CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL 2023

22ND SEASON



Dover Quartet & Friends

Saturday, March 18, 2023

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The Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival is nationally recognized as one of the foremost music events of its kind. The Festival is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt organization under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

PROGRAM

March 18, 2023

DOVER QUARTET & FRIENDS

Joel Link, violin Bryan Lee, violin Hezekiah Leung, viola Camden Shaw, cello

with

Elissa Lee Koljonen, violin Roberto Díaz, viola

Duo for Violin and Viola No. 1 in G major, K. 423

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART

(1756 - 1791)

(1841 - 1904)

Allegro Adagio Rondeau: Allegro

Quartet No. 10 in E-flat major, Op. 87

Allegro ma non troppo Dumka (Elegie): Andante con moto - Vivace - Andante con moto - Presto Romanze: Andante con moto

INTERMISSION

String Quintet No. 2 in B-flat major, Op. 87

Finale: Allegro assai

Allegro vivace Andante Scherzando Adagio e lento Allegro molto vivace

> The Dover Quartet appears by arrangement with the Curtis Institute of Music, where it serves as the Penelope P. Watkins Ensemble in Residence. www.doverquartet.com Roberto Díaz appears by arrangement with the Curtis Institute of Music, and Elissa Lee Koljonen appears by arrangement with the Curtis Institute of Music.

> > *Program subject to change

FELIX MENDELSSOHN

(1809 - 1847)

ANTONÍN DVOŘÁK

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART Duo for Violin and Viola No. 1 in G major, K. 423

"The music of Mozart is of such purity and beauty that one feels he merely found it – that it always existed as part of the inner beauty of the universe waiting to be revealed." — Albert Einstein

 \mathbf{T} he description of six-yearold Mozart given by Count Karl von Zinzendorf, a high ranking official in the Hapsburg court, was "The poor little fellow plays marvelously, he is a child of spirit, lively, charming..." Leopold Mozart's six-year-old son, Wolfgang, and his tenyear-old daughter, Maria Anna known as Nannerl, were taken

to perform in Munich and Vienna. While performing at Schönbrunn for the Austrian Hapsburg empress Maria Theresa, the young Wolfgang broke proper protocol spontaneously kissing the empress. (This trait of disregarding proper social distances remained throughout his life.) Only a year earlier, at age five, Mozart was playing violin, keyboard, and composing simple pieces. At age eight he wrote his first symphony and his first opera at age fourteen. By the end of his short thirty-five years, he had composed masterworks for almost every genre. Always composing with rapid speed and with the uncanny ability to compose anywhere, he once produced twelve horn duets while bowling. During his short thirty-five years, he amazingly composed over 600 pieces many of which were penned in his teen years.

In 1769 the thirteen-year-old Mozart was employed by the Archbishop of Salzburg, Hieronymous Colloredo, to be the concertmaster of the orchestra and court organist. The once charming little boy was now described as being



difficult, impudent, unpleasant and crude. He had little patience with those who could not meet his exceedingly high musical standards and he recoiled at being considered a common employee or house musician. Mozart preferred to concentrate on composing and was constantly requesting leave in order to perform concerts. The tense relationship between the

archbishop and the composer ended in May 1781. Mozart wrote to his father, "I am no longer so unfortunate as to be in Salzburg's services -today was that happy day for me." Vienna would now be where the young genius would perform, compose and teach.

It was not until 1783 that Mozart returned to Salzburg. It was a stressful visit as Mozart was introducing his new wife, Constanze, to his father and there were fears that the archbishop might have him arrested. The new court music director employed by Archbishop Colloredo was Michael Haydn, the younger brother of composer and friend Joseph Haydn. The archbishop had commissioned Michael Haydn to compose a set of six duos for violin and viola. Four were completed when the younger Haydn became seriously ill and unable to work. An impatient Colloredo threatened to withhold his salary until all were completed. Learning of his friend's situation, Mozart offered to secretly write the remaining two duos. The G and B-flat major duos were passed off as having been written by Haydn. These

two duos were praised more highly than the other four. Certainly, Mozart must have enjoyed his former employer never being the wiser and never discovering the ruse.

Mozart commanded both instruments, but preferred the viola as it was always his instrument of choice when he performed in small ensembles. Normally, the viola plays a supporting role but here the two instruments are equal partners. The first movement, the Allegro, is written in 4/4 and conveys a lively, playful conversation between the violin and the viola. One picks up where the other leaves off creating a delightful interchange. The second movement, the Adagio, is introspective and slow. It sings quietly in the key of C major and moves gently in 3/4. The contrasting *Rondeau* returns to G major and is set in cut time, or 2/2. The tempo and mood intensify. The two instruments trade melodic phrases and for a brief period G major becomes G minor. Solidly back in

G major, the two instruments land on the final chords of an authentic cadence.

