



**BELIN
QUARTET**

Free Summer Concert Series

Date: Wednesday, August 5, 2020

Repertoire:

Caroline Shaw, *Valencia*

Tchaikovsky, String Quartet No. 1 in D Major, "Accordion", Op. 11

- I. Moderato e semplice
- II. Andante cantabile
- III. Scherzo - Allegro non tanto
- IV. Finale - Allegro giusto - Allegro vivace

Caroline Shaw is a New York based violinist, vocalist, composer and producer. She was the youngest recipient of the Pulitzer Prize for Music which she won in 2013 at age 31 for her *Partita for 8 Voices*. Shaw released *Valencia* for string quartet in 2012. The piece captures the simple complexity of a valencia orange, a fruit that seems quite typical to most. The intricate textures within work show how some objects are much more complex and beautiful when going beyond what is on the surface, much like a typical orange.

Peter Tchaikovsky composed String Quartet No. 1 in D Major, Op. 11, also known as the Accordion string quartet, in 1871. This string quartet came along due to the proposal of an all-Tchaikovsky concert by the Moscow Conservatory at which Tchaikovsky taught. At the time, he was virtually unknown as a composer. Since the concert needed more programmatic variety and Tchaikovsky's good friend, Ferdinand Laub, was the first violinist of the Russian Musical Society Quartet, composing a string quartet seemed like the best choice.

The first movement, Moderato e semplice, includes two themes, both of which possess intricately syncopated rhythms. The second movement, Andante cantabile, is one of Tchaikovsky's most famous works that was based on a folk song he heard from a carpenter. The third movement, a scherzo, also possesses syncopated and upbeat rhythms. The final movement has two themes: the first brings forth great energy and the second a noble and slow feel.