



Killinger Family Stage at Lauridsen Amphitheater, Water Works Park  
Friday, July 5, 2019

**MENDELSSOHN Quintet No. 1 in A Major, Op. 18**

- I. Allegro con moto
- II. Intermezzo - Andante sostenuto
- III. Scherzo - Allegro di molto
- IV. Allegro vivace

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) was a German composer, pianist, organist and conductor of the early Romantic period. He composed Quintet No. 1 in A Major, Op. 18, in 1826, though the piece was not published until 1832. After Mendelssohn's good friend, the violinist Eduard Rietz, passed away, Mendelssohn tossed the second movement and replaced it with a new one to honor his late friend. It is in this revised form that the quintet was published and is performed today.

Less well-known than his *Wedding March* overture to *A Midsummer Night's Dream* or his String Octet, the quintet is nonetheless equally mature and complete, an astonishing creative expression, especially for someone just 17 years of age.

The quintet appears quite relaxed compared to the Octet, taking the more genial Mozart and Schubert as its main stylistic cues, rather than the intensity and momentum of Beethoven. The first movement, Allegro con moto, opens with a theme in the first violin. The cello offers a variation of the theme soon after the violin concludes. The second movement, Intermezzo, is dance-like at times. It possesses a consistent, light dotted rhythm that carries all the way through the movement. The third movement, Scherzo - Allegro di molto, is in d minor, and opens with a viola solo. This movement seems to have music that is constantly pushing forward. The final movement, Allegro vivace, is vibrant and upbeat, featuring great movements across the players' fingerboards.