



NOTES ON THE PROGRAM

Because I could not be with you in person tonight, here are some notes to help you connect with the music.

Marc

Leopold Mozart - Divertimento No.1 in G Major

Leopold Mozart was actually born in Germany and was a well-respected teacher. His parents sent him to study to be a Catholic priest, but he left the school within a year and moved to Salzburg to study jurisprudence and philosophy. From this he gravitated to music and found employment with the Archbishop of Salzburg where he served as court composer and deputy Kapellmeister. His book on violin playing covered musical aesthetics and fundamentals of violin playing. Leopold had a great sense of humor and exercised this in some of his more well known compositions like the *Cassation in G for Orchestra and Toys* and *Sleigh Ride* where he used all kinds of “instruments” to create the desired sounds. This trio is one of his more traditional compositions.

W. A. Mozart/Bach - Prelude & Fugue for String Trio # 2 in G Minor after BWV 883

During a time when Wolfgang Mozart was studying the counterpoint of J. S. Bach, he arranged fugues from Bach's Well-Tempered Clavier for strings and wrote his own prelude and fugue for piano. Wolfgang made arrangements of Bach's music for string trio and string quartet to be played at Sunday morning musicales in private homes. This process helped him develop his skills in writing more complicated compositions for strings, both quartets and trios. This particular Mozart work was based on the Bach Prelude and Fugue No.14 in F# Minor, BWV 883.

Michael Haydn - Divertimento in C Major for Violin, Cello, and Bass

Michael Haydn was born in Rohrau Austria, which is about 400 kilometers from Salzburg. He was very close to his older brother Franz Joseph and learned much about composing from him.

Salzburg Notes (cont.)

Michael composed more works for winds and strings combinations than string quartets. This C Major Divertimento was probably written while Michael was court organist at the court of the Prince-Archbishop Hieronymus Colloredo in Salzburg. The previous organist in that position was none other than W. A. Mozart. Michael was concertmaster to the Elector and Archbishop of Salzburg and so played concerts with both Leopold Mozart and Wolfgang. Michael and Wolfgang were good friends and Wolfgang did admire Michael's music and performed it often in Vienna. Michael Haydn was best known for his church music, but wrote works in just about every genre. This Divertimento for three strings is an example of his versatility.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart - Piano Sonata No 16 in C Major K. 545

Cultural life in Vienna in the late 1780's was upset by the war with Turkey, so Wolfgang was not getting support from his patrons. He looked to teaching for his source of income, which led him to compose this Sonata in C Major for his pupils, which he titled *A Little Piano Sonata for Beginners*. It is strange that it was not published until at least 14 years after his death. The famous pianist Artur Schnabel commented on the sonatas of Mozart “...they were too easy for children and too difficult for artists”. Ask most professional musicians and they will tell you that Mozart's music is among THE most difficult to perform. It is perfection in its form and demands perfection in its execution. One of the greatest of Mozart interpreters, pianist Alfred Brendel, remarked of Mozart, “everything in his music counts”. Mozart may have intended this work for his students but it remains a staple in a pianist's repertoire.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart - Piano Quartet in G Minor K. 478

Franz Anton Hoffmeister was a music publisher in Vienna who commissioned 3 piano quartets from Mozart meant for amateur musicians. Evidently, Wolfgang did not get the memo when he wrote this G Minor quartet because Hoffmeister told Mozart it was too difficult to play and it did not sell. This resulted in the commission being cancelled. Later, another publisher picked up the commission, which brought the second piano quartet, the Eb K. 493. These quartets introduced a newer genre to audiences with the addition of viola to the established piano trio combination. These two works are very early examples of this combination and some of Mozart's most popular chamber works.