

PHILADELPHIA CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

a life more beautiful

PREVIEW
NOTES

OMNI QUARTET
JOSHUA SMITH, *flute*
FRANK ROSENWEIN, *oboe*
Sunday, January 6 – 3 PM
Perelman Theater, Kimmel Center

PROGRAM

Adagio and Fugue in C Minor, K. 546

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Born: January 27, 1756, in Salzburg, Austria

Died: December 5, 1791, in Vienna, Austria

Composed: 1788

Duration: 8 minutes

During the summer of 1788, Mozart was working feverishly to complete what would be his final trilogy of symphonies. His need for money was dire, and very likely he would have put aside work on the symphonies to satisfy a publisher's request, which normally involved a fee. Rather than compose something entirely new, Mozart chose to arrange his two-piano fugue, K. 426, adding to it an *Adagio*. Music of the Baroque era was still echoing in people's ears at that time, and this work pays homage to the grandeur and intellectual prowess of that period.

Flute Quartet in D Major, K. 285

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Composed: 1777

Duration: 15 minutes

Mozart was an ambivalent composer for the flute. Much of that stems from his encounter with a wealthy amateur flutist, who commissioned a set of concertos and quartets featuring the flute; however, for various reasons, Mozart only completed part of the commission and received only partial payment. This work is one such commission. Despite his disparagement of the instrument, Mozart's compositions for flute occupy one of the most delightful niches of his musical legacy. Well-known musicologist Rudolf Gerber characterized them as combining "the perfect image of the spirit and feeling of the rococo age with German sentiment."

Oboe Quartet in F Major, K. 370

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Composed: 1781

Duration: 15 minutes

The Quartet in F Major, K. 370, dates from early 1781, when Mozart was staying in Munich to complete his opera *Idomeneo*. K. 370 was written for Friedrich Ramm, principal oboist in the Elector of Bavaria's orchestra and an outstanding instrumentalist, renowned for the beauty and variety of his tone and the expressiveness of his playing. These qualities enabled Mozart to compose a work which, while giving due prominence to the oboe, avoids mere display and encompasses a wide range of feeling.

String Quartet in G Major, K. 387

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Composed: 1782

Duration: 35 minutes

Mozart wrote his Quartet in G Major, K. 387 when he was 26 and a newcomer to Vienna's musical scene. The Quartet is the first of a set of six quartets that Mozart dedicated to Haydn. Mozart appreciated that Haydn had elevated the quartet into a great art form with his own works. Although Mozart had written several earlier quartets, these six were the first ones he composed after becoming closely acquainted with Haydn's work, and the transformation is unmistakable: the movements are expanded in their structure, the polyphonic textures are more daring and complex, and the ideas behind the writing are more subtle and profound.