



Principal Financial Group Campus
Friday, July 26, 2019

SHOSTAKOVICH String Quartet No. 1 in C Major, Op. 49

- I. Moderato
- II. Moderato
- III. Allegro molto
- IV. Allegro

HAYDN String Quartet No. 1 in G Major, Op. 77

- I. Allegro moderato
- II. Adagio
- III. Minuetto - Presto
- IV. Finale - Presto

Dmitri Shostakovich (1906-1975) was a Russian composer and pianist who produced 15 string quartets during his lifetime. String Quartet No. 1 in C Major is a strikingly pure and neo-classical piece, filled with grace, lightness, and balance. It was begun in the early summer immediately after the birth of his son Maxim, at a time of personal joy which must have meant the more in the wake of the tumultuous events of the preceding two years, including the composer's public condemnation with the publication in the newspaper *Pravda* of the article "Muddle instead of music."

The first movement begins in C Major and features a solo melody accompanied by the other instruments. The movement is in sonata form, with three distinct sections that explore the relationship between two themes. The second movement switches to a minor key and the viola introduces a folk-like tune. The third movement stays in a minor key and is very quick, marked "molto allegro." The final movement returns to C Major and mimics the first movement, but shorter and with more complexity.

Joseph Haydn (1732-1809) was a prolific Classical era composer, known as the father of the string quartet. String Quartet No. 1 in G Major, Op. 77 dates to 1802 and is one of 83 quartets Haydn composed during his lifetime.

The first movement of the quartet, in classic sonata form, explores multiple themes and combines march and dance-like rhythms. Haydn uses complex polyphony, where each instrument has its own line weaving in and out of the others. The second movement contrasts greatly with the first. The movement is lyrical and slow, featuring recurring melodies throughout. The third movement, the scherzo, was inspired by Hungarian folk music and uses melodic lines that are syncopated and full of dynamic range. The final movement features harmonic variations on a central theme, and has driving rhythms and playful interludes.