

Carpe Diem String Quartet

Special Programs

1. Intimate letters

This program features letters of Beethoven, Mozart, and Janáček, both in the program as notes and featuring some short quotations read from the stage. Carpe Diem will establish connections between the composer's thoughts and feelings as revealed in their letters, and their music. We will draw parallels between personal crisis and musical crisis, and try to understand how resolution was sometimes found in their music. This program is also very suitable for our education initiatives, introducing students to the writings of some of the great composers.

2. The Spirit of America

This program focuses on American music, and on how American folk music in particular has influenced composers. This program can feature only American composers, or can be expanded to include composers like Dvorák and Debussy. Jazz and its influence will be examined, featuring composers like George Gershwin, Duke Ellington, Leonard Bernstein, and Frank Bennett. This concert has a large degree of flexibility, and the quartet will work with presenters to tailor the evening for their audience.

Barber	String Quartet
Dvorák	"American" Quartet
Gershwin	"Lullaby"
Bennett	"The String Machine"
Ellington	Arrangements for string quartet
Debussy	String Quartet

3. Ancient Spirits and New Voices

This program features the wonderful pairing of Bach and Pergolesi with the Estonian composer Arvo Pärt. A connection will be established between baroque and contemporary composition, and for more adventurous audiences, Carpe Diem will present the wonderful work for electric quartet by George Crumb, Black Angels.

Bach	Quartet settings of the Chorales or Preludes
Beethoven	Quartet, Op. 132
Pergolesi	Setting of Cantatas for String Quartet
Pärt, Arvo	"Fratres"
Crumb, George	Black Angels "Thirteen images from the dark land"
Rimsky-Korsakov	"In the Monastery" - Chorale & Variations/Fuge
Haydn	"The seven last words of Christ"

GREAT LAKES PERFORMING ARTIST ASSOCIATES

1100 N. Main St., Ste. 107, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 • 734/665-4029 • info@greatlakespaa.org

4. Scaling the Great Wall

This program features the music of China. Many of the works featured would be an audience “first,” but for the most part the works are based on traditional Chinese folk music, and are not too challenging for even more conservative audiences. For a more traditional quartet concert, Carpe Diem will present a mixed program, highlighting music from both Eastern and Western traditions, and establishing a connection between east and west, as for instance, how Debussy was affected by the music of the east. This program also has some wonderful applications for “in school” presentations.

Bright Sheng	String Quartet No. 4, “Silent Temple”
Su Lian Tan	“Life in Wayang”
Chen Yi	String Quartet for the Chinese New Year
Soong Fu-Yuan	Poems of the Tang Dynasty

5. The Underground Railroad

This is a program that Carpe Diem is developing to be held in conjunction with Martin Luther King Day and Black History Month, and we intend to use this program in school educational concerts as well as traditional concerts. The program will most likely include music arranged by Carpe Diem, including spirituals and work songs, and a commission from a black composer like Daniel Avorgebor, Robert Tanner, Adolphus Hailstork or Cecil Bridgewater. The program is going to trace geographically as well as culturally the role that music played in history of African Americans, with a particular focus on the time of slavery and emancipation. The over all theme of freedom from oppression will also be examined, and a few composers from the European tradition who wrote on this topic will be briefly discussed as well.

Joseph Boulogne
George Whitefield Chadwick
Ulysses Kay
Mu Kkubo Ery'Omusaalaba “On the way of the Cross” by J. Tamusuza

6. Russian Romanticism

This program features the first quartet of Tchaikovsky, in D Major, the beautiful Quartet No. 4 of Taneyev, and the two-movement quartet by Rachmaninoff. The program will feature some commentary from the stage, explaining the connection between the 3 composers. Sergei Taneyev, who studied with Tchaikovsky, and was one of the teachers of Rachmaninoff at the Moscow conservatory, and dedicated the fourth quartet to Rachmaninoff. This is a program of unsurpassed beauty and romanticism, and also fascinating as we trace the connections in the music from teacher through pupil.

7. Music and Murals

This program will feature the 2nd quartet of composer Kenneth Fuchs. This exciting contemporary work is based on paintings by Robert Motherwell, and Carpe Diem will use this as a jumping off point, presenting music from composers as diverse as Haydn, Wolf, Janáček, Smetana, and Shostakovich to examine quartets that are programmatically based, and that draw “sound pictures” to illustrate specific events and/or images.

GREAT LAKES PERFORMING ARTIST ASSOCIATES

1100 N. Main St., Ste. 107, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 • 734/665-4029 • info@greatlakespaa.org