

Sunday, November 8, 2009, 3pm  
Hertz Hall

## Brentano String Quartet

Mark Steinberg, *violin*  
Serena Canin, *violin*  
Misha Amory, *viola*  
Nina Maria Lee, *cello*

### PROGRAM

Franz Schubert (1797–1828) Quartettsatz (“Quartet Movement”) in C-minor,  
Op. Post., D. 703 (1820)

Allegro assai

Benjamin Britten (1913–1976) String Quartet No. 3, Op. 94 (1975)

I. Duets: With moderate movement  
II. Ostinato: Very fast  
III. Solo: Very calm  
IV. Burlesque: Fast — con fuoco  
V. Recitative and Passacaglia (La Serenissima):  
Slow

*INTERMISSION*

Schubert String Quartet in G major, Op. 161, D. 887  
(1826)

Allegro molto moderato  
Andante un poco moto  
Scherzo: Allegro vivace  
Allegro assai

*The Brentano String Quartet appears by arrangement with David Rowe Artists: [www.davidroweartists.com](http://www.davidroweartists.com).*

*The Brentano String Quartet records for AEON (distributed by Allegro Media Group).*

*[www.brentanoquartet.com](http://www.brentanoquartet.com)*

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Peter Schauf

Since its inception in 1992, the **Brentano String Quartet** has appeared throughout the world to popular and critical acclaim. Within a few years of its formation, the Quartet garnered the first Cleveland Quartet Award and the Naumburg Chamber Music Award; and in 1996 the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center invited them to be the inaugural members of Chamber Music Society Two, a program which has become a coveted distinction for chamber groups and individuals ever since. The Quartet had its first European tour in 1997, and was honored in the United Kingdom with the Royal Philharmonic Award for Most Outstanding Debut. That debut recital was at London's Wigmore Hall, and the Quartet has continued its warm relationship with Wigmore, appearing there regularly and serving as the hall's quartet-in-residence in the 2000–2001 season.

In recent seasons, the Quartet has traveled widely, appearing all over the United States and Canada, in Europe, Japan and Australia. It has performed in the world's most prestigious venues, including Carnegie Hall and Alice Tully Hall in New York; the Library of Congress in Washington; the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam; the Konzerthaus in Vienna; Suntory Hall in Tokyo; and the Sydney Opera House. The Quartet has participated in summer festivals such as Aspen, the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara, Edinburgh, Kuhmo in Finland, the Taos School of Music and Caramoor.

In addition to performing the entire two-century range of the standard quartet repertoire, the Quartet has a strong interest in both very old and very new music. It has performed many musical works pre-dating the string quartet as a medium,

among them madrigals of Gesualdo, fantasias of Purcell and secular vocal works of Josquin. The Quartet has also worked closely with some of the most important composers of our time, among them Elliott Carter, Charles Wuorinen, Chou Wen-chung, Steven Mackey, Bruce Adolphe and György Kurtág. The Quartet has commissioned works from Wuorinen, Adolphe, Mackey, David Horne and Gabriela Frank. The Quartet celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2002 by commissioning 10 composers to write companion pieces for selections from Bach's *The Art of Fugue*, the result of which was an electrifying and wide-ranging single concert program. The Quartet has also worked with the celebrated poet Mark Strand, commissioning poetry from him to accompany works of Haydn and Webern.

The Brentano String Quartet has been privileged to collaborate with such artists as soprano Jessye Norman and pianists Richard Goode and Mitsuko Uchida. The Quartet enjoys an especially close relationship with Ms. Uchida, appearing with her on stages in the United States, Europe and Japan.

The Quartet has recorded the Op. 71 Quartets of Haydn, and has also recorded a Mozart disc for Aeon Records, consisting of the K. 464 Quartet and the K. 593 Quintet with violist Hsin-Yun Huang. In the area of newer music, the Quartet has released a disc of the music of Steven Mackey on Albany Records, and has also recorded the music of Bruce Adolphe, Chou Wen-chung and Charles Wuorinen.

In 1998, cellist Nina Lee joined the Quartet, succeeding founding member Michael Kannen. The following season, the Quartet became the first Resident String Quartet at Princeton University. The Quartet's duties at the University are wide-ranging, including performances at least once a semester, workshops with graduate composers, coaching undergraduates in chamber music and assisting in other classes at the Music Department.

The Quartet is named for Antonie Brentano, whom many scholars consider to be Beethoven's "Immortal Beloved," the intended recipient of his famous love confession.