FRIENDS OF CHAMBER MUSIC

Guarneri String Quartet

Underwritten in part by a generous grant from the City of Stockton.

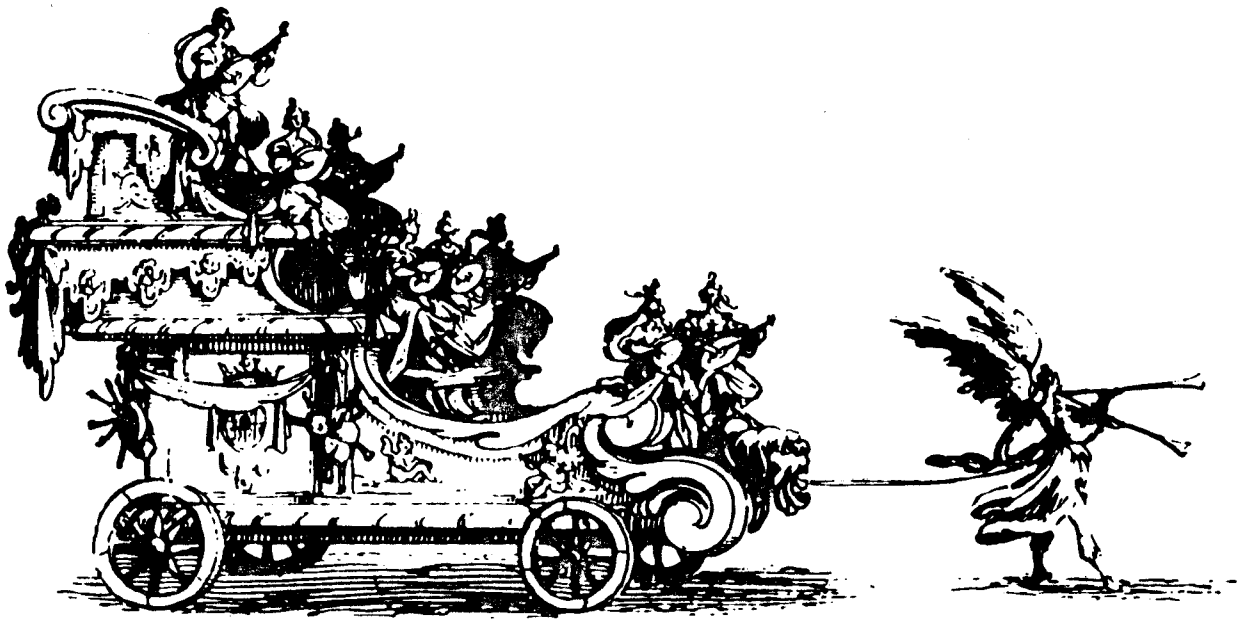
Thursday, November 3, 1988, 8 p.m.
Long Theatre, University of the Pacific
Stockton, California

Quartet in D Major, Op. 18, No. 3 — Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827
- Allegro
- Andante con molto
- Allegro
- Presto

Quartet No. 8, Op. 110 — Dimitri Shostakovich, 1905-1975
- Largo
- Allegro molto
- Allegretto
- Largo
- Largo

Intermission

Quartet in A Major, Op. 41, No. 3 — Robert Schumann, 1810-1856
- Andante espressivo - Allegro molto moderato
- Assai agitato - Un poco adagio - Tempo risoluto
- Adagio molto
- Allegro molto vivace



Program Notes
Jeremy Yudkin

Quartet in D Major, Op. 18, No. 3
Ludwig van Beethoven

This is an unpretentious, beautifully written and delightful work. The first movement is constructed around a series of long notes in simple counterpoint, decorated by frilly ornamental figures. The melodic motifs are traditionally elegant and concise, but the occasional offbeat accents and strident fortissimo passages are pure Beethoven.

A simple theme provides the basis for the slow movement, but its treatment is sophisticated. Lush chords are juxtaposed with odd fragmentation, strong repeated notes alternate with quietly smooth passages, and the movement ends with combined calm and mystery.

The third movement is a clever and fascinating piece, again unspectacular and subtly projected. The rhythmic shifts, the harmonic play, the stops and starts of the first part are thrown into relief by a brief central Trio section in the minor mode.

