

4-8-1996

## The Shanghai Quartet with Richard Becker, piano

Department of Music, University of Richmond

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UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND  
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC CONCERT SERIES

# THE SHANGHAI QUARTET

Quartet-in-Residence

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

with

Richard Becker, *piano*

*April 8, 9, 1996, 8:15 PM*  
*Byrd and William Perkinson Recital Hall*

*Richard Becker* has performed solo recitals at over fifty colleges and at venues such as Tully Hall, Town Hall, Library of Congress, and the National Gallery. He has been a chamber music performer at Carnegie Hall, Kaufmann Hall (of the 92nd St. Y), Bucknell Hall, Washington University, Brattleboro Music Center, Harvard Summer Chamber Music Seminar, and locally at the Carpenter Center, the Mosque, at V.C.U.'s Performing Arts Center, and annually at the University of Richmond and many other places around the country. He has collaborated with the Shanghai Quartet, Richmond Sinfonia, Currents, Phil and Jungshin Lim Lewis, Roxbury Ensemble, soprano Nan Nall, violinists Weigang Li and Honggang Li (1993), violist Zheng Wang (1993), and cellists James Wilson (1993) and Andor Toth Jr., and others.

His own compositions have been performed by Mr. Becker, by the Peabody Piano Trio, pianist Nancy Burton Garrett, the Roxbury Chamber Players, Currents, Schola, and others at such places as the American Music Festival, Tanglewood Music Festival, Peabody Conservatory, James Madison University, Williams College, the Eastman School of Music (1993), University of Texas, University of Connecticut, Bucknell, the National Gallery of Art, and University of Richmond (1994).

Mr. Becker has coached chamber music, presented piano master classes, and given lecture recitals at the New England Conservatory, Peabody Conservatory, Bucknell University, Boston University, Brattleboro Music Center, University of Oklahoma, University of Texas at Austin, Furman University, Marshall University, the University of West Virginia, Longwood College, Virginia Commonwealth University, and University of Richmond.

He is a MacDowell Colony Fellow (1990) and was nominated for an award by the American Academy of Arts and Letters (1991) for his composition.

Poetry by Richard Becker has recently appeared in such journals as *America* and *Columbia*, *A Magazine of Poetry and Prose* (1993-4) and in *Bottomfish* (1995). Some of his piano music is recorded on the CRS Label.

*PROGRAM*

Quartet in G major, op. 77, no. 1  
Allegro moderato  
Adagio  
Menuetto: Presto  
Finale: Vivace

Franz Joseph Haydn  
(1732-1809)

Quartet no. 1 in E minor  
Adagio; Allegro appassionato  
Adagio molto  
Allegro grazioso  
Allegro agitato

Frank Bridge  
(1879-1941)

*INTERMISSION*

Quintet in E-flat major  
for piano and strings, op. 44  
Allegro brillante  
In Modo d'una Marcia: Un poco largamento  
Scherzo: Molto vivace  
Allegro ma non troppo

Robert Schumann  
(1810-1856)

A native of Shanghai, WEIGANG LI began violin studies with his parents at age 5 and went on to attend the Shanghai Conservatory at age 14. He came to the United States to study at the San Francisco Conservatory through an exchange program between the sister cities of San Francisco and Shanghai. He has been a soloist with the Shanghai Conservatory Orchestra, the Shanghai Symphony and the BBC Symphony Orchestra. In 1982 he appeared with the BBC Scottish Symphony in a concert that was recorded for broadcast. Upon graduation from the Shanghai Conservatory in 1985, he was appointed assistant professor of violin there. Shortly thereafter he left China to continue his education at Northern Illinois University on a full scholarship, receiving his master's degree in 1987. For the next two years, Mr. Li studied and taught at the Juilliard School as teaching assistant to the Juilliard Quartet. His other teachers have included Shmuel Ashkenasi, Pierre Menard, Shu-Chen Tan and Isadore Tinkleman. Mr. Li was featured in the film "From Mao to Mozart" with Isaac Stern in China.

A prize winner of the 4th Mae M. Whitaker International Competition and the 19th Montreal International Competition, violinist YI-WEN JIANG has made many solo and chamber music appearances in China, USA, Canada, and South America. He has collaborated with such prominent artists as Alexander Scheider, Michael Tree, Jaime Laredo, and Lynn Harrell. Born in Beijing, Mr. Jiang began his violin studies with his father at the age of six. In 1981, after winning the top prize in the national violin competition in Beijing, he was accepted in the class of professor Han Li at the Central Conservatory of Music. In 1985 he was awarded a full scholarship at the St. Louis Conservatory of Music to study violin with Taras Gabora, and chamber music with Jaime Laredo and Michael Tree. He also spent two summers in Dallas participating in master classes with Pinchas Zukerman. In 1990, with the support of the Ken Boxley Foundation, he came to Rutgers University to study violin and chamber music with Arnold Steinhardt of the Guarneri Quartet. He has appeared in many international music festivals such as Victoria (Canada), Dallas (USA), and Le Festival Pablo Casals (France). Most recently, he performed Bach's Double Concerto with Michael Tree in the Rutgers SummerFest. He has appeared with the Central Opera House Orchestra, Victoria Symphony, and Orchestre symphonique de Montréal. Mr. Jiang has performed on NBC, PBS television specials, National Public Radio CPB (Beijing), WQXR (New York), KFOU (St. Louis), and has recorded for the Record Corp. of China.

HONGGANG LI began violin studies with his parents at the same time as his brother, Weigang. When the Beijing Conservatory reopened in 1977 after the Cultural Revolution, Mr. Li was selected to attend from a group of over five hundred applicants. He continued his training at the Shanghai Conservatory and was appointed a faculty member there in 1984. He also has served as a teaching assistant at the Juilliard School. Mr. Li has appeared as soloist with the Shanghai Philharmonic and the Shanghai Conservatory Orchestra. In 1987 he won a violin as a special prize given by Elisa Pegreff of the Quartetto Italiano at an International competition in Italy.

A native of Ann Arbor, Michigan, JAMES WILSON began cello studies at age 11 and went on to graduate from the University of Michigan, where, as a student of Jeffrey Solow, he was the recipient of the music school's highest honor. He continued his studies with Stephen Kates at the Peabody Institute of Music and was twice selected as a participant in the Piatigorsky Seminar for Cellists. Mr. Wilson has appeared as soloist with the Ann Arbor Symphony and has recorded for Access Records.

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Next:  
University Orchestra  
Fred Cohen, director  
April 11, 1996, 8:15 PM  
Cannon Memorial Chapel



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