Brentano String Quartet

The Musical World of Bartók’s Quartet No. 5

Tuesday, January 16, 2024 | 7:30 pm
Morse Recital Hall in Sprague Memorial Hall

Yale School of Music
José García-León, Dean
The Musical World of Bartók’s Quartet No. 5

CHASES AND REFLECTIONS

Béla Bartók
1881–1945

Johann Sebastian Bach
1685–1750

Bach

Bartók

Henry Purcell
1659–1695

Bartók

Fantasia No. 11 in G major, Z. 742

HUNGARIAN AND BULGARIAN RHYTHMS

Franz Joseph Haydn
1732–1809

Bartók

Bartók

Bartók

Bulgarian Rhythm, from Mikrokosmos, Sz. 107, No. 113
OBSESSIONS AND PULSATIONS: FIXATION ON A SINGLE NOTE

Luciano Berio
1925–2003

Yossi, from 34 Duetti per 2 violini (1979–1983)

Ludwig van Beethoven
1770–1827

String Quartet No. 7 in F major, Op. 59, No. 1
II. Allegretto vivace e sempre scherzando

INTERMISSION

Bartók

String Quartet No. 5, Sz. 102
I. Allegro
II. Adagio molto
III. Scherzo. Alla bulgarese
IV. Andante
V. Finale. Allegro vivace

As a courtesy to others, please silence all devices. Photography and recording of any kind is strictly prohibited. Please do not leave the hall during musical selections. Thank you.
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 inaugural Cleveland Quartet Award and the Naumburg Chamber Music Award. In recent seasons the quartet has appeared in the United States, Canada, Europe, Japan, and Australia.

The Brentano String Quartet has performed many musical works that pre-date the string quartet as a medium, among them the 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, including Elliott Carter, Charles Wuorinen, Chou Wen-chung, Steven Mackey, Bruce Adolphe, and György Kurtág, and has commissioned works from Wuorinen, Adolphe, Mackey, David Horne, and Gabriela Frank. The quartet has been privileged to collaborate with such artists as Jessye Norman, Joyce DiDonato, Richard Goode, Jonathan Biss, and Mitsuko Uchida.

In fall 2014, the quartet became the quartet-in-residence at the Yale School of Music, succeeding the Tokyo String Quartet in that position.
Program Note

The Musical World of Bartók’s Quartet No. 5

Mark Steinberg

The Fifth Quartet of Béla Bartók, a compelling and magnificent work, has a number of special characteristic preoccupations which give it a distinct and riveting personality. This program serves as a focus on that great work by creating a context for several of those preoccupations through the music of Bartók himself, as well as in works of other composers. The first and most essential of these is the preoccupation with music canons, imitative writing both with the voices aping each other exactly and with one upside down, mirroring the other, a favorite trick of Bartók’s. Next we have a section of works which explore the rhythmic flavor of Gypsy and Bulgarian music as it makes its way into the music of Haydn and Bartók, visceral and invigorating. Finally we have a section of works that explore the obsessive repetition of a single pitch, a ploy that turns up in many guises in the Fifth Quartet. This is an unusual idea also used by Beethoven in the scherzo of his quartet Op. 59, No. 1, where at the first reading of the piece the cellist in the group threw his music on the ground in a fit over his solo being made up of only one note repeated! Bartók uses this idea to various ends, ranging from vigorous insistence to meditative reflection. While there are other ideas we could have explored, these are three central concerns of the piece. Following an immersive investigation of these concerns in short works in the first half of the program, Bartók Quartet No. 5 stands poised in the second half to be heard in a new space, with clarity and immediacy.
Thank you for your support!

Become a Yale School of Music patron and support our performance programs. Earn benefits ranging from preferred seating to invitations to special events.

» To join or for more information, visit music.yale.edu/support or contact us at (203) 432–4158.

