

The String Orchestra of the Rockies presents
The SOR Quartet
October 10 & 11, 2020

Program

String Quartet in A minor, D804 - Op. 29 "Rosamunde" (1824).....Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

Allegro ma non troppo

Andante

Minuetto-Allegretto

Allegro moderato

Margaret Baldrige, violin

Maria Larionoff, violin

Jennifer Smith, viola

Adam Collins, violoncello

String Quartet no. 2 in F Major, Op. 92 "Kabardinian" (1941).....Sergei Prokofiev (1891-1953)

Allegro sostenuto

Adagio

Allegro

Maria Larionoff, violin

Margaret Baldrige, violin

Jennifer Smith, viola

Adam Collins, violoncello

For everyone's listening pleasure, please be sure to silence all cell phones
and other devices. Please be aware that some hearing aids may emit
noises that interfere with the performance.

Thank you.

The SOR Quartet October 10 & 11, 2020

String Quartet in A minor, D804 – Op. 29 “Rosamunde”.....Franz Peter Schubert

Franz Peter Schubert was born in Leichtenthal, a suburb of Vienna, on January 31, 1797 and died in Vienna on November 19, 1828.

The “Rosamunde” quartet (so nicknamed because of the theme used in the second movement, originally composed for a play of that name) was written at the same time as Schubert’s “Death and the Maiden” quartet and his Octet for Winds and Strings. It was premiered in 1824 by the Schuppanzigh Quartet, to whom it was dedicated. In his brief lifetime (at 31 years he succumbed to syphilis) Schubert produced an astonishing volume of compositions, with a particular affinity for song cycles, most notably the beloved *Winterreise* (Winter Journey) and *Der Erlkönig*. Living in the shadow of Beethoven, Schubert was apparently quite humble and without any talent for self-promotion. Of short stature (5 feet), a bit pudgy, with a fondness for good wine, coffee, cigars and long walks, he composed with amazing speed, like Rossini and Shostakovich, who rarely edited or worried about re-writing compositions. Most of Schubert’s works were published posthumously, and, sadly, he never heard a professional performance of any of his symphonies in his lifetime. The “Rosamunde” quartet remains one of his most beloved quartets, and its strong vocal influence is evident in the prolific song quotes throughout the movements.

Suggested reading: *Schubert: Memoirs by His Friends*; edited by Otto Erich Deutsch

Suggested listening: Escher Quartet: performance on YouTube from the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, recorded live in Alice Tully Hall on 3/23/18

www.chambermusicsociety.org/watch-and-listen/video/2018-video-archive-2/schubert-quartet-in-a-minor-for-strings/

String Quartet no. 2 in F Major, Op. 92 “Karbardinian”.....Sergei Sergeievich Prokofiev

Sergei Sergeievich Prokofiev was born in Sontsovka (Krasnoye) Ukraine on April 27, 1891 (or possibly April 23, as he claimed!) and died near Moscow (in Nikolina Gora) on March 5, 1953.

Prokofiev, a child prodigy, was admitted to the St. Petersburg Conservatory at age 13, and before the age of 20 had already composed 2 symphonies, 4 operas and an immense amount of music for the piano, which was his primary instrument. Unlike Schubert, who composed 15 string quartets, Prokofiev wrote only two – the first in 1931 and the second ten years later. He generally did not use folk material and themes in his music; however, the second quartet, subtitled “Kabardinian,” has extensive use of folk melodies (most notably the beautiful cello nocturne in the second movement) from the North Caucasus region, about 900 miles south of Moscow, where he was staying at the time this work was composed. The quartet is in three movements – very traditional in its structure. An interesting feature is the virtuosic and technically challenging solo cello cadenza in the finale. (I often wonder if it may have been inspired by the composer’s friendship with the legendary cellist Mstislav Rostropovich, for whom he wrote the fiendishly difficult *Sinfonia Concertante*.) Prokofiev passed away on March 5, 1953, on the same day as Stalin, so, unfortunately, his death was overshadowed by that event, and his funeral was attended by only a few mourners.

Suggested reading: *Prokofiev by Prokofiev: A Composer’s Memoir* (1979: Doubleday)

Suggested listening: Emerson String Quartet (cd) Prokofiev *String Quartets #1 and #2; Sonata for 2 Violins* (Deutsche Grammophon, 1991)