



THE UNIVERSITY MUSICAL SOCIETY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

The Concord String Quartet

MARK SOKOL, Violinist
ANDREW JENNINGS, Violinist

JOHN KOCHANOWSKI, Violist NORMAN FISCHER, Cellist

LESLIE GUINN, Baritone

SUNDAY EVENING, JANUARY 27, 1980, AT 8:30 RACKHAM AUDITORIUM, ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

PROGRAM

Quartet in E-flat major, K. 428
*String Quartet No. 7 (with Baritone)
INTERMISSION
Quartet No. 15 in A minor, Op. 132 Beethoven Assai sostenuto; allegro Allegro, ma non troppo Molto adagio; andante Alla marcia, assai vivace Allegro appassionato

* The String Quartet No. 7 receives its world première this evening and bears the following inscription: "Dedicated to my friend, Leslie Guinn—commissioned in honor of the Centennial of the School of Music of The University of Michigan (1880–1980) from funds supplied by the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies and the Oliver Ditson Fund of the School of Music."

Nonesuch, CRI, Vox, and Turnabout Records.

PROGRAM NOTES

by the composer

String Quartet No. 7 (with Baritone) . .

GEORGE ROCHBERG

"I wrote my seventh string quartet between June 8 and September 20, 1979, for Leslie Guinn, baritone, and the Concord String Quartet on commission from The University of Michigan to honor the centennial of its School of Music.

"The texts I chose for this work are from poems by my son Paul, who died at the age of twenty in 1964. These particular poems have long been among my favorites because of their dark beauty and sharply chiseled images. I carried certain lines with me for years—not because my son had written them, but because they were powerful verbal icons that had struck off the sparks of truth about existence. I knew they were as true for Paul's experience as for my own and others' who have walked the strange borderlands between waking and sleeping, life and death. They are, each in its own way, strange word-dreams full of the knowledge of love—but also full of fear and terror; yet everything resolves in understanding and pain is washed away.

"I have tried to treat the voice and the quartet as integral parts of an ensemble, giving the voice and the instruments an equal share in the projection of musical and dramatic ideas. The quartet frequently accompanies the voice (colla voce) but just as frequently acts independently of the voice or establishes the texture within which the voice is heard as a common bond."

Texts by PAUL ROCHBERG

I

The beast of night
Dark furred
Bares teeth and claws
Of leafless branches
Laps at the light
I carry.
Grows on the agar of imaginings.
Swells with the gases
Of will o' the wisp swamps.
And again I am a child
Of fears and dread
Of the dark furred night.
Refrain: And I cast no shadow on
waves or sand

II

Floating in a dream
I am lost in it
The world goes before me.
Floating in a dream
I am real in it
Real for the world
Of my dreams.
Floating
Beyond unreality
To step from the mirror
I am.
Swimming in this life
I am.

III

Over the softly rolling hills of rotted cereal boxes and bailing wire Come the cavalry The bugle sounds and waving the banners slap redly at the whipping dust

Their steeds of blackened barrel staves hooves of shiny new flatirons leaving dead rats and broken lightbulbs bloodied in the mire
Their redburning eyes of a monstrous dragonfly bicycle reflectors stare out turning to flaming blood all those under their gaze

Their uniforms proudly bear crepe paper of the purple and the gold A most impressive sight their bottle tops and rivets shoelaces and telephones Their helmets porcelained sightless behind shattered spectacles

brains wired to forgotten dress dummies sauerkraut in plastic bags

Drive them on across the field of *** to an unseen battle sword of picket fences they brandish in rusty eggbeaters. The lances railroads topped by soup stained ascots the lancers at attention pierce the sky, their lances seagullroosted.

The horses puff black clouds of flies under the loading hook spurs whose boots stovepipes

Nailed broomsticks switch on charred backs The general, highest on his, tubercular calf locked in a potbellied stove red heat a cat o'nine tails of rat's bones and spitting cobras Who would touch him

The charge foe the horror red in the sky black in the sky green bloodfire close the stars The battle into the river shrank back quivering evaporating burning hissing

And when the dream had faded Into a yellow green cloud I knew
That I had let
A thousand other lives
Fall from my hand
Like the cat, who this morning
Slipped through my arms —
A drop of mercury
That shattered on the floor
Into millions of stars
I could never recover.

unwilling to give ground mixing hermit crabs and palpitating orange peels almost tearing great stones piled up

And in the morning a little girl's lost doll thought in the new forest

That we saw and one dented stove pipe with a hand

IV

And when the dream was red I was a dragon Who tore his cobweb bones Into galaxies of needles To sting myself, And for one night only To sharpen his claws Against the gate of Heaven

Refrain: And I cast no shadow on waves or sand

About the Artists

Founded in 1971, the Concord String Quartet received the prestigious Walter W. Naumberg Chamber Music Award that same year. Part of the award was to commission a piece, whereupon began the Quartet's happy association with composer George Rochberg. In May of 1972 the Quartet premièred Rochberg's Quartet No. 3 at their Alice Tully Hall debut recital, and since then has won worldwide recognition as one of the finest ensembles of our time. As Quartet-in-Residence at Dartmouth College; they combine teaching duties with radio and television appearances, recordings, and constant traveling that takes them annually to about one hundred cities in the United States and abroad. The Quartet is noted for both the size and scope of its repertoire—they frequently perform the complete quartets of Beethoven, Schubert, and Bartók, as well as other standard literature, and as champions of American music they have given world premières of more than fifty works. This evening's concert, the Quartet's second in Ann Arbor, is being broadcast live by the University's public radio station, WUOM/WVGR, and carried simultaneously by WCMU in Mt. Pleasant, WKAR in East Lansing, WFBE in Flint, WMUK in Kalamazoo, and WDET in Detroit.

