



IN CONCERT

Classical Music in the Valley

presents

THE
VERONIKA
STRING QUARTET

2:00 PM, SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, 2005

Jones Theater

Westcliffe Center for the Performing Arts

Westcliffe, Colorado



THE VERONIKA STRING QUARTET

PROGRAM

String Quartet in E flat Major, op. 33, No. 2, “The Joke”(1781)..Franz Joseph Haydn
(1732-1809)

Allegro moderato: cantabile
Scherzo: Allegro
Largo sostenato
Finale: Presto

Three Pieces for String Quartet (1914) Igor Stravinsky
(1882-1971)

- I.
- II.
- III.

INTERMISSION

String Quartet No. 2 in D Major (1881).....Alexander Borodin
(1833-1887)

Allegro moderato
Scherzo: Allegro
Notturmo: Andante
Finale: Andante - Vivace

Everyone is invited to a reception following the concert.

FRANZ JOSEPH HAYDN

Haydn's op. 33 has more nicknames than any other set of quartets. The most common designation, "Russian", arose because the composer dedicated the quartets to Grand Duke Paul of Russia, and some, maybe even all six, received their first performance in Vienna at the apartment of the Duke in December of 1781. To some, these quartets are known as Gli Scherzi, because they were the first chamber works in which Haydn replaced traditional minuets with more playful and humorous scherzos. Perhaps the composer was searching for a new approach to the form. Using quite distinctive intervals and complex rhythms, Haydn built the melodies up out of individual phrases that are organically unified but contain contrasting elements. His several letters to patrons inviting them to subscribe to the quartets say that they are "written in a new and special way." In any case, Haydn regarded his op. 33 with pleasure and satisfaction. The Quartet op. 33 No. 2 derives its nickname, "The Joke", from the comical conclusion of the last movement with its whispering phrases and unbelievably long pauses - an effect that always leaves listeners smiling.

IGOR STRAVINSKY

Stravinsky was one of the strangest and brightest persons in whole music history. He was not only famous for his revolutionary innovations in music, but also for saying and writing, moderately speaking, bold things to impress people.

The Three Pieces were written in 1914 while the composer was in Switzerland, with a premier in Paris May 19, 1915. Stravinsky himself noted that the pieces "were an important change" in his music, and over the years he worked on ideas that first appeared here.

Originally *The Three Pieces* did not have titles. When making an orchestral arrangement in 1928, the composer added names to the pieces. The first was called "Dance", the second "Eccentric", and the last one was called "Canticle."

ALEXANDER BORODIN

Borodin was a very interesting man. Born the illegitimate son of a Georgian prince and a doctor's wife, he learned to play several musical instruments and dabbled in composition in his teens. While music remained a lifelong hobby, his main academic interest was in chemistry, where he was recognized for his pioneering work.

Borodin was one of "The Five" or "The Mighty Handful" group of Russian composers. Composers of this group devoted themselves to the development of a Russian classical music tradition using Russian folk songs. Borodin was probably the most ambivalent of them. His music incorporates Russian folk songs and Slavic motifs, but in structure and style he remained very Western. Today he is best known for the "Polovitsian Dances" from his opera, *Prince Igor*; the *Second Symphony*; and the Second String Quartet, his most intimate work.

Borodin's Second Quartet is a ravishingly beautiful work, in a style unlike anything he had written before. Dedicated to his wife Ekaterina, the whole work is almost like a love letter. The third movement is a very famous "Notturmo", often performed on its own as an encore piece.

IN CONCERT

CLASSICAL MUSIC IN THE VALLEY

The group, In Concert, was formed in 2003 for the purpose of supporting and promoting classical music in the Wet Mountain Valley. Its intent is to provide opportunities for people in the area to hear live classical music at an affordable price, especially during the fall and winter seasons. After the resounding success of the first program, in which the Beck family from Pueblo was featured in a performance of piano and vocal works, the group is sponsoring a series of three Sunday matinees for the 2004-2005 season. The series will spotlight different orchestral families of instruments.

Join us for the final concert of the season:

Scirocco Woodwind Quintet - April 10, 2005

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

Cliff Lanes

Gene Neiges, Coldwell Banker

Colorado Mountain Land and Home

Fremont Bank

Nag's Head West

Robyn Turner

Valley Ace Hardware

AND TO OUR TICKET OUTLETS

Arterburn Fine Arts and Graphics, Candy's Coffee,

Mind's Eye and Shoot the Moon

FROM THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Jon Carmain, Linda Carmain, Dan Epperson, Alan Hirsch,

Fred Karsten, Margaret Karsten, Mel Porth, Robert Powers,

Virginia Powers, Ruth Steele and Dana Wyrick.

See *The Art of Winter* by Westcliffe Art Guild in Studio II.