4-11-1997

Faculty Recital: Ariadne String Quartet

Ariadne String Quartet

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“It is my plan to build a school of music second to none.”

—William Grant Egbert (1867–1928) Founder, Ithaca Conservatory of Music

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

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FACULTY RECITAL
ARIADNE STRING QUARTET

Ellen Jewett, violin
Margaret Cooper, violin
Debra Moree, viola
Elizabeth Simkin, cello

String Quartet No. 1 in C Major, op. 49 (1935)

Dmitri Shostakovich
(1906-1975)

Moderato
Moderato
Allegro molto
Allegro

String Quartet No. 2 (1988)

Christopher Rouse
(b. 1949)

Adagio doloroso
Agitato
Largo: lamentoso

INTERMISSION

String Quartet No. 1 in D Major (1871)

Peter Illyich Tchaikovsky
(1840-1893)

Moderato e semplice
Andante cantabile
Scherzo, Allegro non tanto
Finale, Allegro giusto

Ford Hall Auditorium
Friday, April 11, 1997
8:15 p.m.
Dmitri Shostakovich (1906-1975) is regarded as one of the great composers of this century, having written fifteen symphonies, fifteen string quartets, numerous operatic works and many other instrumental and vocal pieces. The Quartet No. 1 in C Major comes from his early compositional period and was written in 1935, just two years prior to his monumental fifth symphony and the scourge of Russian governmental censure. The quartet is lighthearted in many ways and exudes a certain youthful optimism in each of the four movements.

Christopher Rouse’s String Quartet No. 2 was written in 1988 for the Cleveland Quartet and is dedicated to the people of the Soviet Union. After returning from a trip to Moscow and Leningrad for performances of his music the composer writes, “I was struck by the spirit of the concertgoers we encountered, and I resolved that I would try in some small way to express my appreciation to and admiration for them at some future time. It was agreed that, as my second string quartet was to be performed widely in the Soviet Union by the Cleveland Quartet, this would be an appropriate opportunity for me to compose a work which would realize this desire. The piece consists of three connected movements—Adagio, Agitato, and Largo—and is based upon the D-S-C-H motto (D, E-flat, C, B) which formed Dmitri Shostakovich’s initials and which that composer employed on several occasions as a significant motive in his own scores.”

Peter Illyich Tchaikovsky, (1840-1893) made several attempts at writing a string quartet long before the Quartet No. 1 in D Major was completed. Having written several single movements for quartet he abandoned these efforts to work on his first symphony (Winter Daydreams) in 1866 and finished the D Major quartet just prior to completion of his second symphony (Little Russian). Tchaikovsky is probably best known as a composer of symphonies and ballets in a nationalistic style. The first quartet is a large scale work and is symphonic in scope and texture. Listeners may recognize the famous slow movement (Andante cantabile) which was transcribed by Tchaikovsky for string orchestra, and is more often performed in this version.