



# The Calidore String Quartet

Friday, March 14, 2025

7:30 p.m.

Christ United Methodist Church

Greensboro, NC

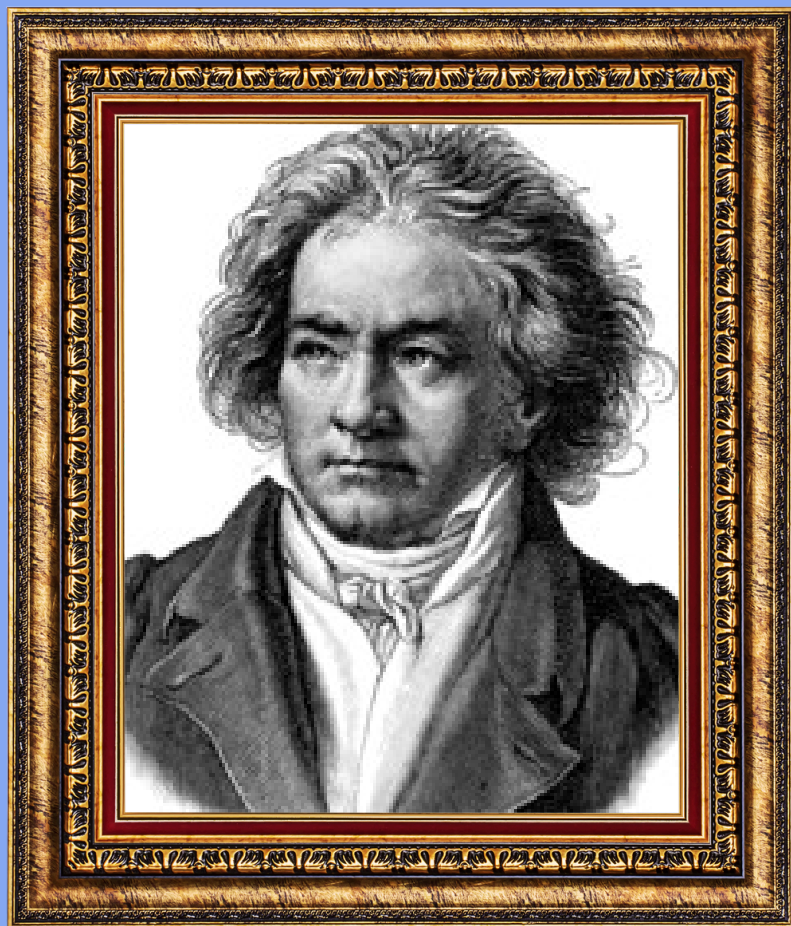
# String Quartet No. 16 in F Major, Op. 135

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770 - 1827)



Ludwig van Beethoven was a German composer and pianist. Beethoven is known as a 'transitional' composer, having lived and composed during both the Classical and Romantic eras of music history. Beethoven came from an extremely musical family and received his first music lessons from his father, Johann van Beethoven. At 21 years old, Beethoven moved to Vienna to study composition with Joseph Haydn. Despite his advancing deafness, beginning in his late 20s which eventually left him fully deaf, Beethoven continued to compose, conduct, and perform throughout his entire life.

The String Quartet No. 16 in F Major was written just one year before Beethoven's death. The piece is divided into four sections, or movements. Beethoven played around with the form of this quartet, with a faster first movement, energetic and lively second movement, a slower and more expressive third movement, and a faster and joyful fourth movement. String quartets of the time typically featured a slower second movement and a more dance-like third movement. You'll also hear Beethoven's expansive use of harmony throughout - even more impressive that Beethoven was completely deaf when he wrote this quartet!



# Strum

Jessie Montgomery (b. 1981)



Jessie Montgomery is an American composer, violinist, and educator. Born in New York City, Montgomery grew up in Manhattan's Lower East Side. Montgomery began her violin studies at the Third Street Music School Settlement before earning bachelor's degree in violin performance from the Juilliard School, as well as a master's degree in Composition for Film and Multimedia at New York University. Montgomery's compositions include vibrant and colorful style, and often address themes of social justice and the Black experience.



Throughout her career, Montgomery has been involved with the Sphinx Organization, a Detroit-based nonprofit that supports young African American and Latino string players. She has served as composer-in-residence for the Sphinx Virtuosi, the organization's professional touring ensemble. Her music has been performed globally, from the San Francisco Symphony to the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra in Amsterdam.

Strum was written in 2006 for string quintet and later revised in 2012 for string orchestra. The piece gets its name by its use of pizzicato (plucking the strings) and strumming techniques, which combined with her play with rhythm and texture, creates an exciting and energetic piece. This particular work blends folk, jazz, and classical elements, and uses syncopation and dynamic contrasts to pull the listener in! I love Montgomery's music, and you're sure to love Strum!

# String Quartet No. 12 in in C Minor, D. 703

## "Quartettsatz"

Franz Schubert (1797 - 1828)

Franz Schubert was an Austrian composer, born in a suburb of Vienna. Much like Beethoven (featured earlier in this program), he is considered a transitional from the Classical to the Romantic eras. Schubert showed exceptional musical talent from a young age, and received early musical education from his father and older brother. Although he struggled financially and faced health issues throughout his life, Schubert's music gained recognition and admiration from a small circle of friends and supporters in Vienna. His works were performed at intimate gatherings known as "Schubertiades." Schubert died painfully young, at only 31 years old, but left behind a massive collection of works that include more than 600 Lieder (German art songs), symphonies, operas, chamber music, and piano pieces.



Schubert's String Quartet No. 12 in C minor is an incomplete, yet beautiful, piece. Written in 1820, Schubert only completed the first movement of this piece, Allegro assai, and the beginning of the second movement, Andante. The first movement features fast and turbulent music, involving a sense of urgency. The incomplete second movement is a much slower and more serene atmosphere. This quartet was premiered in 1867 after Schubert's death, and was edited by famed composer Johannes Brahms.

# String Quartet No. 3, Op. 34

Erich Wolfgang Korngold (1897 - 1957)



Austrian composer and conductor, Erich Wolfgang Korngold was born in Brno, Moravia (now in the Czech Republic). He was a child prodigy, recognized for his exceptional musical talent from a very young age. Korngold moved to Hollywood in the 1930's, where he became one of the pioneers of film music. He composed scores for numerous classic films, earning him two Academy Awards. Korngold's often incorporated themes from his film scores into his concert works.

Composed in 1945, Korngold's String Quartet No. 3 in D Major blends his use of late-Romantic and 20th century styles. Interestingly, this composition follows the same four movement structure as the Beethoven quartet, a faster first movement, a lively scherzo (or musical joke) for the second movement, a slower and more lyrical third movement, and a fiery and fast fourth movement. I must admit, this was a new piece to me, and I was absolutely pulled in by the third movement in particular with its beautifully haunting opening theme.

# Matt Wilson, Program Notes

Matt Wilson, the author of the program notes that you hopefully found illuminating and inspiring, is a violinist and violist from South Carolina. He received a Bachelor's in Music Education from Appalachian State University in Boone, NC, before teaching in the public schools for several years. He received a Master's in Music Education from UNC Greensboro and is a Doctoral Candidate in Music Education at the University of Kansas (KU) in Lawrence, KS. Rock Chalk! He is an active researcher and presenter at the state and national levels, focusing on issues of gender and sexuality in music education.

Matt has served in several leadership roles in the NC Music Educators Association - Orchestra Section. He is a member of the National Association for Music Education and the American String Teachers Association (ASTA). He is currently the Chair of ASTA's National Student Advisory Committee.

