

Sunday, February 15, 2009, 3pm
Hertz Hall

Takács Quartet

Edward Dusinberre, *violin*
Károly Schranz, *violin*
Geraldine Walther, *viola*
András Fejér, *cello*

with

Richard Stoltzman, *clarinet*

PROGRAM

Béla Bartók (1881–1945) String Quartet No. 2, Op. 17 (1915–1917)

Moderato
Allegro molto capriccioso
Lento

Robert Schumann (1810–1856) String Quartet in A major, Op. 41 No. 3 (1842)

Andante espressivo — Allegro molto moderato
Assai agitato — Un poco adagio —
Tempo risoluto
Adagio molto
Allegro molto vivace

INTERMISSION

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791) Quintet for Clarinet and Strings in A major,
K. 581 (1789)

Allegro
Larghetto
Menuetto. Trio I & II
Allegretto con Variazioni

*The Takács Quartet appears by arrangement with Seldy Cramer Artists
and records for Hyperion and Decca/London Records.*

*The Takács Quartet is Quartet-in-Residence at the University of Colorado at Boulder
and are Associate Artists at the South Bank Centre, London.*

www.takacsquartet.com

*Richard Stoltzman is managed by
Frank Salomon Associates
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Sightlines

Takács Quartet with Richard Stoltzman
Sunday, February 15, 2–2:30 pm
Hertz Hall

Pre-performance talk by musicologist Yael Braunschweig,
UC Berkeley Department of Music.

This *Sightlines* talk is free to event ticket holders.



Casey A. Cais

Recognized as one of the world's premier string quartets, the **Takács Quartet** is renowned for the ability to fuse four distinct, expressive musical personalities into gripping, unified interpretations. Commenting on their latest Schubert recording for Hyperion, *Gramophone* noted: "The Takács have the ability to make you believe that there's no other possible way the music should go, and the strength to overturn preconceptions that comes only with the greatest performers."

Based in Boulder at the University of Colorado, the Takács Quartet performs 90 concerts a year worldwide, performing throughout Europe as well as in Australia, New Zealand, Japan and Korea. The members of the Quartet are Associate Artists at the South Bank Centre in London, performing several concerts there each year. In 2008–2009, the quartet will build its London programs around the music of Schumann, culminating in a recording of the Piano Quintet with Marc-André Hamelin in May 2009. Other highlights of the 2008–2009 season include the world premiere and performances throughout Europe of a quartet written for them by Wolfgang Rihm; three concerts to celebrate the re-opening of New York's Alice Tully Hall, featuring the complete Bartók Quartets; and a tour to Japan and Korea in June 2009. In a North American tour, the Quartet will continue

its collaboration with the Hungarian folk ensemble Muzsikás and singer Márta Sebestyén.

The Quartet's multi-award winning recordings include the Late Quartets by Beethoven, which in 2005 won Disc of the Year and Chamber Award from *BBC Music Magazine*, a *Gramophone* Award and a Japanese Record Academy Award. Their recordings of Beethoven's Early and Middle Quartets collected a Grammy Award, another *Gramophone* Award, a Chamber Music of America Award and two further awards from the Japanese Recording Academy. Of their performances and recordings of the Late Quartets, *The Cleveland Plain Dealer* wrote, "The Takács might play this repertoire better than any quartet of the past or present."

