

2021 Preview Notes • Week One • Persons Auditorium

Saturday, July 17 at 8:00pm



String Quartet in D minor, Op. 76, No. 2, Hob. III:76 (1790)

Joseph Haydn

Born March 31, 1732

Died May 31, 1809

Duration: approx. 20 minutes

Last Marlboro performance: 2019

This quartet is third in a set of six such pieces. Though they were published together, the first four quartets were written when Haydn still enjoyed his stable, decades-long role as a court composer for the Esterházy family, while the last two quartets were composed as he planned his first journey to London after his primary patron passed away. With a bubbly first movement, followed by an elegant *Adagio*, sunny minuet, and spirited conclusion, the quartet demonstrates so many characteristic qualities that would endear the composer to his London audiences during his successful visits, which were just on the horizon when this piece was completed.

Participants: Lun Li & Maria Ioudenitch, *violin*; Zhanbo Zheng, *viola*; Peter Wiley, *cello*



Souvenirs de Voyage for Clarinet Quintet (1967)

Bernard Herrmann

Born June 29, 1911

Died December 24, 1975

Duration: approx. 26 minutes

Last Marlboro Performance: Marlboro premiere

Those familiar with the popular cinematic scores of Bernard Herrmann (*Psycho*, *North by Northwest*, *The Birds*, *Taxi Driver*) may marvel at the lyrical and tender sounds he could derive from a traditional chamber ensemble—the clarinet quintet—with roots extending back to Mozart. Written in 1967, the clarinet quintet was Herrmann’s final concert work. He had recently recorded his opera *Wuthering Heights*, and although his lengthy association with director Alfred Hitchcock had come to a bitter end. Each of the quintet’s three movements has roots in a different artistic work. The first movement was inspired by A.E. Houseman’s poem *On Wenlock Edge*, the second by John Millington Synge’s novel *Riders to the Sea* (also set—as an opera—by Vaughan Williams), and the third by the Venetian watercolors of J.M.W. Turner.

Participants: Anthony McGill, *clarinet*; Hye-Jin Kim & Emilie-Anne Gendron, *violin*; Zhanbo Zheng, *viola*; Nathan Chan, *cello*



Drei Stimmungsbilder, Op. 12

Erwin Schulhoff

Born June 8, 1894

Died August 18, 1942

Duration: approx. 5 minutes

Marlboro Premiere

Born in Prague to a German-Jewish family, one of the many musicians in a generation whose promising careers were prematurely terminated by the rise of the Nazi regime in Germany and whose works have been rarely performed. This three-movement work explores three moody scenes, first “*singing violins across the lake*”, followed by “*Close your eyes*” and closing with “*Do you know that the sun is tired*”.

Participants: Rebecca Printz, *mezzo-soprano*; Emilie-Anne Gendron, *violin*; Lydia Brown, *piano*



Piano Quartet in G Minor, K. 478, Op. 1, No. 1 (1785)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Born January 27, 1756

Died December 5, 1791

Duration: approx. 30 minutes

Last Marlboro performance: 2015

Widely considered the first major work for piano quartet in the chamber music repertoire, Mozart’s Piano Quartet No. 1 is among his most popular chamber works. Works with the same instrumentation by Schumann, Brahms, Dvořák, and Fauré would later become staples of the concert hall.

Participants: Shai Wosner, *piano*; Maria Ioudenitch, *violin*; Tanner Menees, *viola*; Oliver Herbert, *cello*

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Sunday, July 18 at 2:30pm



Piano Trio in C Major, Hob. XV:21 (1795)

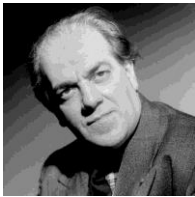
Joseph Haydn

Born March 31, 1732 • Died May 31, 1809

Duration: approx. 15 minutes • Last Marlboro performance: Marlboro Premiere

After the death of his patron, Prince Nikolaus Esterházy, Haydn took advantage of his freedom, and his pension, to travel to London twice. Haydn's works had preceded him across the English Channel and were already much celebrated when the composer saw the ocean for the first time and crossed over to the island on New Year's Day of 1791. Upon arriving, Haydn met with even greater success. He also met the pianist Therese Jansen Bartolozzi, one of Muzio Clementi's best students. Three piano trios were published in London in 1795, before Haydn left England to return home in August that year. The three Trios were dedicated to Princess Marie Ermenegild Esterházy, wife of the new head of the family, Prince Nicolaus II. The first of the set, the Piano Trio in C Major, Hob. XV:21, opens with a six-bar introduction, marked *Adagio pastorale*.

