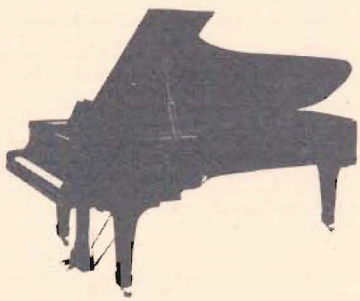
FRIENDS OF CHAMBER MUSIC

Cantilena Piano Quartet

3 p.m., April 24, 1988
Long Theatre, University of the Pacific
Stockton, California



Piano Quartet in One Movement
in A Minor (1876) — Gustav Mahler (1860-1911)

Piano Quartet No. 1 in D Major,
Opus 23 (1875) — Anton Dvorak (1841-1904)

- Allegro
- Moderato
- Andantino
- Finale: allegretto scherzando

Intermission

Piano Quartet No. 1 in C Minor,
Opus 15 (1877) — Gabriel Faure (1845-1924)

- Allegro molto moderato
- Scherzo: allegro vivo
- Adagio
- Allegro molto

Program Notes
by Philipp Naegele

Piano Quartet in One Movement in A Minor (1876)
Gustav Mahler

We have only this first movement of an uncompleted piano quartet in one movement by the 16-year-old Mahler; 30 measures of sketches for a scherzo movement also exist. Mahler valued his quartet above his other student compositions enough to send it to a Russian competition, where it was lost. A surviving copy is not completely supplied with the composer's performance indication.

It would seem unnecessary to grade this work in the light of Mahler's later masterworks. One need only ask who else could have written such an expressive, thematically coherent and skillfully sonoric work as a teenager in the late 1870s?

Piano Quartet No. 1 in D Major, Opus 23 (1875)
Anton Dvorak

Unlike the second piano quartet, the first is seldom played and quite undeservedly so. It is gently lyrical throughout, formally original and even problematic. Dvorak's haunting and innocently evocative idiom is in full bloom from the opening cello melody that seems to call from Bohemia's meadows and forests, through the melancholy dumka variations of the Andantino, to the unburdened Slavonic dance of the Finale.

The Finale cleverly incorporates the Scherzo function of the missing third movement via an intricate interplay of contrasting meters and tempe, giving us two movements in one.

The quartet was written right after the similarly radiant and amiable Serenade for Strings in the spring of 1875 and first performed in public in 1880 in Prague.

Piano Quartet No. 1 in C Minor, Opus 15 (1877)
Gabriel Faure

The two piano quartets in Faure's output represent contrasting aspects of the composer's artistic personality. The later quartet reaches into the visionary and rarified harmonic regions through which Faure was to gain a place among the composers of the 20th century.

The first shows the young and passionate, but always stylishly civilized composer who created his own individual idiom. The somber slow movement hints at the personal anguish of losing his fiance of five years. The work dates to 1877, was first performed in 1880, and had its last movement rewritten in 1883.

One tends to think of musical evolution in harmonic terms, but there are rhythmic inventions in the 19th century, notably in Berlioz and Faure, which are just as important in their subtle complexity as the chromatic harmony and cyclical forms of a Cesar Franck. The rhythmic life of the C minor quartet is ever a challenge to both performer and listener.

Cantilena Piano Quartet

Edna Michell, violin
Philipp Naegele, viola
Steven Thomas, cello,
Frank Glazer, piano

The Cantilena Piano Quartet, in between concert tours of Yugoslavia and of Scandinavia this summer, is making its Central California debut this afternoon in Stockton.

Now in its second decade, the quartet has established itself as one of America's leading chamber music ensembles on the concert stage, on recordings and on television.

The group has toured extensively in Yugoslavia, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Switzerland and Italy. This summer they will again tour Scandinavia under the auspices of the Tivoli Festival, and this fall they will return to Italy for a special residency and series of concerts in Venice.

Their playing has been praised as "solid, secure and polished" by the New York Times, as "glittering" by the Washington Post, and as "first rate" by Stereo Review. Said the London Times: "A piano quartet of outstanding quality. They made light of all the difficulties and gave a breathlessly exhilarating performance."

The ensemble performs regularly at major international music festivals, including those in Belgrade, Como and Gstaad (supervised by Yehudi Menuhin).

They appear frequently on the distinguished chamber music series at the Library of Congress in Washington and were highly praised for their concerts on the prestigious chamber music series at Carnegie Hall in New York.

American and European composers have dedicated more than 20 works to the Quartet. They have been leaders in expanding the piano quartet repertoire through premieres and recordings of new works and revivals of rarely-heard masterworks.

The Cantilena Piano Quartet makes regular national concert tours, appears regularly on the PBS television network, was heard at the Winter Olympics, and is the subject of a documentary film of their concert at the Louisiana Art Museum.

The Guarneri String Quartet is one of the outstanding chamber music ensembles offered on our exciting 1988-89 season. Watch for the announcement in May and order your season ticket early!

Friends of Chamber Music 1987-88 Season
Presented in Cooperation with University of the Pacific and the UOP Conservatory of Music

International Chamber Ensemble of Rome (non-subscription)
Friday, September 18, 8:00 p.m., Faye Spanos Concert Hall, UOP
Underwritten in part by a generous grant from American Savings and Loan Association

Mendelssohn String Quartet
Saturday, October 10, 8:00 p.m., Long Theatre, UOP

Academy of St. Martin-In-The-Field Octet
Saturday, November 21, 8:00 p.m., Faye Spanos Concert Hall, UOP
Underwritten in part by a generous grant from the National Endowment for the Arts

Los Angeles Brass
Sunday, January 24, 3:00 p.m., Long Theatre, UOP
Underwritten in part by a generous grant from the California Arts Council

Hagen String Quartet
Thursday, March 3, 8:00 p.m. Long Theatre, UOP

The Kronos Quartet (non-subscription)
Wednesday, April 6, 8:00 p.m. Long Theatre, UOP
Underwritten by generous grants from the City of Stockton, California Arts Council and National Endowment for the Arts.

Cantilena Piano Quartet
Sunday, April 24, 3:00 p.m., Long Theatre, UOP

To Our Audience

Use of cameras and recording devices, and smoking in the lobby and auditorium, are prohibited.

Latecomers will not be seated until a suitable break.

Please disengage pagers and electronic watches.

UOP students are admitted free on space availability.
Piano provided by the UOP Conservatory of Music

Programs are subject to change without notice.

Tickets

UOP Box Office: Long Theatre, 1040 Stadium Drive, Stockton, California 95211 209/946-2474 Monday-Friday 10:00 to 5:30, Saturday 10:00 to 2:00

Ticketron: 1/486-7469
Single $12 ($4 Children), Season $40

Advance tickets may be purchased with Visa, MasterCard or personal checks at the box office until two hours prior to the performance, at which time ticket sales are cash only.

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