



**BELIN
QUARTET**

Free Summer Concert Series

Date: Wednesday, July 15, 2020

Repertoire:

Haydn, String Quartet in B-flat Major, "Sunrise", Op. 76, No. 4

- I. Allegro con spirito
- II. Adagio
- III. Menuetto - Allegro
- IV. Finale - Allegro ma non troppo

William Grant Still, Panamanian Dances for String Quartet

- I. Tamborito
- II. Mejorana y Socavón
- III. Punto
- IV. Cumbia y Congo

Joseph Haydn, also known as the father of the string quartet, published his Opus 76 quartets in 1797. These quartets were Haydn's last, composed during his final phase, the height of his international fame. Opus 76 is special historically coming after Mozart, but before Beethoven; a bridge crossing from the Classical to the Romantic.

Haydn's String Quartet in B-flat Major, also known as the "Sunrise" quartet, encapsulates the beauty of the rising sun. The first movement begins with a soft, single chord, followed by the solo violin outlining the rising sun theme. This theme builds throughout the movement until the sun is shining with a blinding light. The Adagio that follows is a somewhat somber hymn, almost a gentle sunset. Haydn begins the Minuet with a German-like dance, later transitioning into a pastorale. The piece concludes with a jolly finale, growing faster and more thematic near the piece's end.

William Grant Still's Panamanian Dances, or Danzas de Panamá, are a collection of Panamanian folk songs from the 1920s, published by Still in 1948. Although only four songs are presented in the collection, each song possesses more than one dance within it.

The first movement, Tamborito, begins with a rhythmic and chromatic introduction that leads into a slower dance. These two styles play back and forth with one another for the remainder of the movement. The second movement, Mejorana y Socavón, displays two different dances: a Panamanian waltz and an ominous dance in two. The third movement, Punto, is a slower Mexican dance. The final movement, Cumbia y Congo, is a high spirited dance that beautifully combines the elements of both African and Latin melodies.