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 praise of critics across the board.

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.

Support provided in part by the Philadelphia Cultural Fund.
2016/2017 Concert Series at The German Society of Pennsylvania

Our 2016/17 “Wister and More!” concert series again hosts our standard favorite, The Wister Quartet, as well as additional concerts from a diverse spectrum of talent.

Following each Sunday concert, attendees are invited to a reception in the German Society’s Ratskeller for coffee & cake, as well as an opportunity to meet the artists. At every concert, we also offer champagne and other refreshments for sale during intermission. Our elderly or mobility-challenged guests are welcome to use our “Beichl Tower” elevator.

All programs are subject to change.

Sunday, December 11 2016, 3pm
The Ephrata Cloister Chorus
Come and enjoy Ephrata Cloister choralies, early American music, and Christmas selections.

Sunday, February 19 2017, 3pm
ESTrella Piano Duo
“Musical Travels through Europe”
Featuring works by Debussy, Schubert, Busoni, Grieg, Mussorgsky, and others.

Sunday, March 19 2017, 3pm
The Casimir Trio
Beethoven - Variations on “Ich bin der Schneider Kakadu,” Op. 121a
Brahms - Sonata in A Major, Op. 100 for violin and piano
Smetana - Piano Trio in G Major, Op. 15

Sunday, April 23 2017, 3pm
The Delius Society Presents:
The Wister Quartet with Marcantonio Barone, piano
Gerald Finzi - Romance, for string quartet
Frederick Delius - Suite, for violin and piano
Arnold Bax - Piano Quintet in G Minor

Sunday, May 14 2017, 3pm
American Virtuosi
Celebrate Mother’s Day with stories, pictures and colors in music! With the following works:
Saint-Saens - The Swan
Rimsky Korsakov - The Bumble Bee
Ibert - The Donkey
Schumann - Selections from Scenes from Childhood

Sunday, September 18 2016, 3pm
Pyxis Piano Quartet
Mozart - Piano Quartet No. 2 in E-flat Major, K.493
Strauss - Piano Quartet in C Minor, Op. 13

Sunday, January 8 2017, 3pm
Claire Huangci, piano
Selections will include Scarlatti sonatas, variations on works by Brahms and Handel, and Chopin polonaises.

Sunday, January 29 2017, 3pm
Soprano Leslie Johnson with composer/performers Michael Djupstrom, piano & Chuck Holdeman, bassoon
Renditions will include songs in German by Bach, Schoenberg, and Grieg; featuring music by Djupstrom and a world premiere of a work composed by Chuck Holdeman.

Sunday, October 9 2016, 3pm
The Wister Quartet
Boccherini - String Quartet in A Major
Haydn - String Quartet in D Minor, Op. 76, No. 2 (“Quintet”)
Brahms - String Quartet in A Minor, Op. 50, No. 2

Sunday, November 13 2016, 3pm
The 40th Anniversary of the Delius Society
Frederick Delius - Requiem
Charles Hubert Hastings Parry - Songs of Farewell
Edward Elgar - “For the Fallen” from The Spirit of England, Op. 80

Biographies
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.

The Ephrata Cloister Chorus was formed in 1959 under the leadership of Dr. Russell Getz, a professor at Lebanon Valley College. He worked to transcribe early Cloister music into modern notation, and his pioneering work continues to serve as the Chorus’ repertoire.

Claire Huangci, born in Rochester, New York, started playing piano at six years of age. She was accepted into the Settlement Music School, Curtis Institute of Music, and is currently a resident artist at the Hannover Hochschule für Musik in Germany.

Leslie Johnson, Michael Djupstrom, and Chuck Holdeman have each reached acclaim in their professional careers, working with such institutions as the Philadelphia Classical Symphony, the Curtis Institute of Music, and the Washington National Opera, to name a few. The combined talents of these three musicians and composers promise a broad repertoire, ranging from the Renaissance to the 21st century.

ESTrella Piano Duo burst on the musical scene in 2011 with a series of concerts celebrating the great Russian masterpieces for piano duo. Elena Droubetskaya and Svetlana Belakay both share their Russian/Ukrainian heritage and training, and their enthusiasm for virtuosic four-handed piano recitals.

The American Virtuosi is a trio of Borovsky siblings, which has gained considerable notoriety, both in the United States and abroad, for their youth, infectious enthusiasm and, most importantly, for their artistic skills. Hailed by the international press as “American Virtuosi,” the Borovsky family has been praised worldwide for their outstanding musicianship, most recently returning from a tour through the Baltic States.