

Program

Concerto in A Minor for Two Violins and Strings, Op. 3 # 8 RV 522 (1711)

Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)

Allegro

Larghetto e spiritoso

Allegro

Soloists: Margaret Baldrige and Maria Larionoff

Friends of SOR: Violin 1: Alex Crisp; Violin 2: Gabe Kantor; Viola: Bayley Ginnaty;

Cello: David Harmsworth

String Quartet #1 in G Minor, Op. 27 (1877)

Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)

Un poco andante—Allegro molto ed agitato

Romanze—Andantino

Intermezzo—Allegro molto marcato—Piu vivo e scherzando

Finale: Lento—Presto e Saltarello

SOR Quartet:

Maria Larionoff, violin

Margaret Baldrige, violin

Jennifer Smith, viola

Adam Collins, violoncello

**Remaining selections to be announced from the stage!

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.

Concerto in A minor for two Violins and Strings, Op.3 #8, RV 522

Written in 1711, Vivaldi's double concerto remains a favorite of both students and professionals alike and is a melodious and virtuosic showpiece for both soloists. Vivaldi himself was an accomplished violinist, as well as an ordained priest (his bright red hair earned him the nickname "Il Prete Rosso"—the Red Priest). This work is from a series of 12 concerti entitled L'estro armónico, written during his tenure as violin professor at the Venetian orphanage Ospedale della Pieta. An interesting feature of this concerto is the ostinato accompaniment of the second movement, a four-measure repeated melodic figure which continues for the entire movement.

Suggested listening:

<https://www.chambermusicsociety.org/watch-and-listen/video/2016-video-archive-2/vivaldi-concerto-in-a-minor-for-two-violins-strings-and-continuo-op-3-no-8-rv-522/>

This video from 2016 features Daniel Hope and Benny Kim with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. Very stylish!

String Quartet #1 in G minor, Op. 27

Of Edvard Grieg's three string quartets, the G minor (originally written second) is the only one with an intact manuscript. The first quartet, an early work, was lost, and the third remained unfinished. As is the case with many of Grieg's compositions, this work draws heavily on the use of folk materials, and in all four movements one hears a distinctly Norwegian influence. The work is a cyclical one in which the opening motif (also used in his popular A minor piano concerto) recurs in all four movements. This motif is prominently featured in the first movement, both as a dramatic statement and as a lyrical melody, then one hears it again in the middle of the Romanza, and it opens both the Intermezzo and Finale. It has one final iteration at the end of the piece, which ends very optimistically in the key of G major. It is amusing to note that Grieg's publisher, upon seeing the original manuscript, refused to publish the work. He thought the extensive use of double-stopping and complex harmonies in the parts required a larger ensemble and suggested making it a piano quintet! Fortunately, Grieg did not heed this advice and instead gave the manuscript to a smaller publishing house, confident that the quartet needed no revision. The work was finally premiered in 1878 by a quartet led by Robert Heckmann, to whom it was dedicated.

Suggested listening: Guilet String Quartet (1954)

This is available for purchase at Naxos (re-released in 2000), or as a download on Chandos: www.chandos.net

This is an amazing performance led by Daniel Guilet, who was one of the Concertmasters of the famed NBC Symphony of Arturo Toscanini. One of my favorites!

