The German Society of Pennsylvania

presents

Pyxis Piano Quartet

Sunday, September 18, 2016 at 3:00pm

The German Society of Pennsylvania
www.germansociety.org

611 Spring Garden Street
Philadelphia, PA 19123
Calendar of Events

September 2016
Sat. Sept. 24   Fall Clean-Up, 10.00am

October 2016
Sat. Oct. 1    Women’s Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 10.00am
Mon. Oct. 3    Springerle and More Presentation, 5.00pm
Wed. Oct. 12   Konversationsabend: Favorite Quotations, 6.00pm
Fri. Oct. 14   Friday FilmFest: *Frau Müller muss weg!*, 6.00pm
Wed. Oct. 19   Notgeld Presentation, 2.30pm

November 2016
Sat. Nov. 5    Women’s Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 10.00am
Sat. Nov. 5    252nd Annual Stiftungsfest, 6.00pm
Wed. Nov. 9    Konversationsabend: Migranten sprechen, 6.00pm
Sun. Nov. 13   St. Martin’s Parade
Fri. Nov. 18   Friday FilmFest: *Michael Kohlhaas: Der Rebell*, 6.00pm

December 2016
Sat. Dec. 3    Women’s Auxiliary Annual Christkindlmarkt, 12.00pm
Wed. Dec. 14   Konversationsabend: Music and Poems, 6.00pm

...Save the dates for our next “Wister and More!” concerts:

Sun. Oct. 9    The Wister Quartet
Selections include string quartets by Boccherini, Haydn, and Brahms.

Sun. Nov. 13   The 40th Anniversary of the Delius Society, with the Choral Arts Chamber Choir
Selections will include Delius’s *Requiem*, Parry’s *Songs of Farewell*, and Elgar’s *The Spirit of England*.

Sun. Dec. 11   The Ephrata Cloister Chorus
For our Christmas concert, come and enjoy Ephrata Cloister chorales, early American music, and Christmas selections.

Sun. Jan. 8    Claire Huangci, piano
Selections will include Scarlatti sonatas, variations on works by Brahms and Handel, and Chopin polonaises.

Sun. Jan. 29   Soprano Leslie Johnson with composer/performers Michael Djupstrom, piano and Chuck Holdeman, bassoon
Selections will include songs in German by Bach, Schoenberg, and Grieg, original compositions by Djupstrom, and a world premiere of a work composed by Chuck Holdeman.
Pyxis Piano Quartet

PROGRAM

Mozart en Route

Piano Quartet No. 2 in E-flat Major, K.493
  I. Allegro
  II. Larghetto
  III. Allegretto

Piano Quartet in c minor, Op. 13
  I. Allegro
  II. Scherzo. Presto
  III. Andante
  IV. Vivace

Aaron Jay Kernis
  (b. 1960)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
  (1756-1791)

Richard Strauss
  (1864-1949)

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
Aaron Jay Kernis

*Mozart en Route*

Aaron Jay Kernis defines his piece, Mozart En Route (or, a Little Traveling Music) as “A Fanfare for Violin, Viola, and Cello” on the title page of the score. The piece was commissioned in 1991 for the Bravo! Colorado Music Festival and is described on the website of the publisher in these words: “Inspired by a letter from Mozart in which he complains of being uncomfortably jostled during a carriage ride, Kernis’ short string interlude takes young listeners on a musical trip from Salzburg to Nashville and back! Seamless thematic variation is the headline as familiar sounding pop styles meld with classical tradition in several musical quotations from Mozart’s Divertimento for Strings, K. 563”.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

*Piano Quartet No. 2 in E-flat Major, K.493*

Mozart moved to Vienna in 1781 in a show of will designed to break from the heavy influence of his father, and became more or less a freelance musician. He organized a number of concerts and sold subscriptions for them, using these concerts as a vehicle for introducing himself to the Viennese public as a piano performer and showcasing new compositions many of which featured the piano. Always successful in the public eye, during this time he attained the height of his fame as a performing musician and confirmed his status as a master of chamber music composition. In 1785, he was commissioned by the publisher Franz Anton Hoffmeister, himself a composer, to write a series of three piano quartets. At the time, the piano quartet was something of a rarity; it was far more common to hear trios of piano, violin, and cello.

First came the g minor quartet, K. 478, dark, brooding and difficult, so much so that Hoffmeister declared it too difficult for amateur musicians and worried that it would not sell well to the public.

