



Summer Schubertiade Saturday July 29, 2016 7.30pm
St Andrew's Episcopal Church, Saratoga

Welcome to the first of two concerts in the **Cal Arte Ensemble's** Summer Schubertiade, each featuring one of Schubert's greatest chamber works along with other gems from the chamber repertoire.

Julian Brown (violin)
Yong-Zi Ma (cello)
Tamami Honma (piano)

Three Sonatas for Keyboard by Domenico Scarlatti

Sonata in D major K. 96: *Allegrissimo*

Sonata in B minor K. 87: (No marking indicated)

Sonata in E major K. 380: *Andante comodo*

Born in the same year as Bach and Handel - 1685 - the Italian composer Domenico Scarlatti wrote at least 555 keyboard sonatas, highly regarded for having extended the boundaries of the instrument's virtuosity and for their daring harmonic dissonances. Scarlatti lived and worked originally in Italy including a stint for several years at the Vatican before he ventured forth to the royal courts of Portugal and Spain. His sonatas, for which he is most famous, each consist of a single movement and are often laced with the festivities of the Spanish court. In his biography of Scarlatti, Ralph Kirkpatrick sums up these extraordinary works thus:

"This music ranges from the courtly to the savage, from an almost saccharine urbanity to an acrid violence. Its gaiety is all the more intense for an undertone of tragedy. Its moments of meditative melancholy are at times overwhelmed by a surge of extrovert operatic passion. Most particularly he has expressed that part of his life which was lived in Spain. There is hardly an aspect of Spanish life, of Spanish popular music and dance, that has not found itself a place in the microcosm that Scarlatti created with his sonatas."

Sonata for Violin and Piano in G major K. 301 by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

I Allegro con spirito II Allegro

As a young court musician in Salzburg, the city in which he grew up, Mozart became increasingly disenchanted with his low salary and disagreeable relationship with his boss, the Archbishop. In 1777 aged 21 he set out with his mother on a journey to Paris in search of new employment. On the way they stopped off for several months in Mannheim, an enclave for new music. During his time there, inspired by the violin and harpsichord duets of the Dresden Kapellmeister Joseph Schuster, he composed four sonatas for violin and piano, of which this work in G major was the first.

Following Schuster's example, the sonata represents a departure from Mozart's previous sonatas, which, as had been the custom of those times, offered a greater role for the keyboard over the violin. In this sonata Mozart puts the two instruments on a more equal footing. While later sonatas adopted the three movement form, these sonatas have just two movements: a lively *Allegro con spirito* that features a delightfully sunny opening melody on the violin, followed by a *Rondo* that features a darker central section in the minor mode. The title page of the Sonata bears a dedication to Maria Elisabeth, Electress of the Palatinate - a region of southwest Germany - the origination of the frequently used designation "Palatine Sonatas."

Piano Trio No 2 in E flat major by Franz Schubert

I Allegro II Andante con moto III Scherzando: Allegro moderato IV Allegro moderato

Composed in 1827 when Schubert was 30, a year before his untimely death, his Piano Trio in E-flat major is an epic masterpiece that towers next to Beethoven's Archduke Trio, as one of the greatest piano trios in the repertoire. It is huge in length and breadth, wealthy in thematic ideas and constant transformations yet seamlessly integrated. Like much of Schubert's late period music, it is grand and profound. It was among the few pieces performed in the only public concert featuring Schubert's music held during his lifetime, the only work published outside Austria before his death. Schumann wrote, "a Trio by Schubert passed across the musical world like some angry comet in the sky". More intense than its worthy companion, the Piano Trio in B-flat major written around the same time, it flairs with passion, pathos, perhaps even anger, but it is equally saturated with joy, grace and triumphant beauty.

The first movement opens with an upbeat lyrical Schubertian theme that ventures forth to explore as many as five other related thematic ideas. While the scale and breadth of the first movement is vast, the slow second movement with its hauntingly beautiful opening melody uttered first by the cello, is more far reaching as it both plummets the depths of despair and ascends to the heights of exuberant passion. The somber melody has been used quite often in the movies, most memorably and to powerful effect by Stanley Kubrick in his 1974 epic *Barry Lyndon*.

The Scherzo movement that follows presents an ingenious canon with piano and strings imitating each other in a variety of shifting combinations interlacing two and three-part textures in a genial dance. The grand finale takes on even bigger proportions than the first movement, introducing three new melodies while also bringing back the dark melody from the slow movement in a tapestry of dazzling color and virtuosity. As a final masterstroke Schubert concludes the work with this dark theme transposed into a triumphant major key.

FUTURE CONCERTS

Cal Arte's next *Schubertiade* concert on Saturday August 12 will feature Schubert's majestic Piano Quintet in A major - the "Trout" along with Haydn's greatest piano sonata and a gorgeous work by baroque composer Jean-Baptiste Loeillet.

On October 14, November 4, and November 18 at the Good Samaritan UMC in Cupertino, Cal Arte will be presenting **Beethoven Odyssey III**, their third journey through the works of Beethoven, this time presenting all five piano concertos and the violin concerto with a small chamber orchestra. Stay tuned for more details by visiting our website at <http://calarte.com> where you can also sign up for our mailing list.

The Cal Arte Music Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Please consider making a tax deductible donation to support our future concerts. Donations can be made on our website. Thank you!