One critic describing the G major duo said, "There is a surprising equality to the violin and viola parts, which gives a completeness to the sense of dialogue between the two instruments. Even in a light work such as this, the operatic Mozart's ability to flesh out whole characters in pure musical conversation shines very clearly."

Often written in letters to his father, Mozart reveals his feelings about music. In 1778 he said, "You know that I am literally stuck in music - it occupies my whole day - that I love speculation, studying and reflecting." On September 26, 1781, he wrote, "Music should never be painful to the ear but should flatter and charm it." Sadly, this musical genius died on December 5, 1791. At the time of his death, he was composing a Requiem which had been commissioned by an Austrian aristocrat whose young wife had died.

ANTONÍN DVOŘÁK String Quartet in E-flat major, Op. 51

"Decidedly he [Dvořák] is a very talented man. Besides, he is poor. Please take this into consideration." — Johannes Brahms writing to his publisher, Fritz Simrock

C omposer Antonín Dvořák's life changed dramatically when Johannes Brahms reluctantly agreed to sit on a competition jury that awarded financial support to talented, needy composers. Brahms, who was not known for his encouragement of young, new talent was said to have been "visibility overcome" by the "mastery and talent" of a young Czech composer

named Dvořák. In a letter written to his own publisher, Fritz Simrock of Berlin, Brahms wrote:

"In connection with the State Scholarships, I have been receiving a lot of pleasure for several years past from the work of Antonín Dvořák of Prague.... Dvořák has written all kinds of things, operas (Czech), symphonies, quartets, piano pieces. He is certainly a very talented fellow. And incidentally, poor! I beg you to consider that...I know nothing about business...nor

am I fond of making recommendations, for after all I have only my own eyes and ears to go by."

Brahms not only strongly promoted Dvořák's work, but the two composers became friends. The older composer mentored Dvořák and later served as his copy editor and proofreader.

Dvořák was born in Nelahozeves, Bohemia on September 8, 1841. His father was an innkeeper and a butcher. He also was a performing member of a village band playing violin and zither. The young Dvořák, surrounded by the music of his countryside, was encouraged to learn violin and soon entertained his father's clients with local dance tunes. He said about his upbringing, "Every child must learn music and if possible, sing in the church. After church the people revel in music and dancing, sometimes until the early morning." At age sixteen he studied at the Organ School in Prague and earned a living by playing in a small band that strolled from café to café. He had little money and often went hungry. He described those years as filled with "hard study, occasional composing, much revision, a great deal of thinking, and very little eating." In 1873, he became the organist of the St. Adalbert Church and married his pupil Anna Cermáková. Of that time, he said, "I ate less and gave more lessons."

With the support and recommendations from Brahms and the powerful critic Eduard Hanslick, the hungry composer was now tasting success. With the urging of Brahms, Fritz Simrock commissioned the young Czech composer. The outcome was a most successful publication of Dvořák's *Slavonic Dances*. This generated more demands from other publishers, conductors, chamber music ensembles, choral societies and soloists.

The *E-flat String Quartet*, *Op. 51* had its beginnings on Christmas Day, 1878. The Quartet had been requested by Jean Becker, a member of the Florentine Quartet. Normally known for

his rapid output, this work took three months to complete as a result of the growing demands for Dvořák's music. The first actual performance of the *E-flat String Quartet* was in the private home of the celebrated violinist Joseph Joachim. He and his quartet played it on July 29, 1879, in Berlin. The public debut occurred when Jean Becker and the Florentine Quartet performed it on their tour of Switzerland.

This quintessential Bohemian composer begins his "Slavonic" quartet steeped in the sounds of his Czech roots. The serene first movement's main theme uses dance-like figures and resembles a polka. The second theme is introduced by the viola. The short, simple phrases have a folk song-like quality and maintain the polka-like rhythm. The second movement is a Dumka. A dumka, a traditional Slavic folk ballad which frequently described heroic deeds, is traditionally slow, meditative, and can contain a fast, lively section. Dvořák's is a combination of alternating sections. It is mostly slow and introspective with a faster, "saucy" dancing interlude. A slight pause followed by gentle strumming in the cello brings a return of the sad, melancholy lament. The sadness and slow tempo disappear, and a brighter, faster dance-like tempo end the movement in the key of G minor. Quoting Otakar Sourek, the composer's biographer, The Romanze is "one of the pearls of Dvořák's intimate lyrics, a movement of bewitching variety of mood, whose expressive and formal transparency reflect the composer's fertility of invention and mastery of the compositional art." The last movement is based on the fast, boisterous Bohemian reel dance known as the *skačna*. Beginning slowly and playfully, it gives way to a lively, fast tempo bringing the delightful Quartet to an exuberant close.

