

Sunday, December 5, 2010, 3pm
Hertz Hall

Takács Quartet

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

PROGRAM

Joseph Haydn (1732–1809) String Quartet in E-flat major, Op. 71, No. 3
(H. III/71) (1793)

Vivace
Andante con moto
Menuetto
Finale: Vivace

Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847) String Quartet No. 2 in A minor, Op. 13,
“Ist Es Wahr?” (1827)

Adagio — Allegro vivace
Adagio non lento — Poco più animato —
Tempo I
Intermezzo: Allegretto con moto —
Allegro di molto — Tempo I
Presto — Adagio non lento — Adagio

INTERMISSION

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827) String Quartet No. 15 in A minor, Op. 132 (1825)

Assai sostenuto — Allegro
Allegro ma non tanto
Molto adagio — Andante
Alla Marcia, assai vivace —
Più allegro (recitative) —
Allegro appassionato

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RECOGNIZED AS ONE of the world's great ensembles, the **Takács Quartet** plays with a unique blend of drama, warmth and humor, combining four distinct musical personalities to bring fresh insights to the string quartet repertoire. Commenting on their latest Schubert recording for Hyperion Records, *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, throughout Europe as well as in Australia, New Zealand, Japan and South Korea. The 2010–2011 season includes a Bartók cycle in Sydney and a three-concert series focusing on Schubert in New York City (92nd Street Y) and at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. The series will feature the New York premiere of a new work composed for the Quartet by Daniel

Kellogg, based on the slow-movement theme of Schubert’s “Death and the Maiden” Quartet.

The Quartet’s award-winning recordings include the complete Beethoven cycle on the Decca label. In 2005, the late Beethoven quartets won Disc of the Year and Chamber Award from *BBC Music Magazine*, a Gramophone Award and a Japanese Record Academy Award. Their recordings of the early and middle Beethoven 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 2006, the Takács Quartet made their first recording for Hyperion, of Schubert’s D804 and D810. A disc featuring Brahms’s Piano Quintet with Stephen Hough was released to great acclaim in November 2007 and was subsequently

nominated for a Grammy. Brahms's Quartets Opp. 51 and 67 were released in fall 2008, and a disc featuring the Schumann Piano Quintet with Marc-André Hamelin was released in late 2009. The complete Haydn "Apponyi" Quartets, Opp. 71 and 74, will be released in early 2011.

The Quartet has 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. The Quartet'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 for a Grammy in 2000; 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 Andrés Schiff; Chausson's concerto 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 Quartet is known for innovative programming. In 2007, it performed, with Academy Award-winning actor Philip Seymour Hoffman, *Everyman* in Carnegie Hall, inspired by the Philip Roth novel. The group collaborates regularly with the Hungarian folk ensemble Muzsikás, performing a program that explores the folk sources of Bartók's music. The Takács performed a music and poetry program on a 14-city U.S. tour with the poet Robert Pinsky.

At the University of Colorado, the Quartet has helped to develop a string program with a special emphasis on chamber music, where students work in a nurturing environment 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 in London.

The Takács Quartet was formed in 1975 at the Franz Liszt Academy in Budapest by Gabor Takács-Nagy, Károly Schranz, Gabor 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 2005. In 2001, the Takács Quartet was awarded the Order of Merit of the Knight's Cross of the Republic of Hungary.

Edward Dusinberre (*violin*) was born in 1968 in Leamington Spa, England, and has enjoyed playing the violin from a 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 and at the Juilliard School with Dorothy DeLay and Piotr Milewski. In 1990 he won the British Violin Recital Prize and gave his debut recital in London at the Purcell Room, South Bank Centre. Upon completion of his studies at Juilliard, Mr. Dusinberre auditioned for the Takács Quartet, which he joined in 1993.

Future projects include a recording of Beethoven's Violin Sonatas Nos. 9 and 10 with David Korevaar and recitals in England with Charles Owen, including the world premiere of a recently discovered violin sonata by Mr. Dusinberre's grandfather, John R. Stainer.

Mr. Dusinberre enjoys writing about music. In connection with the Takács Quartet's Beethoven cycles in London and Madrid, he wrote articles for *The Strad* and *The Guardian*.

Mr. Dusinberre lives in Boulder, Colorado, with his wife, Beth, an archeologist who teaches at the University of Colorado, and their son, Sam. He enjoys hiking in the mountains near

Boulder and going to the theater. Never known as one of the more athletic members of his family, Mr. Dusinberre has nonetheless benefited from Boulder's healthy culture of embracing the outdoors. He currently has plans to start training for the 2020 Boulder Boulder, sometime in the future.

Károly Schranz (*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. He began playing the violin at age four, and at age 14 he entered the Béla Bartók Secondary Music School, where he met his future wife, also a violin student at the school. He was the recipient of the Franz Liszt Prize in 1983. 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.

Geraldine Walther (*viola*), was Principal Violist of the San Francisco Symphony for 29 years, having previously served as assistant principal of the Pittsburgh Symphony, the Baltimore Symphony and the Miami Philharmonic.

A native of Florida, she first picked up the viola in a public school music program in Tampa. She went on to study at the Manhattan School of Music with Lillian Fuchs and at the Curtis Institute with Michael Tree of the Guarneri Quartet. In 1979, she won first prize at the William Primrose International Competition.

Among the many works Ms. Walther performed as a 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 Walton, Piston, Henze, Musgrave, Bartók, Schnittke and Penderecki. She performed the U.S. premieres of several important works, including Takemitsu's *A String Around Autumn* in 1990, Lieberson's Viola Concerto, Holloway's Viola Concerto and Benjamin's *Viola, Viola* (together with San Francisco Symphony Associate Principal Violist Yun Jie Liu), in 1999. In May

2002, she was soloist in William Schuman's *Concerto on Old English Rounds* and Britten's Double Concerto for violin and viola.

In 1995, Ms. Walther was selected by Sir Georg Solti to be 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 a soloist with several Bay Area orchestras. She has participated in leading chamber music festivals, including Marlboro, Santa Fe, Tanglewood, Bridgehampton, Cape Cod, Amelia Island, the Telluride, Seattle, Green Music and Music@Menlo. 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 finest string quartets, including the Tokyo, Vermeer, Guarneri, Lindsay, Cypress and St. Lawrence. She joined the Takács Quartet as a regular member in fall 2005.

In addition to her recordings for Hyperion with the Takács Quartet, Ms. Walther's recordings include Hindemith's *Trauermusik* and *Der Schwanendreher* with the San Francisco Symphony (both on London/Decca), Paul Chihara's *Golden Slumbers* with the San Francisco Chamber Singers (Albany), Lou Harrison's *Trenody* (New Albion) and, as a member of the Volkert Trio, *Delectable Pieces* (Con Brio).

Ms. Walther is the mother of two grown daughters and lives in Longmont, Colorado, with her husband, Tom.

András Fejér (*cello*) was born in 1955 into a musical family. His father was a cellist and conductor, and his mother was a pianist. At age seven, he began playing cello, apparently because his father was unwilling to listen to an upstart-violinist practicing. Mr. Fejér was admitted to the Franz Liszt Academy of Music in 1975, and that year he founded the Takács Quartet with three fellow classmates. Although the Quartet has been his sole professional focus since then, he does occasionally perform as a soloist. Mr. Fejér is married with three children and lives in Boulder, Colorado. When he is not on tour, he enjoys reading, photography, tennis and hiking.