

Sunday, February 14, 2010, 3pm
Hertz Hall

Takács Quartet

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

PROGRAM

Joseph Haydn (1732–1809) String Quartet in D major, Op. 71, No. 2,
H. III:70 (1793)

Adagio — Allegro
Adagio cantabile
Menuetto: Allegro
Finale: Allegretto

James MacMillan (b. 1959) String Quartet No. 3 (2007)

Molto rubato
Largo
Patiently and painfully slow

INTERMISSION

Robert Schumann (1810–1856) String Quartet in F major, Op. 41, No. 2 (1842)

Allegro vivace
Andante, quasi Variazioni
Scherzo. Presto
Allegro molto vivace

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

Cal Performances' 2009–2010 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.



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, *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 2009–2010 season includes cycles of the complete Beethoven quartets in London, where the members of the Quartet are Associate Artists at the South Bank Centre, and in Madrid. The Quartet will play two Beethoven concerts in Amsterdam's Concertgebouw and give its first concert in St. Petersburg. At Carnegie's Zankel Hall a series of three concerts will feature the Schumann quartets and works that were composed last year for the Takács by Wolfgang Rihm, James MacMillan

and John Psathas. The Quartet will perform over 40 concerts in North America and open the season of the San Diego Symphony with performances of Elgar's *Introduction and Allegro* and the Handel-Schoenberg Concerto for String Quartet and Orchestra.

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.

In 2006, the Takács Quartet made its first recording for Hyperion, of Schubert's D. 804 and D. 810. 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 Op. 51 and Op. 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, Op. 71 and 74, will be released in early 2011.

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 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; 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 Concerto for violin, piano and string quartet with violinist Joshua Bell and pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet; and Mozart's String Quintets, K. 515 and 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, a work 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 Takács 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, 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 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. 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. The Takács Quartet appears by arrangement with Seldy Cramer Artists and records for Hyperion and Decca/London Records.

Edward Dusinberre (*first 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 No. 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 forthcoming Beethoven cycles in London and Madrid, he has written articles for *The Strad* magazine and *The Guardian* that were published in fall 2009.

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 Bolder Boulder, sometime in the future.

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 age 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, 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*) was Principal Violist of the San Francisco Symphony from 1976 to 2006, having previously served as assistant principal of the Pittsburgh Symphony, Miami Philharmonic and 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 gave the U.S. premieres of several important works with the Symphony, including Toru Takemitsu's *A String Around Autumn*, Peter Lieberson's viola concerto and George Benjamin's *Viola*. In May 2002, she was soloist in William Schuman's *Concerto on Old English Rounds*, the American premiere of Robin Holloway's 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. 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.

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 age 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. When he is not on tour, he enjoys reading, photography, tennis and hiking.