

Darlington Concerts Newsletter

April 2017

Greetings all, and welcome to another year of amazing chamber music!

This year, our series kicks off on Sunday May 14 at 3 pm in the Darlington Hall.

Following the great success of our debut concert last year, the newly formed Darlington String Quartet will open this year's series with a string quartet feast!

Semra Lee-Smith and Sally Boud are well known to Darlington Concert goers, and they have helped to create a fantastic program for this concert, including works by Shostakovich, Haydn and Webern.

The String Quartet, (2 Violins, Viola and Cello) is considered by many to be the "Holy Grail" of Chamber Music combinations. There is an almost endless catalogue of work composed for the String Quartet. I am sure that even the greatest of Quartets, such as the Borodin Quartet, who have been together for over 50 years, would not even get close to playing half of the entire available repertoire. It's not just the quantity either; it's really the quality of composition that sets the String Quartet apart from other formats.

The main work for the first concert will be String Quartet No. 8 by Shostakovich; probably the most well known of his 15 quartets. It is a powerful work, with a breadth of emotion that will leave you utterly spent. Shostakovich dedicated this work to the "*memory of the victims of Facism and War*", a not terribly cheerful thought, but powerful it is, and in spades! I do urge you to come and embrace this truly remarkable work.

On the lighter side, we are balanced out by the Haydn Quartet No. 4 ("Sunrise"), and also the Webern composition.

Please join us afterwards for an afternoon tea, as we attempt to come back to earth.

We can't wait to see you all again to share in these amazing musical encounters.