

Sunday, March 8, 2009, 3pm
Hertz Hall

Takács Quartet

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

with

Peter Wyrick, *cello*

PROGRAM

Joseph Haydn (1732–1809) String Quartet in F major, Op. 77, No. 2
(H. III/82) (1799)

Allegro moderato
Menuet: Presto
Andante
Finale: Vivace assai

Béla Bartók (1881–1945) String Quartet No. 3 (1927)

Prima parte (Moderato) — Seconda parte
(Allegro) — Ricapitolazione della prima parte
(Moderato) — Coda (Allegro molto)
Played without pause

INTERMISSION

Franz Schubert (1797–1828) String Quintet in C major, Op. 163 (D. 956)
(1828)

Allegro ma non troppo
Adagio
Scherzo: Presto — Trio: Andante sostenuto —
Scherzo
Allegretto

*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

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Casey A. Criss

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*) was born in 1968 in Leamington Spa, England, and started learning the violin at the age of four. After studying at the Royal College of Music in London, he continued his studies at The Juilliard School and joined the Takács Quartet in 1993. Mr. Dusinberre lives in Boulder, Colorado, with his wife, an archaeology professor at the University of Colorado, and their young son. He enjoys reading, theatre, hiking and chess.

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. He began playing the violin at the age of four, and at the age of 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*) 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. Before

About the Artists

joining the Takács Quartet, she played regularly at leading chamber music festivals and as a guest artist with the Guarneri, Lindsay, St. Lawrence, Tokyo and Vermeer Quartets. She lives in Longmont, Colorado, with her husband and has two daughters. She enjoys reading and the cinema, and 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. At the age of seven he began playing the 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.

Peter Wyrick (*cello*) served as San Francisco Symphony Assistant Principal Cellist from 1986 to 1990, returned to the SFS in 2000, and is now Associate Principal Cellist. He has also served as principal cellist of the Mostly Mozart Festival



Orchestra and associate principal cellist of the New York City Opera Orchestra. As a member of the Ridge String Quartet, he performed throughout the world and recorded the Dvořák piano quintets with pianist Rudolf Firkušný, an RCA recording that won France's Diapason d'Or and a Grammy Award nomination. He has also recorded the Fauré cello sonatas with pianist Earl Wild for the dell'Arte label. Mr. Wyrick has participated in Finland's Helsinki Festival, the Spoleto Festival (both in this country and in Italy) and the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, among many others, and he appears regularly in the San Francisco Symphony's Chamber Music Series. He has been soloist with the SFS in music from Tan Dun's *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* and Pierre Boulez's *Messagesquise*.