In 2005, the Takács Quartet signed a contract with Hyperion Records, for whom their first recording, of Schubert's D. 804 and D. 810, was released in 2006. A disc featuring Brahms's Piano Quintet with Stephen Hough was released to great acclaim in November 2007. Brahms's Quartets Opp. 51 and 67 were released in fall 2008, and a disc featuring the Schumann Piano Quintet with Mr. Hamelin will be released in 2009. The Quartet has also made 16 recordings for the Decca label since 1988 of works by Beethoven, Bartók, Borodin, Brahms, Chausson, Dvořák, Haydn, Mozart, Schubert and Smetana. The ensemble's recording

of the six Bartók String Quartets received the 1998 *Gramophone* Award for chamber music and, in 1999, was nominated for a Grammy. In addition to the Beethoven String Quartet cycle recording, the ensemble's other Decca recordings include Dvořák's String Quartet in E-flat major, Op. 51, and Piano Quintet in A major, Op. 81, with pianist Andreas Haefliger; Schubert's "Trout" Quintet with Mr. Haefliger, which was nominated in 2000 for a Grammy Award; string quartets by Smetana and Borodin; Schubert's Quartet in G major and "Notturmo" Piano Trio with Mr. Haefliger; the three Brahms string quartets and Piano Quintet in F minor with pianist András Schiff; Chausson's *Concert* for violin, piano and string quartet with violinist Joshua Bell and pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet; and Mozart's String Quintets, K. 515 and K. 516, with violist György Pauk.

The Takács Quartet is known for innovative programming. In 2007, it performed, with Academy Award-winning actor Philip Seymour Hoffman, *Everyman* in Carnegie Hall, a work inspired by the Philip Roth novel. In May 2008, the quartet performed a new piece commissioned by the South Bank by James MacMillan. The group collaborates regularly with the Hungarian folk ensemble Muzsikás, performing a program that explores the folk sources of Bartók's music. The Takács has performed a music and poetry program on a 14-city U.S. tour with poet Robert Pinsky. Current commissions include works by Wolfgang Rihm and Daniel Kellogg.

At the University of Colorado, the Takács Quartet has helped to develop a string program with a special emphasis on chamber music, in a small, tightly knit community where students work in a nurturing environment best designed to help them develop their artistry. The Quartet's commitment to teaching is enhanced by summer residencies at the Aspen Festival and at the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara. The Takács is a Visiting Quartet at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London.

The Takács Quartet was formed in 1975 at the Franz Liszt Academy in Budapest by Gábor Takács-Nagy, Károly Schranz, Gábor Ormai and András Fejér, while all four were students. It first received international attention in 1977, winning

First Prize and the Critics' Prize at the International String Quartet Competition in Evian, France. The Quartet also won the Gold Medal at the 1978 Portsmouth and Bordeaux Competitions and First Prizes at the Budapest International String Quartet Competition in 1978 and the Bratislava Competition in 1981. The Quartet made its North American debut tour in 1982. Violinist Edward Dusinberre joined the Quartet in 1993 and violist Roger Tapping in 1995. Violist Geraldine Walther replaced Mr. Tapping in summer 2005. Of the original ensemble, Károly Schranz and András Fejér remain. In 2001, the Takács Quartet was awarded the Order of Merit of the Knight's Cross of the Republic of Hungary.

Edward Dusinberre (*first violin*) has enjoyed playing and performing the violin from a very young age. His early experiences as concertmaster of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain encouraged him to choose music as a profession. He studied with the Ukrainian violinist Felix Andrievsky at the Royal College of Music in London, where he has won numerous prizes, including a prize for scales (which, unfortunately, no longer form a part of his performance repertoire). Upon graduation in 1990, Mr. Dusinberre was awarded the Tagore Medal for the most outstanding student in his year. During the same year, he won the British Violin Recital Prize and gave his debut recital in London at the Purcell Room, South Bank Centre.

After his graduation from the Royal College of Music, Mr. Dusinberre received scholarships from the Countess of Munster Trust, Martin Scholarship Fund and the Ian Fleming Fund to continue his studies at The Juilliard School with Dorothy Delay. While at Juilliard, he was concertmaster of the Juilliard Orchestra and continued to perform recitals and concertos in England. Upon completion of his studies at Juilliard, Mr. Dusinberre auditioned for the Takács Quartet, which he joined in 1993.