A resilient energy pervades the last movement, with its contrast between spiky outline and smooth contour, seamlessness and fragmentation, declamation and contemplation. The ending is table-thumping in reverse: a rehetorical gesture of great effectiveness.

Quartet No. 8, Op. 110
Dimitri Shostakovich

This quartet was written in 1960, when the composer was 54, and it is the most intimate and subjective of all 15 of his quartets.

It is dominated by a musical autograph. He begins with the notes D (for Dimitri) - S - C- H (the first three letters of his last name). This motif also opens the third movement. The quartet also contains quotations from his First Symphony, his 1923 Piano Trio, and his opera "Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk."

The most striking component of the Quartet is its message of profound anti-war sentiment. It was composed long after the war, but it was written in Dresden, the most heavily war-damaged city in Europe. Shostakovich dedicated the work "to the memory of the victims of Facism and war."

The music is cast in five movements, which are played without a break. The slow sections are reflective and mournful, the fast violent and programmatic. Rich intensity of sound contrasts with evocative delicacy. The last movement brings a poignant reminiscence of the first.

Quartet in A Major, Op. 41, No. 3
Robert Schumann

Schumann wrote only three string quartets, composed in two months in 1842 and published the following year. They reflect his study of quartet scores by Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven and are constructed on a sound Classical basis. Yet the Classicism has not restricted the Romanticism of the music, which is warm and lyrical.

In the Third Quartet, the slow introduction presents a melodic motif which provides the germinating force for the first movement proper. The first theme is heard once again before the coda.

The second movement is an unusual piece, consisting of variations on a theme. Shifts of harmony present changes of direction, and the movement ends in the major mode.

Lyricism and melody characterize the Adagio, which presents a strong contrast to the finale, which is in rondo form. The intervening episodes to the main theme are highly varied, and there is a long and elaborate coda.

Guarneri String Quartet

Arnold Steinhardt, *Violin*
John Dalley, *Violin*
Michael Tree, *Viola*
David Soyer, *Cello*

The Guarneri String Quartet, consistently hailed as the world's premier quartet, is making its third Stockton appearance following Friends of Chamber Music concerts here in 1977 and 1979.

The ensemble has been featured on television & radio specials and documentaries and educational presentations in North America and abroad. It has been the subject of three books, most recently "The Art of Quartet Playing" (Knopf, 1986). Its many recordings have won numerous international awards.

Throughout 22 years performing together, there have been no personnel changes in the Guarneri. Each member has had a major career, appearing as soloist or in collaboration with others, and

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Friends of Chamber Music
P.O. Box 4874
Stockton, California 95204

each has recorded as soloist on a variety of labels.

This past season of 100 recitals included foreign tours and another transcontinental tour of America. In New York, the ensemble continues its annual "Guarneri & Friends" series at Alice Tully Hall, at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and at the 92nd Street YM-YWHA.

Last season set a record of recitals performed on many contintents, from Czechoslovakia to Japan and from Argentina to Iceland. The Quartet's annual European tour included their debut in Prague, where they were awarded the coveted Smetana Medal.

In Tokyo, they performed the Beethoven Quartet Cycle during the dedicatory week of the new Pablo Casals Chamber Music Hall. Last spring, the ensemble made its South American debut in Buenos Aires and concluded the season at the Reykjavik Arts Festival in Iceland.

The Quartet is on the faculty of the Curtis Institute of Music and at the University of Maryland. The Quartet holds Honorary Doctorates from the State University of New York and the University of South Florida.

Friends of Chamber Music 1988-89 Season
Presented in Cooperation with University of the Pacific and the UOP Conservatory of Music

Franz Liszt Budapest Chamber Orchestra
Tuesday, October 18, 8 p.m., Long Theatre, UOP

Guarneri String Quartet
Thursday, November 3, 8 p.m., Long Theatre, UOP
Underwritten in part by a generous grant from the City of Stockton

Coull String Quartet
Sunday, February 5, 3 p.m., Faye Spanos Concert Hall, UOP

Musical Offering
Sunday, March 5, 3 p.m., Temple Israel, 5105 N. El Dorado St.

The Bowdoin Trio
Sunday, April 30, 3 p.m., Faye Spanos Concert Hall, UOP
Underwritten in part with funds provided by the Western States Arts Federation, California Arts Council and National Endowment for the Arts

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 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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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Walter H. Perl, 1956

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