

MUSIC IN THE VILLAGE
ST. MARY'S CHURCH,
WALTHAMSTOW

27TH MARCH 2008

The Chilingirian String Quartet
Levon Chilingirian and Richard Ireland, violins
Susie Mészáros, viola
Philip De Groot, cello



String quartet no. 12 in Eb major Opus 127

Ludwig van Beethoven
1770-1827

Maestoso - allegro
Adagio, ma non troppo e molto cantabile
Scherzando vivace
Allegro

***** Interval *****

String quartet no. 15 in a minor Opus 132

Beethoven

Assai sostenuto - allegro
Allegro ma non tanto
*Heiliger Dankgesang eines Genesenen an die Gottheit in
der Lydischen Tonart. Molto adagio - andante*
*(Holy Song of Thanks to the Godhead from a convalescent, in the
Lydian mode)*
Alla marcia, assai vivace - piu allegro -
Allegro appassionato

Beethoven's progressive deafness commenced in 1795, at the age of 28. Opus 127 was written in the years 1823 to 1824 and opus 132 in 1825. They are two of the three quartets commissioned by Prince Nikolay Gailitzin, an amateur cellist and connoisseur of music.

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The Chilingirian Quartet is one of the world's most celebrated and widely travelled ensembles, renowned for their thrilling interpretations of the great quartets and their commanding performance of the contemporary repertoire. The quartet was founded in 1971 by Levon Chilingirian and Philip De Groote. Whilst each member is a virtuoso musician, their success as a quartet has earned them the Royal Philharmonic Society's coveted Chamber Ensemble Award. They are the quartet in residence at the Royal College of Music in London, resident quartet at the Lake District Summer Music Festival and had a residency in 2005 at the University of California at Irvine. Places on the Chilingirian's annual chamber music course at West Dean are eagerly sought after by aspiring young professional musicians.

European engagements have included major festivals such as the Edinburgh, Aldeburgh and Tivoli festivals and prestigious series at the Barbican Centre, Wigmore Hall, Concertgebouw, Munich Herkulesaal, Zurich Tonhalle, Stockholm Konserthuset and Vienna Konzerthaus.

The Quartet tours North America every season and has performed extensively in Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Asia, Africa and South America.

The Chilingirian Quartet, sought after for their insight and imagination, has given many world premieres - most recently Michael Berkeley's cello quintet *Abstract Mirrors* and Hugh Wood's *Serenade and Elegy* - and has a special relationship with the music of Michael Tippett. All of whose quartets it performs regularly.

Currently recording for the UK's top independent labels, Hyperion and Chandos, the Chilingirian's extensive discography includes the Bartok and Dvorak cycles. This spring Chandos released their new recording of Michael Berkeley's quartet *Magnetic Field* and quintet *Abstract Mirrors*. The Quartet recently embarked on a project of DVDs of all the Beethoven quartets and has recorded the 6 Mozart quartets for CRD records for release later this year.

Levon Chilingirian was born in Cyprus and studied at the Royal College where he is now Professor. He won first prize at the BBC Beethoven and Munich Duo competitions in 1969 and 1971 with pianist Clifford Benson. He has appeared as a soloist with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, the Philharmonia, Russian National and BBC Symphony Orchestras and is music director of the Camerata Nordica and the Mendelssohn on Mull Festival.

Richard Ireland was born in London in a family of string quartet players and studied with Eli Goren and Shmuel Ashkenasi, both quartet leaders. He has performed with Domus, Capricorn and Prometheus at the South Bank and for the BBC. He has also been guest leader for the Northern Sinfonia and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment. He is professor of violin at the Royal Northern College of Music.

Susie Mészáros began her musical education at the Yehudi Menuhin School, going on to study in Salzburg with Sandor Vegh, with whom she was a regular chamber music partner. She was then appointed principal viola in his Camerata Academica. Susie made her Wigmore Hall debut in 1977 with Yehudi Menuhin and won gold medal in the Royal Overseas League competition. As a violinist Susie has led Kent Opera and the Prometheus Ensemble.

Philip De Groote was born in Johannesburg into a family of professional musicians and had his first cello lessons at the age of six. He won many prizes in his early years before studying with Ellen Croxford at the Royal College of Music. Further studies with William Pleeth and Janos Starker were followed by two television appearances with Paul Tortelier. In 1971 he won the Tenuto Prize from Belgian Radio and co founded the Chilingirian Quartet.

OUR NEXT CONCERT ON April 21st 2008 Pain and Pleasure, Blood and Bravura!

Richard Boothby and Reiko Ichise, violas da gamba; James Johnstone, harpsichord; Oliver Hume, narrator perform Marin Marais' gripping account of a gall bladder operation, virtuoso viol music by Forqueray and other exquisite music from the French baroque court. Join Samuel Pepys in the operating theatre!

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