Mr. Dusinberre lives in Boulder, Colorado, with his wife, Beth, an archaeology professor at the University of Colorado, and their son, Sam. He enjoys hiking in the mountains near Boulder and going to the theatre whenever time permits. He is also greatly interested in chess, although the need

for obsessive attention to details tends to deter a very active involvement in the game.

Károly Schranz (*second violin*) was born in 1952 in Budapest, Hungary. His first musical experiences were listening to the Gypsy bands in restaurants, which he has always admired for their virtuosity and musicianship. Mr. Schranz began playing the violin at the age of four under the very strict supervision of his mother who often resorted to unconventional methods of teaching and encouraging practice. (“To improve my bowing technique, she devised a method of attaching a string to my arm, and pulling in the desired direction. When this approach failed, she spanked me with a wooden spoon, which resulted in my hatred towards practicing.”) At age 14, he entered the Béla Bartók Secondary Music School, where he met his future wife, also a violin student at the school. In 1980, he received his music diploma from the Franz Liszt Academy of Music where he studied with Mihály Szücs, András Mihály and György Kurtág.

Between 1976 and 1980, Mr. Schranz was concertmaster of the Hungarian Opera Orchestra, where his wife was also a member. (“My wife sat at the stand behind me. Every time I turned to look at the ballerina’s legs, I felt a sharp knocking on my head—a subtle reminder that she was keeping an eye on me.”)

One of Mr. Schranz’s childhood passions was playing soccer. Perhaps it was no coincidence then, that he met András Fejér, Gábor Ormai and Gábor Takács-Nagy with whom he formed the Takács Quartet in 1975, on a soccer field.

Since 1986, Mr. Schranz and his wife and three daughters have made their home in Boulder, Colorado, where they often go hiking. He also loves to play tennis as often as his very busy schedule permits. Mr. Schranz is the recipient of the 1983 Franz Liszt Prize.

Geraldine Walther (*viola*) joined the Takács Quartet in August 2005. She grew up in Tampa, Florida, and studied at the Curtis Institute and the Manhattan School of Music. She was Principal of the San Francisco Symphony from 1976 to 2005 and performed many works as soloist with the orchestra, including several U.S. premieres.

She previously served as assistant principal of the Pittsburgh Symphony, the Miami Philharmonic and the Baltimore Symphony. Among the many works Ms. Walther has performed as soloist with the San Francisco Symphony are Mozart’s *Sinfonia Concertante*, Telemann’s *Concerto in G major*, Berlioz’s *Harold in Italy*, Hindemith’s *Trauermusik*, *Der Schwanendreher* and *Kammermusiken* Nos. 5 and 6, Tippett’s *Triple Concerto*, Martinů’s *Rhapsody-Concerto*, and the viola concertos of William Walton, Walter Piston, Thea Musgrave, Béla Bartók, Alfred Schnittke and Krzysztof Penderecki. She has given the U.S. premieres of several important works with the SFS, including Toru Takemitsu’s *A String Around Autumn*, Peter Lieberson’s *Viola Concerto* and George Benjamin’s *Viola* (together with SFS Associate Principal Violist Yun Jie Liu). In May 2002, she was soloist in William Schuman’s *Concerto on Old English Rounds*, the American premiere of the Robin Holloway *Viola Concerto*, and the Britten *Double Concerto* for violin and viola.

In 1995 Ms. Walther was selected by Sir Georg Solti as a member of his *Musicians of the World*, an orchestra composed of leading musicians from around the globe, for concerts in Geneva to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the United Nations. She has also served as principal violist with the Mainly Mozart Festival in San Diego and has performed as soloist with other Bay Area orchestras. An avid chamber musician, Ms. Walther regularly participates in leading chamber music festivals, including Marlboro, Santa Fe, Tanglewood, Bridgehampton and, most recently, the Telluride, Seattle and Ruby Mountain festivals, Music at Kohl Mansion, Green Music Festival in Sonoma, and the inaugural season of Music@Menlo two summers ago. She has collaborated with such artists as Isaac Stern, Pinchas Zukerman and Jaime Laredo, and has appeared as a guest artist with some of the world’s most renowned string quartets, including the Vermeer, Guarneri, Lindsay, Cypress and St. Lawrence. In 2001, she joined the Tokyo Quartet on a tour of Spain and Italy.

