The Shanghai Quartet

Department of Music, University of Richmond

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THE SHANGHAI QUARTET
Quartet-in-Residence

Weigang Li, violin
Yi-Wen Jiang, violin
Honggang Li, viola
James Wilson, cello

January 22, 1995, 3:00 PM
Camp Theatre
JOEL HOFFMAN has emerged as one of the leading American composers of his generation. His music has been performed, recorded, published and honored by a wide spectrum of musicians and organizations, both in North America and in Europe. In the last several seasons, his music has been performed by such ensembles as the Cincinnati Symphony, the Buffalo Philharmonic, the National Chamber Orchestra, the BBC Orchestra of Wales, the Columbus Symphony, the National Repertory Orchestra, the Chicago Symphony Brass, the Golub-Kaplan-Carr Trio, the Cleveland Quartet, the Percussion Group Cincinnati and the Juilliard 20th Century Ensemble.

His Music has been featured at several festivals, including those of Tanglewood, Ravinia, Portland (OR), Newport (RI), Korsholm (Finland) and Evian (France). A number of significant institutions such as the American Academy-Institute of Arts and Letters, the National Endowment for the Arts, the American Music Center, Meet the Composer, ASCAP, BMI, Columbia University and the Ohio Arts Council have recognized his contributions in the form of awards and prizes. He has been commissioned by, among others, the Berkshire Music Center, the Fromm Foundation, the American Harp Society and the Sea Cliff Chamber Players.

Hoffman has also been a resident composer at the Rockefeller Foundation in Bellagio, Italy, the Camargo Foundation in Cassis, France, the Hindemith Foundation in Blonay, Switzerland as well as at the MacDowell Colony and Yaddo in the United States. Recently completed projects include a new String Quartet commissioned for the Shanghai Quartet and Self-Portrait with Mozart for violin, piano and orchestra for the National Chamber Orchestra, a group for which he is currently serving as composer-in-residence. His music is published by E. C. Schirmer, Boston, and can be heard on CDs from CRI Recordings and Koch International.

Despite a busy composing schedule, Hoffman maintains an active career as solo pianist and chamber musician. He has appeared as soloist with a number of ensembles such as the Chicago Symphony, the Belgian Radio and Television Orchestra, the National Chamber Orchestra, the Orquesta Sinfonica Nacional of Costa Rica and the Florida Orchestra. He has given recitals in England, France and Italy.

Hoffman also serves as Professor of Composition at the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music, and has been closely associated with the musical community in Cincinnati for several years.
PROGRAM

Quartet in F major, K. 590
Allegro moderato
Andante
Menuetto: Allegretto
Allegro

W. A. Mozart
(1756-1791)

Quartet no. 2 (1993)
[World Premiere]
Commissioned by Charles and May Westheimer

Joel Hoffman
(b. 1953)

INTERMISSION

Quartet no. 3 in B-flat major, op. 67
Vivace
Andante
Agitato (Allegretto non troppo)
Poco Allegretto con Variazioni

Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

The Residency of the Shanghai Quartet
is supported in part by the generous bequest of the DeWitt Endowment,
established by Edith M. DeWitt, WC '27.
Since its New York debut at Town Hall in the spring of 1987, The Shanghai Quartet has been hailed by the press and the public alike as one of the leading quartets of its generation.

Shortly after the Quartet was formed at the Shanghai Conservatory in 1983, it won a top prize at the Portsmouth International Quartet Competition. In 1987 the ensemble won the prestigious Chicago Discovery Competition and embarked on an extensive touring career. It has been Ensemble-in-Residence at Tanglewood and Ravinia Festivals and has appeared on three occasions at Lincoln Center’s Mostly Mozart Festival.

Recent seasons have taken the Quartet to Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Montreal, San Francisco, St. Louis, Toronto, and Washington, D.C. The ensemble’s yearly tours to Europe have earned acclaim in such cities as Milan and Hamburg, as well as several recordings for German radio. It has appeared annually in New York City, including a sold-out three-concert series with pianist Ruth Laredo at the Metropolitan Museum. The Quartet’s other distinguished collaborators have included pianist Lillian Kallir, guitarist Eliot Fisk, the Tokyo String Quartet, and violinist Arnold Steinhardt. The Quartet records exclusively for Delos International and its recordings have received exceptional critical acclaim.

The Shanghai Quartet was Graduate Ensemble-in-Residence at the Juilliard School where it assisted the Juilliard String Quartet. Currently, it is Ensemble-in-Residence at the University of Richmond, teaching and coaching students, as well as performing three concerts annually.

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Next:
Guest Artist Recital:
Susan Dunn, soprano
February 3, 1995, 8:15 PM
Byrd and William Perkinson Recital Hall
(formerly known as North Court Recital Hall)