

PHILADELPHIA CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

a life more beautiful

PREVIEW
NOTES

Ariel Quartet

Alissa Weilerstein, *cello*

Sunday, December 15 – 3 PM

Perelman Theater, Kimmel Center

PROGRAM

Folklore

This program, entitled *Folklore*, features original works and transcriptions arranged by the Ariel Quartet and Alissa Weilerstein. The selections explore the gray zone between the two styles through a “dialogue” between solo cello and string quartet, with all five artists performing an uninterrupted suite of traditional folk music from around the world along with pieces dating back to the origins of Western classical music. These works remain unannounced to keep this part of the journey free of expectations, stimulating a sense of community by triggering a novel sense of musical discovery and adventure.

subtly evoke the lively and improvisational spirit of Romani music from Hungary. These influences are especially present in the third movement, *Scherzo*, where syncopated rhythms and unexpected harmonic shifts bring a rustic, folk-like vitality to the quintet. Schubert’s blending of folk and art music traditions in these passages highlights his genius for integrating diverse musical idioms into the classical form.

String Quintet in C Major, D. 956

Franz Schubert

***Born:* January 31, 1797**

***Died:* November 19, 1828**

***Composed:* 1828**

***Duration:* 55 minutes**

Schubert’s String Quintet in C Major, D. 956 is a monumental work, celebrated for its profound beauty and emotional depth. Composed in the final months of Schubert’s life in 1828, this quintet is scored for two violins, viola, and two cellos, creating a rich, sonorous texture. The work masterfully weaves lyrical melodies, innovative harmonies, and dramatic contrasts across its four movements.

The quintet’s second movement, *Adagio*, stands out with its ethereal simplicity and deeply poignant middle section. Throughout the piece, rhythmic and harmonic patterns