Quoting author and music critic Ted Libbey, "Dvořák knew only one way to compose: from the heart."

FELIX MENDELSSOHN String Quintet in B-flat major, Op. 87

"These, too, seem to me so ambitious, so vague, so easily misunderstood in comparison to genuine music, which fills the soul with a thousand things better than words." — Felix Mendelssohn

B iographer W. Francis Gates described Felix Mendelssohn as being "a well-balanced man, and a man of few idiosyncrasies or unpleasant peculiarities. Scholarly and refined, he was in every sense a gentleman. He, like Mozart and others, composed mentally, did all the drudgery of composition in his head, even to the details of orchestration, and left nothing



to experiment on paper or at piano." This multi-talented, busy musician juggled many obligations in London, Berlin, and Leipzig. By the time he was thirty years old he had already achieved amazing musical success. He was the conductor of the Leipzig Gewandhaus, had revived Johann Sebastian Bach's choral and orchestral music, had made five successful concert tours to London as a conductor and concert pianist, and had written and published two acclaimed symphonies, an oratorio, two piano concertos, five string quartets and eighteen *Songs Without Words*.

He was happily married and was in demand throughout Europe. He founded the Leipzig Conservatory in 1843 and taught piano and composition there alongside faculty that included Ignaz Moscheles and Robert Schumann. By the end of 1844 with his exhaustion growing, he began to show the first signs of his declining health. His family convinced him to take a long sabbatical in Frankfurt which was near a favorite spot for composing, the resort town of Bad Soden. It was here that he composed his second Piano Trio and his second String Quintet. Mendelssohn, independently wealthy, was in no hurry to publish his music. He was known for his obsessive propensity for making cuts and revisions up to the last minute before a work was printed and he was not pleased with the Quintet's finale. He told

Moscheles that he considered the finale "not good" and made no attempt to have the Quintet published. Mendelssohn told contemporary J.C. Lobe that often he would make himself finish a piece regardless of his disappointment with it. "Though not an artwork in the highest sense, it is still an exercise in forms and the representation of ideas. Here you have the reason why I have written so many compositions which have not and never should be printed." At Mendelssohn's death there were some two hundred and fifty unpublished works.

The *String Quintet in B-flat major* was published posthumously in 1851, three years after Mendelssohn's death. It was edited by Julius Rietz, the brother of Eduard Rietz. Eduard Rietz was Mendelssohn's violin teacher and the dedicatee of his Octet.

The first movement is the longest of the four movements. The *Allegro vivace* begins and is filled with tremolos. Containing two contrasting themes, it is exuberant and energetic. The second movement is slower than usual and fluctuates between major and minor. The delicate, elf-ish *Andante Scherzando*, is set in 6/8 time rather than the usual 3/4 time signature. Pizzicato and staccato markings playfully allow the music to magically and delicately flit along. The slow movement, the Adagio, is exquisitely passionate and filled with dramatic harmonies. Suddenly breaking the spell of pathos, the

Allegro molto vivace begins forte with the first beat a jolting, strong dotted eighth note in all four instruments. The finale has three themes. The first is vigorous, the second lyrical, and the third theme uses six chromatically descending quarter notes. This final movement drives, pushes, and energetically swirls to a powerful ending.

— Emma Mills Bledsoe, 2023

ABOUT THE PERFORMERS

DOVER QUARTET

"...the Dover Quartet players have it in them to become the next Guarneri String Quartet – they're that good." — The Chicago Tribune

N amed one of the greatest string quartets of the last 100 years by BBC Music Magazine, the GRAMMY® nominated Dover Quartet

has followed a "practically meteoric" (Strings) trajectory to become one of the most in-demand chamber ensembles in the world. In addition to its faculty role as the Penelope P. Watkins Ensemble in Residence at the Curtis Institute of Music. the Dover Quartet holds residencies with the Kennedy Center, Bienen School of Music at Northwestern University, Artosphere, and



the Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival. The group's awards include a stunning sweep of all prizes at the 2013 Banff International String Quartet Competition, grand and first prizes at the Fischoff Chamber Music Competition, and prizes at the Wigmore Hall International String Quartet Competition. Its prestigious honors include the Avery Fisher Career Grant, Chamber Music America's Cleveland Quartet Award, and

> Lincoln Center's Hunt Family Award.