**PAUL HINDEMITH CIRCLE**
$500–$749
- Henry & Joan Binder
- Patricia & Robert Jaeger
- Marc & Margaret Mann
- Barbara & Bill Nordhaus
- Dr. Lorraine Siggins
- Clifford Slayman

**GUSTAVE J. STOECKEL CIRCLE**
$50–$124
- Anonymous
- Susan S. Addiss
- Irma Bachman, in memory of Robert Bachman
- Bill & Donna Batsford
- Nancy & Dick Beals
- Victor & Susan Bers
- Linda Burt
- Elizabeth M. Dock
- Terry S. Flagg
- Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade
- Elizabeth Greenspan
- Tom Handler & Joann Knudson
- Robert & Noël Heimer
- In memory of Jon T. Hirschoff
- Jennifer L. Julie
- Alan & Joan Kliger
- Judith K. Liebmamn, PhD
- Irene K. Miller
- Stuart Warner & David Paltiel
- Gary L. Robison
- Antoinette Tyndall

**HORATIO PARKER CIRCLE**
$250–$499
- Mr. & Mrs. Douglas J. Crowley
- Ray Fair
- Carolyn Gould
- R. Peter Hunt
- Barbara & Ivan Katz
- Lisa Kugelman & Roy Wiseman
- Abby N. Wells

**SAMUEL SIMONS SANFORD CIRCLE**
$125–$249
- Anonymous
- Nina Adams & Moreson Kaplan
- Stephen & Judith August
- Dr. & Mrs. Richard A. Flavell
- Deborah Fried & Kalman Watsky
- Lauretta Grau & Phillip Pierce
- Long Hill Farm String Quartet
- Dr. Leonard E. Munstermann
- Marion & Richard Petrelli
- Maryanne & W. Dean Rupp

**HERATIO PARKER CIRCLE**
$250–$499
- Mr. & Mrs. Douglas J. Crowley
- Ray Fair
- Carolyn Gould
- R. Peter Hunt
- Barbara & Ivan Katz
- Lisa Kugelman & Roy Wiseman
- Abby N. Wells

**SAMUEL SIMONS SANFORD CIRCLE**
$125–$249
- Anonymous
- Nina Adams & Moreson Kaplan
- Stephen & Judith August
- Dr. & Mrs. Richard A. Flavell
- Deborah Fried & Kalman Watsky
- Lauretta Grau & Phillip Pierce
- Long Hill Farm String Quartet
- Dr. Leonard E. Munstermann
- Marion & Richard Petrelli
- Maryanne & W. Dean Rupp

List as of January 11, 2024
Upcoming Events at YSM

JAN 17  Benjamin Verdery & Friends  
Faculty Artist Series  
7:30 p.m. | Morse Recital Hall  
Free admission

JAN 19  Renée Fleming Recital, with Gerald Martin Moore, piano  
Special Event, in partnership with the Yale Schwarzman Center  
7:30 p.m. | Morse Recital Hall  
Free admission; registration required at schwarzman.yale.edu

JAN 20  Renée Fleming Masterclass with Yale Opera students  
Special Event, in partnership with the Yale Schwarzman Center  
11 a.m. | Morse Recital Hall  
Free admission; registration required at schwarzman.yale.edu

JAN 21  Yale Brass Trio  
Faculty Artist Series  
3 p.m. | Morse Recital Hall  
Free admission

JAN 24  Melvin Chen, piano  
Horowitz Piano Series  
7:30 p.m. | Morse Recital Hall  
Tickets start at $17, Yale faculty/staff start at $12, Students start at $8

YALE SCHOOL OF MUSIC BOX OFFICE  
Sprague Memorial Hall, 470 College Street New Haven, CT 06511  
203 432-4158 | music-tickets.yale.edu

wshu Public Radio  
WSHU 91.1 FM is the media sponsor of the Yale School of Music.

Connect with us  
@yale.music  
yalemusic  
x@yalemusic  
YaleSchoolofMusicOfficial

Recycle  
If you do not intend to save your program, please recycle it in the baskets at the exit doors.