



# The German Society of Pennsylvania

presents

## Pyxis Piano Quartet



Sunday, March 15, 2015 at 3:00pm

The German Society of Pennsylvania  
[www.germansociety.org](http://www.germansociety.org)

611 Spring Garden Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19123

# Calendar of Events

## March 2015

- Thur. Mar. 19 Lecture: Lisa Minardi - **"Pennsylvania German Fraktur: From A to Z", 6.30pm**  
Fri. Mar. 20 Friday FilmFest presents "Nachtzug nach Lissabon" (German with German subtitles), 6.30pm

## April 2015

- Wed. Apr. 8 Konversationsabend: China 300 Million Years Ago and Today, 6.00pm  
Sat. Apr. 11 **Women's Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 10.00am**  
Sat. Apr. 11 **Buchclub: Marlen Haushofer's "Die Wand/The Wall", 1.30pm**  
Sat. Apr. 11 Hamburger Abend, 6.30pm  
Fri. Apr. 17 Friday FilmFest presents "Die Wand" (German with German subtitles), 6.30pm

## May 2015

- Sat. May 2 **Women's Auxiliary Luncheon, 12.00pm**  
Wed. May 13 Konversationsabend: Theater Scene in Berlin, Fall 2014, 6.00pm  
Fri. May 15 **Friday FilmFest presents "Der ganz große Traum" (German with German subtitles), 6.30pm**

## June 2015

- Sat. June 6 **Women's Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 10.00am**  
Sun. June 7 **Annual Member's Meeting and Election, 3.00pm**

## Save the Dates for our Next "Wister and More!" Concerts...

- Sun. Apr. 12 Melomanie, 3.00pm  
Robert Maggio - Aegean Airs  
Louis-Gabriel Guillemain - Quartet III in D Minor  
J.S. Bach - Suite in C. Minor for Solo Cello  
Alec Wilder - Suite for Harpsichord and Flute  
Carl Friedrich Abel - Sonata in A Major for violin, gamba, and basso continuo
- Sun. May 10 The Wister Quartet, 3.00pm  
Charles Tomlinson Griffes - Sketches Based on Indian Themes  
Giuseppe Verdi - String Quartet in E Minor  
Alexander Konstantinovich Glazunov - Five Novelettes, Op. 15
- Sun. May 31 A cooperative effort with the Delius Society: Michael Djupstrom (piano) & Ayana Kozasa (viola), 3.00pm  
Michael Djupstrom - Walimai  
Frederick Delius - Violin Sonata No. 2

# Pyxis Piano Quartet

## PROGRAM

Souvenir de Beethoven

Pedro Tintorer  
(1814 - 1891)

Suite - Divertissement

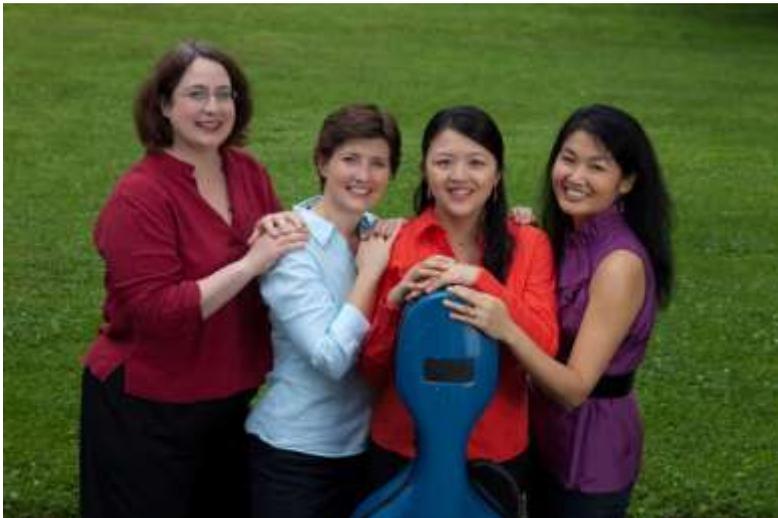
Alexander Tansman  
(1897 - 1986)

Piano Quartet in E. Flat Minor, Op. 47

Robert Schumann  
(1810 - 1856)

*There will be one 15-minute intermission. We offer refreshments from our bar during that time.*

