



Free Summer Concert Series

Date: Wednesday, June 17, 2020

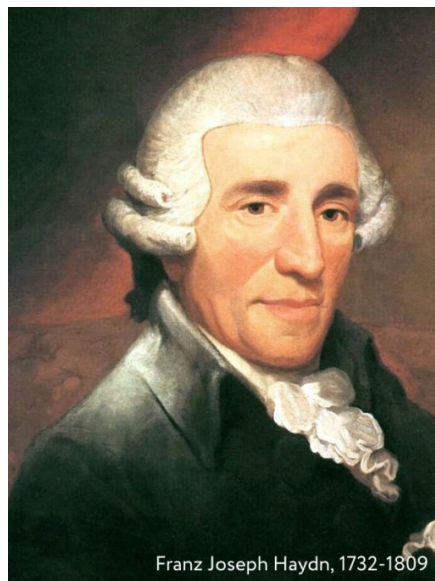
Repertoire: Mozart, String Quartet No. 19 in C major, "Dissonance", K. 465

- I. Adagio, allegro
- II. Andante cantabile
- III. Menuetto, allegretto
- IV. Allegro molto

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart completed the composition of String Quartet No. 19 in C major on January 14, 1785. Known as the "Dissonance Quartet", the work breaks away from the standard rules of harmony of the Classical era. The Dissonance Quartet is the last of a set of six string quartets, known as the "Haydn Quartets", all of which Mozart dedicated to Joseph Haydn, the father of the string quartet. Both Mozart and Haydn thought very highly of one another as composers and were even considered friends.

During the Classical era (1750-1820) in which Mozart was a very prominent composer, harmony was an essential part of music. At the time there were strict rules about how harmony should appear within music. The piece opens with a chromatic introduction that leads into the bright C major of the piece. This may not seem "dissonant" to the ears of a listener today, however, to a listener during Mozart's time, this may have seemed very dissonant when compared to the the harmonic rules of the day.

The first movement is in sonata form and is also the source of the piece's nickname. It begins with a dissonant passage followed by an ascending four note figure that creates the main theme. The second movement is also in sonata form, but is more lyrical in nature. The third movement, a minuet and trio, takes up a chromatic theme first seen in the violin and then picked up by the other players. The fourth movement returns to sonata form and finishes the piece in a spirited manner; a style very similar to that of Haydn.



Franz Joseph Haydn, 1732-1809



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, 1756-1791