She lives in Longmont, Colorado, with her husband and has two daughters. She enjoys reading and the cinema, and she is an avid runner.

András Fejér (*cello*) was born in 1955 into a musical family. His father was a cellist and conductor, and his mother was a pianist. He began playing the cello at the age of seven because, as legend has it, his father was unwilling to listen to a violin-upstart practicing. Since an early age, his parents have held string quartet weekends, which, for the young cellist were the most memorable of occasions, if not for the music, then for the glorious desserts his mother used to prepare for those sessions.

After attending a music high school, Mr. Fejér was admitted to the Franz Liszt Academy of Music in 1975, where he was a pupil of Ede Banda, András Mihály, Ferenc Rados and György Kurtág. That same year he founded the Takács Quartet with three fellow classmates. Although the quartet has been his sole professional focus since then, he does perform as a soloist occasionally as well.

Mr. Fejér is married to a literature teacher. They have three children and live in the Rocky Mountains, where they enjoy year-round sunshine in beautiful Boulder, Colorado. When he is not on tour, he enjoys reading, photography, tennis and hiking.

Clarinetist **Richard Stoltzman**’s virtuosity, musicianship and sheer personal magnetism have made him one of today’s most sought-after concert artists. As soloist with more than a hundred orchestras, as a captivating recitalist and chamber music performer, as an innovative jazz artist and as a prolific recording artist, two-time Grammy Award-winner Mr. Stoltzman has defied categorization, dazzling critics and audiences alike throughout many musical genres.

Mr. Stoltzman graduated from Ohio State University with a double major in music and mathematics. He earned his Master of Music degree at Yale University while studying with Keith Wilson, and later worked toward a doctoral degree with Kalmen Opperman at Columbia University. As a 10-year participant in the Marlboro Music Festival, Stoltzman gained extensive chamber music experience, and subsequently became a founding member of the noted ensemble TASHI, which made its debut in 1973.

Since then, Mr. Stoltzman’s unique style of playing the clarinet has earned him an international



Carol Weinberg

reputation as he has opened up possibilities for the instrument that no one could have predicted. He gave the first clarinet recitals in the histories of both the Hollywood Bowl and Carnegie Hall, and in 1986, he became the first wind player to be awarded the Avery Fisher Prize. This season he was awarded the prestigious Sanford Medal by the Yale School of Music. His talents as a jazz performer as well as a classical artist have been heard far beyond his annual tours. He has performed or recorded with such jazz and pop greats as Gary Burton, the Canadian Brass, Chick Corea, Judy Collins, Eddie Gomez, Keith Jarrett, the King’s Singers, George Shearing, Wayne Shorter, Mel Tormé and Spyro Gyra founder Jeremy Wall. His commitment to new music has resulted in the commissioning and premiere of numerous new works for the clarinet, including the recent *Landscapes with Blues* by Stephen Hartke, and a concerto by Einojuhani Rautavaara which premiered with conductor Leonard Slatkin and the National Symphony at the Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall.

Richard Stoltzman has a discography numbering over 50 releases on BMG/RCA, Sony Classical, MMC, BIS, Albany and other labels, including a Grammy-winning recording of Brahms Sonatas with Richard Goode. Among Mr. Stoltzman’s

About the Artists

most beloved releases are *Amber Waves*, a CD of American works, and the Trios of Beethoven, Brahms and Mozart with Emanuel Ax and Yo-Yo Ma, which won Mr. Stoltzman his second Grammy Award. Recent releases include the acclaimed recordings of Hartke's *Landscapes with Blues* with IRIS, conducted by Michael Stern (Naxos), a *New York Times* "Best of 2003," and Rautavaara's Clarinet Concerto recorded with Leif Segerstam and the Helsinki Philharmonic, released on Ondine (2005). Tom McKinley's *RAP* with the Boston Modern Orchestra Project and an all-Bach recording are two forthcoming releases.

