



**BELIN
QUARTET**

Free Summer Concert Series

Date: Wednesday, July 8, 2020

Repertoire:

Beethoven, String Quartet No. 4 in C Minor, Op. 18

- I. Allegro ma non tanto
- II. Andante scherzoso, quasi allegretto
- III. Menuetto - Allegretto
- IV. Allegro

Glazunov, 5 Novelettes, Op. 16

- III. Interludium in modo antico
- IV. Valse

Ludwig van Beethoven's String Quartet No. 4 in C Minor was the last to be composed of the six string quartets in Opus 18, published in 1801. String Quartet No. 4 is unique compared to the other quartets of Opus 18 in that there are no previous sketches of the work to be found. This is strange due to the fact that Beethoven is typically known for his extensive revisions of his works. The piece also stands out because it is the only quartet in Opus 18 that is in a minor key. The key the work is in, C minor, is known as "the" minor key of Beethoven.

The first movement begins with the exposition and first subject in the famous c minor. The second subject enters in the brighter relative major key, E flat major, upon returning to the relative minor key to finish the movement. The second movement is unique for its time. In it, Beethoven experiments with a scherzo rather than the typical slow, lyrical style. The third movement, a more traditional minuet and trio, brings back the brighter E flat major in the trio, upon returning to C minor. The final movement highlights the major versus minor theme that can be heard throughout the entire quartet.

Alexander Glazunov composed his 5 Novelettes, Op. 16 in 1886 at just 21 years old. Glazunov was a member of the "Belyayev Circle", a group of emerging composers connected with the wealthy patron, Mitrofan Belyayev. The 5 Novelettes were composed for a salon gathering held at Belyayev's estate. The 5 Novelettes are each unique in their own style, but all of them have a Slavic theme.

Today we will be hearing Novelettes III and IV. Novelette III, Interludium in modo antico, is a Russian hymn that includes a small fugue within it. Novelette IV, Valse, is a miniature suite of waltz-like movements.