)

Alexander Porfirievitch Borodin was one of Russia's leading researchers and teachers in chemistry and medicine and accurately labeled himself a "Sunday composer." [He once wrote "In winter, I can only compose when I am too unwell to give lectures. So never say to me, 'I hope you are well,' but 'I do hope you are ill.'"]

In June of 1881, Borodin was able to enjoy a long overdue holiday with his family. It was a rare period when he could compose uninterruptedly. It was in the idyllic summer setting at the village of Zhitovo, during this break from his official routine, that he completed his String Quartet No. 2. The Nocturne will be forever linked with the 1953 Broadway musical *Kismet*.

Dmitri Shostakovich

Quartet No.7 in F sharp minor, Op.108

Shostakovich's Seventh Quartet was completed in March 1960. It is the shortest of the 15 quartets, and it explores aspects of quartet-writing not encountered in other of his works. It is in three movements, which are played without pause, but the finale is in two distinctly different parts. The work is dedicated to the memory of his first wife, Nina, who had died in 1954, and who, had she lived, would have celebrated her fiftieth birthday in 1960.

message from the president

Well, how time flies when you are having fun. Our reign as the Canadian Arts Presenter of the Year is coming to an end at this weekend's CAPACOA convention in Ottawa, which I am attending. Unfortunately, the rules preclude an encore performance.

Reflecting upon that honour reminds me that this artistic jewel is a group effort - by all of us as members and by our Artistic Director and by our Board. And it is an all-volunteer effort, making what we do all the more miraculous and all the more satisfying.

I think of us as a big extended family (of 805 members!) and of the Board as a close-knit nuclear family, sharing the joys of achievement and sometimes, regrettably, the sorrow of loss.

But not only are we fortunate to add new vigour and energy, in the form of new Board members, from time to time, we have the invaluable assistance of many other members volunteering to help us with many important tasks such as membership renewals. Because, after all, this is your society, our society.

So if you have an interest in helping out from time to time, do let me know, because, as the Godfather said, "One day, and that day may never come, I may ask a favour of you...".

Rick Gambrel
President, White Rock Concerts



Our Next Concert
Canadian Brass
Friday, January 16, 2009

The Handel Society presents

SATURDAY DECEMBER 6, 2008, 7:30pm

Vivaldi : Magnificat

Charpentier : Messe de Minuit de Noël

Saint Saëns : Oratorio de Noël

**Orchestra and choir conducted
by Johan Louwersheimer**

soloists:

Julie Deurichen *soprano*

Kresha Faber *soprano*

Vanessa Acuto *mezzo soprano*

John Arsenault *tenor*

Jeremy Ludwig *baritone*

Mark deSilva *bass*



Good Shepherd Church

2250 150th Street, South Surrey

Tickets \$20 / \$15 Senior/Student, available from:

The Country Mailbox Stationery Ltd.
12905 16th Avenue, Ocean Park

Tapestry Music
1345 Johnston Road, White Rock

Keith Ridge Men's Apparel Ltd.
Semiahmoo Shopping Centre

Long & McQuade (Ward Music)
350-6339 200th Street, Langley

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