

Chatter String Quartet

Elizabeth Young and David Felberg, violins
Laura Steiner, viola
Dana Winograd, cello

Sunday, March 27, 2022
3:00 pm

Immaculate Conception Church
Las Vegas, New Mexico

Sonata for Two Violins in C Major, Op. 56
Andante cantabile
Allegro
Commodo (quasi allegretto)
Allegro con brio

Sergei Prokofiev

String Quartet No. 3
Moderato
Allegro energico
Adagio
Moderato-Allegro-Andante-Moderato

Pēteris Vasks

Intermission

String Quartet in C Major, Op. 59, No. 3 *Razumovsky*
Introduzione
Andante con moto quasi Allegretto
Minuet. Grazioso-Trio
Allegro molto

Ludwig van Beethoven

presented by
Meadow City Academy of Music
Ronald Maltais, Artistic Director

We request that all cell phones and electronic devices be silenced for the duration of the performance. Unauthorized audio and video recordings are not permitted.

Program Notes

Prokofiev commented on the origin of his Sonata for Two Violins, Op. 56 in his autobiography, writing humorously and insightfully that: “Listening to bad music sometimes inspires good ideas . . . After once hearing an unsuccessful piece for two violins without piano accompaniment, it struck me that in spite of the apparent limitations of such a duet, one could make it interesting enough to listen to for ten or fifteen minutes. There are still so many beautiful things to be said in C Major.” Written while on a vacation near St. Tropez in 1932 and premiered in Moscow that same year, the four relatively short movements establish a “slow-fast-slow-fast” program which seems to reflect the structure of the Baroque trio sonata, perhaps a conscious effort which suggests his status as a founder of early 20th Century Neoclassicism.

Pēteris Vasks, perhaps the most well-known Latvian contemporary composer of our time was born in 1946. The String Quartet No. 3 was composed in 1995. “Christmas - Peace on Earth” is the leading motive of the String Quartet, a tenet of faith as well as an expression of hope. In the first part of the work Vasks uses themes from a well-known Christmas carol, while the second part is strongly influenced by Latvian folksongs and dances. The third section, features pronounced chromaticism which is strongly reminiscent of Shostakovich, seemingly investigating and questioning the feasibility of any peace in our society. The final, calm and slightly melancholy section symbolizes 'Peace on Earth' by means of sonorous sustained tones.

Beethoven composed his String Quartet in C Major, Op. 59, No. 3 in 1806 and it was published in Vienna in 1808. The third of a set of quartets which was commissioned by Count Andreas Razumovsky, the Russian ambassador to Vienna. This quartet is traditional in its four-movement form, but tradition-defying in having as its finale a fugue. Its design is truly Beethoven's own concept of a fugue, for this movement combines sonata form with fugal treatment. The music is essentially a fugal tour de force, madcap in its dashing intensity and containing an undercurrent of anger and defiance. The third movement is an anomaly in being a minuet, not a scherzo, the latter the composer's muscular trademark substitution for the classical period's graceful dance form. To further mystify the nature of the third Razumovsky is the second movement, a minor-key Andante bearing a remote, melancholy cast that is quite unlike anything else by Beethoven. Was the composer attempting to simulate a Russian theme in honor of his patron?

Notes compiled by Ronald Maltais

About the Artists

Elizabeth Young, violinist, has performed frequently at Carnegie Hall, New York City Center, Lincoln Center, Jazz at Lincoln Center, Merkin Hall, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Radio City Music Hall, St. John the Divine Cathedral, Trinity Church at Wall Street, Weill Recital Hall, the Wintergarden World Financial Center, and The United Nations, among other notable venues in New York City, as well as the National Gallery of Art and the Embassy of Italy in Washington, DC. She has appeared on the BBC, CBS, and CNN, and as an orchestral and chamber musician, and has performed numerous concerts with orchestras throughout North America and Europe, including The Arcos Orchestra, Vermont Symphony Orchestra, Albany Symphony Orchestra, The Philharmonic Orchestra of the Americas, Reading Symphony Orchestra, Miami Symphony Orchestra, Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic, Glimmerglass Opera, Distinguished Concerts International NYC, the Handel Society of Dartmouth College, the New York Opera Society Orchestra, the New Mexico Performing Arts Society, the Santa Fe Symphony, and the Santa Fe Opera. Elizabeth has served on the faculty of the New Mexico School of the Arts, and she is a member of the New Mexico Philharmonic.

