

String Quartets Mystical & American

Written by Editor

Tuesday, 16 March 2010 11:12



You may have heard of him, Arvo Pärt, composer of contemporary concert music. His pieces are at the top of classical music charts, and he has provided scores for more than 50 films. Informed by early polyphony and Eastern mysticism, Pärt's music is transparent, harmonious and contemplative – and not at all discordant, the trait so often associated with modern music.

Chamber Music Hilton Head will present music by Arvo Pärt, Ralph Vaughan Williams, and Antonin Dvorak at its upcoming concerts March 21 and 22. The Sunday, March 21 performance will be at Lowcountry Presbyterian Church in Bluffton at 3:30 pm (PreConcertChat at 2:45 pm). It will be repeated the following evening, Monday, at All Saints Episcopal Church on Hilton Head Island at 7:30 pm (no PreConcertChat).

Sunday's audience is invited 45 minute prior to concert time to learn more about the music, especially the styles and techniques associated with these composers. Parents who bring their kids to this music appreciation session will be guests of CMHH, in other words families with school-aged children are free to the concert.

The program opens with "Fratres for String Quartet." Pärt wrote a series of six single movement chamber compositions entitled "Fratres" or Brethren. This particular piece is rather like a procession, beginning as a murmur, growing huge as it approaches, then vanishing into the distance. Pärt imbues the music with importance and meaning by using his own signature technique called "tintinnabulation," which takes its name from the ringing of the bells.

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www.emah.org for more information on the program. The program is a collaboration between the University of Maryland and the National Endowment for the Arts. The program is a collaboration between the University of Maryland and the National Endowment for the Arts. The program is a collaboration between the University of Maryland and the National Endowment for the Arts.