

PHILADELPHIA CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

a life more beautiful

PREVIEW
NOTES

Parker Quartet

Fleur Barron, mezzo

Daniel Chong, violin; Ken Hamao, violin; Jessica Bodner, viola; Kee-Hyun Kim, cello

Wednesday, November 20 – 7:30 PM

Perelman Theater, Kimmel Center

PROGRAM (selection of notes)

***Im Herbst* from *Fünf Gesänge*, Op. 104 (Arr. Parker Qt.)**

Johannes Brahms

***Born:* May 7, 1833, Hamburg, Germany**

***Died:* April 3, 1897, Vienna, Austria**

***Composed:* 1888**

***Duration:* 5 minutes**

Brahms' *Im Herbst* (In Autumn) is a choral work from his *Fünf Gesänge*, Op. 104. Reflecting Brahms' affinity for rich vocal textures and poignant lyricism, this piece captures the melancholy and reflective mood of autumn, both in nature and as a metaphor for life's later stages. Set to a text by Klaus Groth, the music conveys a profound sense of longing and contemplation, with its lush harmonies and expressive dynamics that evoke the beauty and transience of the changing season. Brahms' mastery in choral writing shines through in this evocative and deeply emotional Parker Quartet arrangement of the work.

The Wind in High Places

John Luther Adams

***Born:* January 23, 1953**

***Composed:* 2011**

***Duration:* Approx. 20 minutes**

John Luther Adams' *The Wind in High Places* is a strikingly atmospheric work for string quartet. Known for his deep connection to nature, Adams explores the vastness and stillness of the natural world in this piece, using delicate harmonics and open strings to evoke the sound of wind gently sweeping through remote mountain landscapes. The music's sparse, ethereal textures create a sense of timelessness and space, inviting the listener to experience a calm yet powerful meditation on the elemental forces of

nature. Adams writes "If I could've found a way to make this music without them touching the instruments at all, I would have." This evocative texture exemplifies Adams' unique voice, blending minimalism with environmental inspiration.

Der Einsame im Herbst* from *Das Lied von der Erde

Gustav Mahler

***Born:* July 7, 1860, Kaliště, Bohemia**

***Death:* MY 18, 1911, Vienna, Austria**

***Composed:* 1806**

***Duration:* 10 minutes**

Mahler's *Der Einsame im Herbst* (The Lonely One in Autumn) is the second movement of his monumental *Das Lied von der Erde* (The Song of the Earth), a symphonic song cycle blending poetry and orchestral writing. Set to a text inspired by ancient Chinese verse, this special arrangement evokes a melancholic atmosphere, reflecting the solitude and sorrow of autumn as a metaphor for the passage of time and the human experience of loss. The delicate orchestration and the mournful voice combine to create an intimate, introspective sound world, expressing both the beauty and sadness of life's transience.

***String Quartet No. 3 in B-flat Major*, Op. 67**

Johannes Brahms

***Born:* May 7, 1833, Hamburg, Germany**

***Died:* April 3, 1897, Vienna, Austria**

***Composed:* 1875**

***Duration:* Approx. 30 minutes**

Often cursed by the need to live up to Beethoven, Brahms was notoriously self-critical and slow to publish his works. As it turned out, he waited more than 20 years before

submitting his first set of string quartets for publication in 1873. In fact, no chamber work of any kind was composed by Brahms during the eight-year period preceding the completion of the Op. 51 Quartets in 1873. The composer's third work in the form, Op. 67, would follow shortly, and it would turn out to be the last such work from the ever-enigmatic Brahms. In characterizing the three Brahms quartets, Daniel Gregory Mason offered this concise summary: "If the C-minor String Quartet (No. 1) might be briefly described as that of drama, and the A-minor (No. 2) as that of sentiment, the B-flat would undoubtedly have to be set down as the quartet of humor." The engaging qualities of the work are immediately apparent in the opening *Vivace*, as a bucolic "hunting-horn" theme with triplet rhythms reveals the light-hearted side of Brahms. The interplay of rhythms produces a constantly shifting pulse that generates much interest. Many listeners will be reminded of the good-natured qualities of Dvořák's music.