David Felberg, violinist and Albuquerque native, is the Artistic Director and Co-Founder of Chatter, a groundbreaking series exploring both new and old music, and producing over 60 performances per year. Chatter was recently mentioned in *The New York Times* in an article about curated silence, one of the main features of their performances. David plays in, and conducts many of the concerts—often presenting twentieth- and twenty-first-century pieces that have never been heard in New Mexico. He is also Concertmaster of The Santa Fe Symphony, Associate Concertmaster of the New Mexico Philharmonic, and performs with Santa Fe Pro Musica baroque and chamber orchestra series, and was recently featured as a soloist on the Oregon Bach Festival Composers Symposium. David has been featured as soloist with The Santa Fe Symphony Orchestra, New Mexico Philharmonic, New Mexico Symphony, Albuquerque Philharmonic, Los Alamos Symphony, Palo Alto Philharmonic, Balcones Orchestra (TX), and the Chatter Orchestra. He has performed recitals and chamber music throughout the Southwest, and most recently performed at the Oregon Bach Festival. David has been specializing in contemporary solo violin music, having performed solo works of Berio, Boulez, Sciarrino, John Zorn, and Luigi Nono. He has recently conducted premiere performances of composers as diverse as Juaquín Berio, Eve Beglarian, Paula Matthesun. David recently made his conducting debut with Santa Fe Pro Musica. He regularly conducts the New Mexico Philharmonic, The Santa Fe Symphony and Chatter, and has collaborated with such soloists as Rachel Barton Pine, Anne-Marie McDermott, Conor Hanick, and Benjamin Hochman. David, made his New York violin recital debut in Merkin Concert Hall in the spring of 2005. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree, in History, from the University of Arizona and a Master of Music degree in Conducting from the University of New Mexico, and has taken advanced string quartet studies at the University of Colorado with the Takacs Quartet. David has also attended the prestigious American Academy of Conducting at the Aspen Music Festival.

Laura Steiner, violinist and violist, is a member of the New Mexico Philharmonic and a teacher of violin, viola, and music theory. She also performs with the Santa Fe Symphony, the Chatter concert series, Albuquerque Chamber Soloists, and other New Mexico performing arts organizations. She has performed solo works with the Albuquerque Youth Symphony, the New Mexico Philharmonic, the Masterworks Festival Philharmonic Orchestra, and the University of Alabama Huxford Symphony Orchestra. Laura especially enjoys playing chamber music and new music. Laura earned a Master of Music degree, with distinction, in Viola Performance, String Pedagogy, and Music Theory at the University of New Mexico in the summer of 2020. She has taught violin and viola students for over ten years and freshman Music Theory courses at UNM for ten semesters. Her principal teachers include Kim Fredenburgh, Wendy Richman, Daniel Sweaney, Gabriel Gordon, and Derek Reeves, and she received her Bachelor of Music degree in Viola Performance from the University of Alabama *summa cum laude*.

Dana Winograd, cellist, is originally from Los Angeles, received her Bachelor and Master of Music Performance degrees from the Juilliard School in New York, where she studied with Harvey Shapiro and Channing Robbins, as well as members of the Juilliard String Quartet for chamber music. After graduation, Winograd led an active freelance career in New York City, including performances at Carnegie Hall with the American Composers Orchestra and the American Symphony, Broadway appearances (both in the pit and on stage) including *Phantom of The Opera*, *Cats*, *Beauty and the Beast*, as well as playing backup for Rod Stewart, Luther Vandross, Lyle Lovett, Manhattan Transfer, and Harry Connick Jr.. Life in New York included nine tours to Asia, as a member of the Juilliard Orchestra, the New York Pops orchestra, and the American Symphony. Additionally, Winograd played throughout the US in touring productions of various musicals. Since moving to Santa Fe in 1999, she joined the New Mexico Symphony (now New Mexico Philharmonic), and is principal cellist of The Santa Fe Symphony. She has appeared as a soloist with The Santa Fe Symphony, the Santa Fe Community Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra of Albuquerque, the Plainfield Symphony in New Jersey, and the Julius Grossman Orchestra in New York. As a chamber musician, Winograd plays frequently with Chatter, Taos Chamber Music Group, and the Albuquerque Chamber Soloists. As a Santa Fe Symphony Orchestra mentor, Winograd serves in the Santa Fe Public Schools, and she is also the cello teacher of many budding musicians in the Santa Fe area. She has worked in various capacities with the Santa Fe Youth Symphony Association. Several years ago, Winograd and her husband Gil started and maintain a scholarship fund for Youth Symphony students.

Meadow City Academy of Music was founded by Artistic Director Ronald Maltais in the spring of 2017, with a mission to provide excellent musical/dance training and performances for the Las Vegas, New Mexico community. The Academy seeks to present professional New Mexico musicians and dancers in performance venues throughout the city. As we proceed into our fifth season, we are proud to announce that the Academy has featured over 70 New Mexico artists since its founding. Due to the generosity of our donors, we are committed to awarding music scholarships for talented Las Vegas youth.

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Next Event

Convergence

featuring the David Friesen/Kevin Zoernig piano/bass duo performing their original music plus the premiere of an electronically generated work by Ronald Maltais.

Friday, April 29, 7:30 p.m.
Historic Plaza Hotel Ballroom
Las Vegas New Mexico