Over the years, Mr. Stoltzman has received numerous requests for sheet music of the enchanting arrangements and original works that can be heard on his recordings and in live performance. To this end, Carl Fischer has published two volumes: *ARIA*, which features the music from the BMG recording of the same name, and *The Richard Stoltzman Songbook*, a collection of jazz and classics.

During the 2006–2007 Season, Mr. Stoltzman performed the Brahms Clarinet Quintet with the Borromeo Quartet in New York and Phoenix, a new quintet with the Prazak Quartet as part of a week-long stay at the Tuscon Winter Chamber Music Festival, the Beethoven Clarinet Trio with members of the Amelia Piano Trio, along with the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Tempest Fantasy* by Paul Moravec in New York. Mr. Stoltzman returned to Japan as well as Carnegie Hall's Zankel Hall with marimbist Mika Yoshida, long-time collaborator and jazz bassist Eddie Gomez, and his son, pianist Peter Stoltzman, among others. Richard and Peter Stoltzman performed a jazz-inspired benefit recital in New Orleans to support the Katrina, followed by a classical recital with pianist David Deveau. Concerto appearances included Takemitsu and Debussy in Milan with conductor Junichi Hirokami, Mozart in the Berlin with conductor Peter Oundjian and in Columbus, Ohio, with Maestro Hirokami, as well as Takemitsu in San Francisco with Michael Tilson Thomas. Extended residencies took Mr. Stoltzman to the University of Minnesota, Duluth, Miami University's Festival Miami, the California State University, Fullerton, and Hancher Auditorium at the University of Iowa, where he will perform the music of Benny

Goodman with big band and jazz combo, among other activities. Throughout the season, Mr. Stoltzman continued his commitment to help bring music to children of all ages as an active Board Member of Young Audiences.

Summer 2006 began with a tour of Japan to participate in the official 75th birthday memorial tribute to composer Toru Takemitsu at Tokyo Opera City and performances at the Amakusa Festival. This was followed by performances of Piazzolla and Bernstein under the baton of Brevard Festival Music Director David Efron and chamber concerts stretching from North Carolina to Vermont. Every summer, Mr. Stoltzman presents a series of master-classes for clarinetists from all over the world. The course is held in the "Caetani" Castle at Sermoneta, a small medieval town near Latina, 50 miles south of Rome and 15 miles from the Tyrrhenian Sea. The quiet and friendly atmosphere encourages artistic relationships and assures concentrated studies. Additional information can be found at www.campusmusica.it. Mr. Stoltzman's summer classes at the Orford Festival near Montreal have also become an annual favorite.

Past season highlights have featured Mr. Stoltzman with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at Ravinia and at New York's Mostly Mozart Festival, marking Mr. Stoltzman's 25th appearance at the Lincoln Center Festival, as well as performances throughout the United States, Canada and Europe of Rautavaara's Clarinet Concerto. Duo recitals with pianists Emanuel Ax and Lukas Foss, as well as performances and tours with the American, Emerson, Orion, Takács and Tokyo string quartets are also highlights. Especially memorable are concerts of jazz and classics with his son, pianist Peter John Stoltzman. Father and son have performed together around the globe and were recently featured on NPR's *Performance Today* and *Weekend Edition* as well as *Voice of America* radio. For their extraordinary talent on the stage, in the classroom and throughout the community, WGBH radio in Boston called the Stoltzmans "New England's First Family of Classical Music."

Richard Stoltzman resides in Massachusetts and is a passionate Boston Red Sox baseball fan. He is also a Cordon Bleu-trained pastry chef.