Participants: Janice Carissa, *piano*; Lun Li, *violin*; Marcy Rosen, *cello*



Bachianas Brasileiras No. 5 (1938, 45)

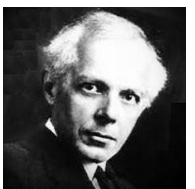
Heitor Villa-Lobos

Born March 5, 1887 • Died November 17, 1959

Duration: approx. 7 minutes • Last Marlboro performance: 2018

Villa-Lobos called Bach the "mediator among all races" and regarded him as a lifelong idol. Both Villa-Lobos's love of Bach and his fluid employment of Brazilian musical forms can be heard in this suite scored for soprano and eight cellos, the instrument that Villa-Lobos himself played. The suite of two movements begins with a sumptuous *Aria* with its famous wordless vocalise as well as lyrics that dreamily describe the moon's ascent. The second movement, marked *Dança*, takes the form of the Brazilian *embolada*. Villa-Lobos stated that it "represents a persistent and characteristic rhythm much like the *emboladas*, those strange melodies of the Brazilian hinterland. The melody suggests the birds of Brazil." The piece has only been performed at Marlboro twice before. Benita Valente, who returns every year to Marlboro to work with the young vocalists, sang *Bachianas Brasileiras* No. 5 in 1958, just 13 years after the work was completed.

Participants: Caitlin Aloia, *soprano*; Marcy Rosen, *cello*; Alexander Hersh, *cello*; Coleman Itzkoff, *cello*; Edvard Pogossian, *cello*; Julia Yang, *cello*; Chase Park, *cello*; Nathan Chan, *cello*; Oliver Herbert, *cello*



Contrasts (1938)

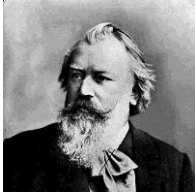
Béla Bartók

Born March 25, 1881 • Died September 26, 1945

Duration: approx. 20 minutes • Last Marlboro performance: 2016

Commissioned by clarinetist Benny Goodman and violinist Joseph Szigeti, this three-movement work is based on Hungarian and Romanian dance melodies. The first movement opens with a lively violin pizzicato, followed by the clarinet which introduces the main theme. This theme is an example of the Hungarian dance and music genre "*verbunkos*", or recruiting dance. The genre of music was commonly played during military recruiting. The second movement is much more introspective and has a continuously shifting mood without a defined theme. The third is a frenzied dance that begins with a scordatura (G#-D-A-Eb) violin section, after which the clarinet introduces the main theme. In the middle, there is a slower section in the time signature 3+2+3+2+3/8, after which the pattern of variations on the theme is resumed.

Participants: Charles Neidich, clarinet; Robyn Bollinger, violin; Ariel Lanyi, piano



Piano Quartet in C Minor, Op. 60 (1875)

Johannes Brahms

Born May 7, 1833

Died April 3, 1897

Duration: approx. 35 minutes

Last Marlboro performance: 2015

Brahms first began work on what would become his Op. 60 in the 1850s. However, perhaps because of the personal meaning of the piece to him, it took two decades for the composer to complete and publish it. Brahms began writing the quartet when he was helping Clara run the Schumann household during Robert Schumann's stay in a mental asylum. Brahms uses Robert's own musical motif for Clara, C#-B-A-G#-A, transposed to C minor, throughout the quartet, and he made no secret of his sense of longing for Clara in his note to his publisher. "On the cover you must have a picture, namely a head with a pistol to it," he wrote, describing the tragic end to the Goethe character, Werther, who takes his own life to resolve a fateful love triangle.

Participants: Jonathan Biss, *piano*; Geneva Lewis, *violin*; Zhanbo Zheng, *viola*; Julia Yang, *cello*;