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 won the praise of critics across the board.

The German Society of Pennsylvania

Today, and since its founding in 1764, the German Society of Pennsylvania 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.

Ticket Policy

If available, single tickets will be on sale at the door the day of the concert. Tickets are not refundable, but may be exchanged for other concerts, subject to availability. Unused tickets will also be gratefully accepted for resale to benefit the Society (a tax-deductible contribution).

Support provided in part by the Philadelphia Cultural Fund.
2018/2019 “Wister and More!” Concert Series at The German Society of Pennsylvania

For over 25 years, our “Wister and More!” Concert Series annually hosts The Wister Quartet and other ensembles from a diverse spectrum of talents and internationally known musicians. Following each Sunday concert, audience members are invited to a reception in the German Society’s Ratskeller for coffee and cake, as well as an opportunity to meet the artists.

Sunday, November 4, 2018, 3:00pm

Karlsruhe Konzertduo

Robert Schumann - Fantasy Pieces, Op. 73
Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy - Song without Words in D Major, Op. 109
Johannes Brahms - Sonata No. 2 in F Major, Op. 99
Frédéric Chopin - Introduction and Polonaise brillante in C Major, Op. 3

Gabriel Fauré - Élégie in C minor, Op. 24
Claude Debussy - Nocturne and Scherzo (1882)
Enrique Granados - Orientale - Spanish Dance No. 2 Op. 37

Sunday, January 13, 2019, 3:00pm

Claire Huangci, piano

Ms. Huangci’s program will include preludes of Ludwig van Beethoven, Frédéric Chopin, and Sergei Rachmaninoff.

Tuesday, February 10, 2019, 3:00pm

Elissa Lee Koljonen and Natalie Zhu

Ensemble Nobiles will present a program of religious and secular songs, including selected works of Franz Schubert, Robert Schumann, and Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy.

Sunday, March 17, 2019, 3:00pm

Pyxis Piano Quartet with baritone Grant Youngblood

Program will include a Piano Quartet by J.C. Bach, new songs and stories featuring the poetry of Jeffrey Harrison and the music of Chuck Holdeman, and Astor Piazzolla’s Histoire du Tango for Piano Quartet, arranged by Luigi Mazzocchi.

Sunday, April 14, 2019, 3:00pm

The Casimir Trio

W. A. Mozart - Violin Sonata, K. 378
David Finko - Piano Trio (2018)
Bedrich Smetana - Piano Trio, Op. 15

Sunday, May 12, 2019, 3:00pm

ESTrella Piano Duo “Tales from the East”

Including Rimsky Korsakov’s Scheherazade, Borodin Polovtsian Dances, Stravinsky Petrushka, and more.

Biographies

Ensemble Nobiles (Paul Heller, tenor; Christian Pohlers, tenor; Benjamin Mahns-Mardy, baritone; Lukas Lomtserch, bass; and Lucas Heller, bass), the a capella quartet from Leipzig, is rooted in the world-famous Thomencor. The balancing of spiritual texts with modern poetry—the music of the English Reformation with much newer musical idioms—make possible a distinctive and unique concert experience.

The Karlsruhe Konzertduo (Reinhard Armieder, cello and Dagmar Hartmann, piano) has been in existence since 1998 and has established itself as a successful and sought-after duo in Germany and abroad, not least through winning several international competitions. The duo regularly earns high praise and fascinates its audiences with profound and captivating interpretations, brilliant technique, and imaginative programming.

Claire Huangci is a graduate of the Settlement Music School and the Curtis Institute of Music, and is currently a resident artist at the Hannover Hochschule für Musik in Germany, where she pursues a flourishing international concert career.

Elissa Lee Koljonen and Natalie Zhu are both linked to the Curtis Institute of Music. Elissa received international acclaim when she became the first recipient of the prestigious Henryk Szeryng Foundation Award. Natalie began her piano studies at age six in her native China. At 11 she emigrated to the USA, and by 15 she was a student at Curtis, where she received the Rachmaninoff Award.

Pyxis Piano Quartet (Luigi Mazzocchi, violin; Amy Leonard, viola; Jennifer Jie Jin, cello; and Hiroko Yamazaki, piano) 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. Baritone Grant Youngblood’s orchestral appearances have garnered praise for his “smooth lyrical baritone voice bringing beautiful shading and color to the score.”

The Casimir Trio (Marcantonio Barone, piano; Nancy Bean, violin; and Lloyd Smith, cello) has been an established chamber ensemble of 1807 & Friends for more than twenty years, performing the great piano trio repertoire of three centuries and championing new works.

Bursting on the musical scene in 2011 with a series of great Russian masterpieces, ESTrella Piano Duo, Svetlana Belsky and Elena Dubovitkходу, share their Russian/Ukrainian heritage and training, as well as their enthusiasm for virtuosic four-handed piano recitals.

All programs are subject to change.