*Your ticket to our concert also invites you to a complimentary reception with the artist in the Ratskeller (downstairs) following the performance.*



# Program Notes

## Souvenir de Beethoven - Pedro Tintorer

The irresistibly entitled “**Souvenir de Beethoven**” was written in the 1840s by little-known Catalan composer Pedro (or Pere, as he was known in France) Tintorer. Though Tintorer was born in Palma de Mallorca of Catalan parents, they soon moved to Barcelona, where Tintorer grew up studying flute, voice, and piano. After graduating from the Madrid Conservatory with a first prize in piano he, like many young musicians of the 1800s and 1900s, set out to study in Paris, then the capital of the cultural world. At the Paris Conservatory he studied composition with Pierre Zimmerman and also studied for a time with Franz Liszt. Tintorer taught for many years at the Lyon Conservatory and finally returned to Barcelona where he was a professor and then director of the Conservatori del Liceu. In addition to composing over 100 works of many genres, Tintorer also was known for writing pedagogical books for piano.

## Suite - Divertissement - Alexander Tansman

Polyglot, cosmopolitan, and extremely prolific composer Alexander Tansman was born in 1897 in **Lodz, Poland. Lodz at this time was under control of the Russian government. Tansman’s family was Jewish and upper-middle class, highly cultured, French-speaking, and very musical. Tansman’s education included learning the languages Polish, Russian, German, French, and English. He later added Spanish and Italian. Having begun studying piano at age 4, he decided at age 6 that he would become a musician, and at age 8 he started composing. He studied composition at Warsaw University, while gaining a doctorate in Law and Philosophy.**

**By 1919 Poland had become an independent nation and established a national composers’ competition.** Tansman won the first three prizes for three pieces he had submitted under three different names. His success in this competition prompted him to go to Paris, where he became known first as a concert pianist and later as a conductor and composer. Here he met Ravel, Milhaud, Honegger, Roussel, Florent Schmitt, Ibert, and other French composers, who formed a tightly knit musical community and greatly influenced each other’s work. **Tansman’s orchestral works caught the interest of Serge Koussevitzky and Willem Mengelberg, who ensured that his pieces were performed not only by orchestras in Paris, but in New York and Boston as well.**

On tours in the United States, Tansman met and became friendly with Charlie Chaplin, George Gershwin, the great supporter of the arts Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge, Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, and Art Tatum, whose music he particularly admired. On tours elsewhere he played duets with Queen Elizabeth of Belgium, was received by Emperor Hirohito of Japan, and was asked to spend several days in India in the company of Gandhi. **Not only did he write a piano piece based on these travels (“La Tour du Monde en Miniature”), the trip was made into a film shown at the Polish Institute in Paris and on Polish television.**

Alas, due to the changing political situation in Europe in the 1930s, his music was heard less and less often, and he was blacklisted for producing “degenerate art”. **In 1936 he renounced his Polish citizenship and became a French citizen, but in 1941 was pushed out of Europe altogether. With the**

help of Charlie Chaplin, Arturo Toscanini, Serge Koussevitsky, Eugene Ormandy, Jascha Heifetz, and Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge he was supported and resettled in Los Angeles: the European exile community which included Igor Stravinsky, Arnold Schoenberg, Darius Milhaud, Thomas Mann, and Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco. During this time he wrote three symphonies and a series of film scores.

Tansman returned to France in 1946 and remained there until his death in 1986. His music was newly embraced all throughout Europe. His many influences are heard in his music: Polish folk music, Jewish music, jazz, French music, and concern for the problems of the modern world.

### Piano Quartet in E. Flat Minor, Op. 47 - Robert Schumann

Robert Schumann spent his Leipzig youth intending to become a piano virtuoso, but by his twenty-first year had so badly damaged his finger muscles by trying to extend his technique that this goal became out of the question. At the time he was studying piano and living in the house of his teacher Friedrich Wieck, where he compounded the difficulty of the situation by falling in **love with Wieck's daughter Clara, nine years his junior and already an accomplished piano soloist.** The elder Wieck disapproved of the match; Schumann argued successfully in a lawsuit for the **right to Clara's affections, and the two were married in 1840.**

