2006-2007 Concert Series at The German Society of Pennsylvania

Our 2006/07 “Wister and More!” concert series hosts our standard favorite, The Wister Quartet, as well as five additional concerts from a diverse spectrum of talent. We offer champagne and other refreshments for sale during intermission. Following the concert, everyone is invited to an informal reception for coffee, cake and an opportunity to meet with the artists.

In addition, we wish to acknowledge with great appreciation, the sponsorship support of three long-time Society members, Dr. John M. Haas, Dr. F. Peter Kohler, and Gabriele W. Lee, for the concerts so (*) indicated.

Sunday, October 1, 2006, 3:00pm
Wister Quartet
Guest Artist: Christoph Eschenbach, piano
Schubert: String Quartet in D Major, Op. 77, No. 5
Schumann: Piano Quartet in E Major, Op. 47

Sunday, October 22, 2006, 3:00pm *
Roberto Prosseda, piano
“Mendelssohn Discoveries”

Sunday, November 19, 2006, 3:00pm
Wister Quartet
Guest Artist: Christoph Eschenbach, piano

Friday, January 12, 2007, 7:00pm
Night & Day: The Best of Cole Porter

Sunday, December 10, 2006, 3:00pm
Birgit Gruetzner, piano
Andreas Greger, cello

Sunday, January 21, 2007, 3:00pm *
The Philadelphia Trio

Songs include:
Brahms: Piano Quartet in E Minor, Op. 2
Schubert: String Quartet in A Minor, Op. 11

Barbara Dever, mezzo-soprano
Jeffrey Uhlig, piano

Friday, January 26, 2007, 3:00pm *
“Mendelssohn Discoveries”

Sunday, March 11, 2007, 3:00pm
Wister Quartet
Haydn: String Quartet in D Major (“The Lock”)
Smith: String Quartet, Op. 3
Ravel: String Quartet in G Major

Sunday, March 25, 2007, 3:00pm *
Barbara Dever, mezzo-soprano
Jeffrey Uhlig, piano

Songs include:
Brahms: Vier ernste Gesänge, Op. 121
Schumann: Siète Cançiones populares Españolas

Sunday, April 22, 2007, 3:00pm
Wister Quartet

Fugue in E Major
Amiga: String Quartet in D Minor
Mozart: Trio in E Major, K. 542

All programs are subject to change.

Biographies

Roberto Prosseda was born in Latina, Italy. He studied at the International Piano Foundation and has appeared as a soloist with the Wiener Kammerorchester, Mozarteum Orchestra and the Kammerakademie-Totsdams and many others. His first album, entitled “Mendelssohn Discoveries”, was released in May 2003.

Birgit Gruetzner has focused intensively on chamber music for the past 10 years, building an extensive repertoire. She is the pianist for the Frankfurter Kantettro and has attended the Music Academy of Weimar.

Andreas Greger is the Principal Cellist of the Staatskapelle Berlin under Daniel Barenboim. He has also performed as a soloist with the Berlin Symphony Orchestra and the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra.

Night and Day: The Best of Cole Porter has been performing as a trio for 15 years. Most notably, the group received a standing ovation, led by Cole Porter’s family, as guests of the People’s Republic of China for an audience of 16,000. Their mix of both classical and popular styles makes them ideal interpreters of the music behind one of America’s favorite composers.

The Philadelphia Trio was formed in 1971. Cellists Deborah Reeder, pianist Elizabeth Keller and violinist Barbara Sonies are known for their lyrical and sensitive performances throughout the United States and Europe. They have performed for BBC and also the Spanish National Radio.

Barbara Dever is an internationally renowned mezzo-soprano who has appeared at virtually every major opera house in the world, including the Metropolitan Opera and La Scala, and has become a favorite at both the Philadelphia Orchestra and Opera Company of Philadelphia. Her collaboration with friend, Jeffrey Uhlig, extends over twenty years.
The Wister Quartet

In 1991, the Wister Quartet established its own chamber music series of Sunday afternoon concerts at the German Society, featuring some of the greatest quartet literature ever written, as well as unusual and rarely played works. The unique richness and depth of their sound has already won the hearts of critics across the board.

Christoph Eschenbach

Recently awarded the Legion d’Honneur of France and the Bundesverdienstkreuz 1. Kl. of Germany, Mr. Eschenbach is now in his third season as Music Director of The Philadelphia Orchestra, while continuing as Music Director of the Orchestre de Paris. He credits his 25-year mentor, Herbert von Karajan, on his development as a conductor.

The German Society of Pennsylvania

Today, as in the past, the German Society, founded in 1764, seeks to further the understanding of German and German-American contributions to the growth of American history and culture. The Society achieves this vision through its exciting cultural and educational programs for the general public.

Photo of Mr. Eschenbach courtesy of Jessica Griffin/The Philadelphia Orchestra Assoc.