Thus, Hoffmeister released Mozart form fulfilling the remainder of the commission. Fortunately for us, Mozart went ahead anyway and completed the K. 493 quartet in his favorite key of E-flat major, all while also writing the opera The Marriage of Figaro. In a benevolent move, Hoffmeis-
ter gave the engraving plates of K. 493 to Mozart, who was able to have the work published by rival house Artaria in 1787.

**Richard Strauss**  
*Piano Quartet in c minor, Op. 13*

Richard Strauss was the son of Franz Strauss, the Principal Hornist of the Munich Orchestra, and Josephine Pschorr, whose family were prominent brewers in the Bavarian capital. From a young age, Richard showed great musical talents reading and writing music by the age of six, and playing the piano and violin as his primary instruments. His father (who hated the operas of Wagner, which he played under the composer’s direction), encouraged his son to be conservative musically. But at the age of nineteen, he moved to Berlin to study music and found his new model, Johannes Brahms. Under his new influence, he started to compose his Piano Quartet in c minor in the spring of 1884, and the work was premiered in 1885 with Strauss at the piano. The composition received first prize in a piano quartet competition.

Pyxis Piano Quartet was founded in 2009 to perform chamber music concerts that include works from the sonata, duo, and trio repertoire as well as traditional and contemporary masterpieces for pi-
Pyxis Piano Quartet — Biography

ano quartet. Compelling, engaging, and informative, their performances have become increasingly sought after in the mid-Atlantic region.

Pyxis has been heard along the East Coast in concerts from Virginia to Pennsylvania. Their performances have become a highlight of the Delaware arts scene, and this year they are in their eighth season as artists in residence at the Delaware Art Museum. The 2016-2017 season will also see the ensemble's third return to the German Society of Pennsylvania and the Market Street Music Festival Concerts at First and Central Church in Wilmington, Delaware, where they have become frequent guests.

Eliezer Gutman, violin

Romanian-born and raised in Israel, Eliezer Gutman has been a member of the Delaware Symphony Orchestra since 1994 and is currently concertmaster with the Kennett Symphony of Chester County, the Allentown Symphony Orchestra, and Opera Delaware. He also performs with various local orchestras, including the Reading Symphony Orchestra. Eliezer has performed solo recitals in France, England, Spain, Israel, and the United States. He was concertmaster of the Israel Technion-Institute Symphony Orchestra, Kibbutzim Symphony Orchestra, the Haifa Israel Symphony Orchestra, and the Ensemble-Carmel-Israel Chamber Orchestra.

Eliezer earned a Bachelor of Industry and Management degree from the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology and a Master of Music degree from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. He studied under David Arben, Philadelphia Orchestra concertmaster, and Avigdor Zamir, Associate Concertmaster of the Dutch orchestra The Concertgebouw. Eliezer finds his greatest joy spending time with his two children, Elad and Ayelet. "Simply stated: I love what I do." . . . . Eliezer Gutman

Amy Leonard, viola

An exceptionally versatile musician, Amy Leonard, has held positions with the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, The New World Symphony, and was assistant principal violist with the National Symphony of Ireland, where she also performed with the internationally recognized contemporary ensemble Nua Nos. She has participated in the Aspen, Banff, Spoleto USA music festivals, Mostra Mozart (Venice, Italy), and the Pierre Monteux School (Hancock, Maine) where for several years she directed the school’s chamber music series. Amy is in high demand now as a baroque and modern violist, working with most of the musical ensembles in the area as well as teaching violin and viola students at the Shipley School in Bryn Mawr and at her own studio. She has
recorded for the Chandos, Plectra, NMC, Naxos, Meyer Media, and BMG Classics labels, as well as for PBS, NFL Films, and Irish Film Orchestras.

**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 in the United States and abroad and has collaborated with instrumentalists and vocalists including members of Tonhalle Orchestra, the Philadelphia Orchestra, and the Delaware Symphony. Festival appearances include Luzerne, Aspen, Rome and International Festival Institute at Round Top, Texas (recorded by NPR).

Ms. Yamazaki has taught at University of Delaware and is currently Associate Head of the Piano Department/Master Piano Faculty with Distinction at The Music School of Delaware. She holds a Bachelor of Music in piano performance and Master of Music in Collaborative Piano from the University of Maryland.
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We also wish to acknowledge with thanks the generous support received from The Arcadia Foundation and The Philadelphia Cultural Fund for this season of our music program.