**Up until this time Schumann had composed mostly piano pieces. At Clara's urging he expanded his efforts: 1840 was a year of 140 songs, 1841 was an orchestral year which produced two symphonies, the Piano Concerto, and several other short pieces, and 1842 is known as his chamber music year, in which he produced the Piano Quintet in E flat, three string quartets, and the Piano Quartet in E flat.**

**Unfortunately, it was around this time that the effects of Schumann's poor health, of contested origin, began to show. He suffered nervous collapse, depression, exhaustion, and aural nerve problems which caused hallucinations, as well as a host of other physical impediments. His musical powers declined, and he was jealous of having to take second place to Clara's career. Still, he rallied to keep his career going, accepting a short-lived professorship at the Leipzig Conservatory whose director at the time was Felix Mendelssohn, composing the opera "Genoveva" after having made the acquaintance of Richard Wagner, and serving as municipal music director for Dusseldorf, which ended badly. It was during this time that he also met the famed violinist Joseph Joachim and the young Johannes Brahms, who proved to be a great friend to the Schumann family. However, after a suicide attempt he was hospitalized and his doctors prevented Clara from seeing him for two years, until just before his death in 1856.**

**Schumann's music is of a sensitive nature, influenced by his knowledge of literature, lyrical and pianistic. He created new forms, key relationships, and ways of linking thematic material. He is remembered as well for having been a keen and intelligent music critic.**

# About the Artists

The Pyxis Piano Quartet was founded in 2009 to perform chamber music concerts which include works from the sonata, duo, and trio repertoire as well as traditional and contemporary masterpieces for piano quartet. The group takes its name from the Pyxis constellation, also known as the **Mariners' Compass whose symbol is the compass rose. The points of the compass rose represent the new artistic directions the group strives to take together while recognizing the different backgrounds and experiences of its musicians.**

## Meredith Amado, violin



**Praised by critics for her “technical aplomb and musical responsiveness,”** violinist Meredith Amado enjoys a career that spans continents and musical styles. **Ms. Amado’s first love is chamber music, and in that capacity** she has collaborated with a broad range of today's finest talents playing recitals across the United States.

Ms. Amado received Bachelor and Master's degree as a scholarship student at The Juilliard School. Ms. Amado is from Charlottesville, Virginia where she began violin studies at the age of five. She now lives in Wilmington, Delaware with her husband, three children and dog. She plays on a 1662 Nicolo Amati violin.

## Amy Leonard, viola

Philadelphia native Amy Leonard received viola performance degrees from the Oberlin Conservatory and the Manhattan School of Music, and has **studied baroque viola at Oberlin’s Baroque Performance Institute.**

Though much of her career has been devoted to the teaching and performing of orchestral music, Amy is also an active recitalist and chamber musician, participating in a number of music festivals in North America and Europe.

Past orchestral positions have been with the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, the New World Symphony, and as assistant principal violist with the National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland. Currently Amy maintains a studio teaching viola and violin at the Music School of Delaware, the Shipley School in Bryn Mawr, PA and at home.



## Jie Jin, cello



Jie Jin has been widely recognized for performances in music capitals in North America, Europe and Asia. An active chamber musician, Ms. Jin is the founder of the Tang-gu-la String Quartet. The Quartet received numerous honors, winning Second Prize in the First National String Quartet Competition.

Shortly after, the quartet appeared in Isaac Stern's Oscar-winning documentary "From Mao to Mozart", and performed for President Bill Clinton.

Ms. Jin began her cello study at age 5. She received her Bachelor's degree from Shanghai Conservatory of Music. Upon receiving a full scholarship from Shepherd School of Music at Rice University, she came to the United States.

## Hiroko Yamazaki, piano

Hiroko Yamazaki has performed throughout the United States and abroad and has collaborated with instrumentalists and vocalists including members of Tonhalle Orchestra, the Philadelphia Orchestra and the Delaware Symphony.

Ms. Yamazaki was the winner of the Austrian-American Society Musical Scholarship Competition, which sponsored her summer studies at the **Mozarteum Hochschule für Music und Darstellende Kunst in Salzburg**, Austria. She holds a Bachelor of Music Degree in piano performance from the University of Maryland.



Currently, she is Associate Head of the Piano Department and Master Piano Faculty with Distinction at The Music School of Delaware, where she served as chair of the piano department from 1996-2000.



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