



**BELIN
QUARTET**

Free Summer Concert Series

Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020

Repertoire:

Beethoven, String Quartet No. 5 in A Major, Op. 18

- I. Allegro
- II. Menuetto
- III. Andante cantabile
- IV. Allegro

Glazunov, 5 Novelettes, Movement I: "Alla Spagnuola"

Beethoven's String Quartet No. 5 in A Major was published in 1801 along with the other five string quartets within Opus 18. This set of string quartets reflects the styles of two of Beethoven's greatest influences: Haydn and Mozart. Serious parallels can be seen between String Quartet No. 5 and Mozart's String Quartet No. 18 in A Major, K. 464, the fifth string quartet in his set dedicated to Haydn. Both are in the key of A major and possess a second movement scherzo and third movement theme and variations, atypical of the standard string quartet. Not only does this work honor Beethoven's grand influences, but it also brings his masterful use of theme and variations to light within the third movement of the work. The piece encapsulates Beethoven's growth as a composer; drawing inspiration from those who went before him as well as allowing his natural abilities to take flight.

Alexander Glazunov's 5 Novelettes, Op. 16 were composed in 1886 when he was just 21 years old. Glazunov belonged to the "Belyayev Circle", a group of emerging composers connected with Mitrofan Belyayev, a wealthy patron. The 5 Novelettes were composed for a salon gathering taking place at Belyayev's estate. The 5 Novelettes are each unique in their own style, but all of them possess a Slavic theme. Today we will be hearing Novelette I, "Alla Spagnuola". This movement begins with a lively dance that later transforms into a wilting lament, filled with late Romantic harmonies.