The Dover Ouartet's 2022–23 season includes collaborations with Edgar Meyer, Joseph Conyers, and Haochen Zhang. group tours Europe The twice, including a return to London's renowned Wigmore Hall and a debut performance in Copenhagen. The quartet recently premiered Steven Mackey's theatrical-musical work Memoir, alongside arx duo and

actor-narrator Natalie Christa. Other recent and upcoming artist collaborations include Emanuel Ax, Inon Barnaton, Ray Chen, the Escher String Quartet, Bridget Kibbey, Anthony McGill, the Pavel Haas Quartet,Roomful of Teeth, the late Peter Serkin, and Davóne Tines.

ABOUT THE PERFORMERS (continued)



ELISSA LEE KOLJONEN

"...Her phrasing was thoughtful, and her interpretation lit up with sparks of her own personality...genuine, unexaggerated warmth of expression." — The Cincinnati Enquirer

R ecognized as one of the most celebrated violinists of her generation, Elissa Lee Koljonen has thrilled audiences and critics in over one hundred cities throughout the world. Ms. Koljonen initially received international acclaim when she became the first recipient of the prestigious Henryk Szeryng Foundation Award and silver medalist of the Carl Flesch International Violin Competition. Her playing has been hailed by the Helsingin Sanomat (Helsinki) as "sparkling, sensual and personal." Dan Tucker of the Chicago Tribune has written that "she displayed boundless technique and musicianship."

Ms. Koljonen has performed in some of the world's most important venues, including the Musikverein in Vienna, the Mozarteum in Salzburg, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Barbican Centre in London, the Konzerthaus in Berlin, the Seoul Arts Center, the Symphony Hall in Boston, and the Academy of Music and Kimmel Center in Philadelphia. Also an avid chamber musician, Ms. Koljonen appears regularly at festivals throughout North America, Europe and Asia.



ROBERTO DÍAZ

"... put the viola in the hands of Roberto Díaz and any preconceptions evaporate within several measures ... "— Washington Post

Aviolist of international reputation, Roberto Díaz is president and CEO of the Curtis Institute of Music, following in the footsteps of renowned soloist/directors such as Josef Hofmann, Efrem Zimbalist, and Rudolf Serkin. As a teacher of viola at Curtis and former principal viola of the Philadelphia Orchestra, Mr. Díaz has already had a significant impact on American musical life and continues to do so in his dual roles as performer and educator.

As a soloist, Mr. Díaz collaborates with leading conductors of our time on stages throughout North and South America, Europe, and Asia. He has also worked directly with important 20th- and 21st-century composers, including Krzysztof Penderecki—whose viola concerto he has performed many times with the composer on the podium and whose double concerto he premiered in the United States as well as Edison Denisov, Jennifer Higdon, Ricardo Lorenz, and Roberto Sierra. His recording of Jennifer Higdon's Viola Concerto won the Grammy for Best Contemporary Classical Composition in 2018.

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The Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival is a volunteer-driven organization with a small staff. The Festival would not exist without the skills, hard work and dedication of many volunteers. This is why we need your help.

To learn more and to sign up to become a volunteer please visit: https://ameliachambermusic.org/volunteer-opportunities/ A heartfelt **THANK YOU** to all of our Sponsors, Contributors, Volunteers, Partners and Patrons for a wonderful 22nd Season. Without you the AICMF could not exist.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Saturday, April 1, 2023	Daniil Trifonov 7:30 pm Amelia Plantation Chapel
Saturday, April 15, 2023	Meet the Artist - Julie Coucheron7:30 pmStory & Song Bookstore Bistro
Sunday, April 16, 2023	Beer & G-Strings – Oslo-e-Mio! 5:00 pm Sadler Ranch
Friday, April 28, 2023	Harlem String Quartet 5:30 pm St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Saturday, May 13, 2023	Lisa Kelly & JB Scott Jazz Sextet 1:00 pm Fernandina Beach Municipal Airport
Saturday, June 3, 2023	Christopher Rex Spring Institute Final Concert 5:00 pm St. Peter's Episcopal Church

*Times and venues are subject to change. For tickets and more information please visit www.aicmf.org