Leslie Guinn, a native Texan, has won a prominent place in the musical world. He has appeared as soloist with such major orchestras as the Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, Detroit, Baltimore, and Los Angeles with which he sang the West Coast première of Benjamin Britten's "War Requiem." His opera performances have included leading roles with the New York City Center productions, he has sung Renaissance drama with the New York Pro Musica, and has premièred new music with the Contemporary Chamber Ensemble. Festival audiences have heard him at Saratoga, Marlboro, Tanglewood, Grant Park, and at our Ann Arbor May Festival. He recently won second prize in the John F. Kennedy-Rockefeller Foundation International Competitions for Excellence in the Performance of American music, which included a one-hour recital as the final competition and was broadcast and telecast live by National Public Radio and the Public Broadcasting Service. Mr. Guinn successfully combines his performing schedule with teaching duties at the U-M's School of Music where he has served on the faculty since 1971.

George Rochberg, a Philadelphian who teaches at the University of Pennsylvania, has a reputation as both an atonalist and a Romantic, versed in both contemporary and traditional styles of music. More than thirty years ago he joined the ranks of serialist composers who have dominated composition since World War II. He won honors for his chromatic symphonies and chamber music, but in the last decade returned to the classical tradition of melody and tonality. To celebrate his 60th birthday, Rochberg created his "Concord Quartets," three works written between December 1977 and August 1978 and, as the title indicates, were composed for and dedicated to the Concord Quartet. Taking as his example the great classical composers—Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven—who conceived and wrote their chamber music in sets, Rochberg designed the "Concord Quartets" to be played either individually or as a complete sequence in one sitting. It was the latter way in which they were given their world première in Philadelphia in January 1979 and performed again in the same month in New York's Alice Tully Hall by the Concord Quartet. Mr. Rochberg's most recent composition, commissioned by the U-M School of Music for world première by the Concord Quartet this evening, is described within this program in his own words.

Important Concert Changes

Two attractions in our current season have recently cancelled their tours to the United States: the Glinka Chorus of Leningrad and the Krasnayarsk Dancers from Siberia, scheduled for January 29 and February 29 respectively. We're pleased to announce the following groups as replacements on the same dates:

- Roger Wagner Chorale—foremost among American choral ensembles for three decades (replacing Glinka Chorus, same date, Tues. Jan. 29 at 8:30, Hill Auditorium)
- Massenkoff Russian Folk Festival—Nikolai Massenkoff, bass, and his California-based ensemble of folk dancers and balalaika players, all of Russian heritage, in a program spanning a thousand years of Russian history—ballads, war songs, love songs, dances (replacing Krasnayarsk Dancers, same date, Fri. Feb. 29 at 8:30, Hill Auditorium)

Glinka Chorus tickets should be used for admission to the Wagner Chorale, and Krasnayarsk tickets for the Massenkoff Folk Festival. Additional tickets are also available for both concerts. Ticket exchanges, if desired, may be made up to two days prior to each performance.

ROGER WAGNER CHORALE (replacing Glinka Chorus)
LEONTYNE PRICE, Soprano Sat. Feb. 9
ZURICH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA Fri. Feb. 15
Boyce: Symphony No. 3; Moret: Suite (1979); Stravinsky: Apollon Musagète; Pergolesi: Concertino No. 2.
JEAN-PIERRE RAMPAL, Flutist; ALEXANDRE LAGOYA, Guitarist . Mon. Feb. 18
Aldo Ciccolini, Pianist Thurs. Feb. 21
Music of Satie, Debussy, and Liszt.
Founders Day Concert Sun. Feb. 24
The Festival Chorus, Donald Bryant, Conductor; Handel's Israel in Egypt. Carlotta Wilsen, Soprano; Rosemary Russell, Contralto; John McCollum, Tenor; Willis Patterson, Bass; with members of University Symphony Orchestra.
CUBAN FOLK ENSEMBLE Tues. Feb. 26
MACCENTORE DIRECTARY FOLK FROMWAY
(replacing Krasnayarsk Dancers) Fri. Feb. 29
ELLY AMELING, Soprano Wed. Mar. 12
ROYAL DANCERS & MUSICIANS OF BHUTAN
JURY'S IRISH CABARET OF DUBLIN
YEHUDI and HEPHZIBAH MENUHIN, Violinist & Pianist Wed. Mar. 19
Brahms: Sonata No. 2 in A major; Bach: Partita No. 3; Franck: Sonata in A major; Bartók: Rumanian Dances; Debussy: La Fille aux cheveux de lin; Wieniawski: Scherzo and Tarantelle.
New World String Quartet Wed. Mar. 26
World première of Leslie Bassett's recently-commissioned Quartet No. 4.
Baltimore Symphony Orchestra / Sergiu Comissiona Wed. Apr. 2
Mozart: Sinfonia Concertante for Woodwinds; Borodin: Polovtzian Dances
from Prince Igor (with the Festival Chorus); Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 2.
SHERRILL MILNES, Baritone
QUARTETTO ITALIANO Thurs. Apr. 17
Ann Arbor May Festival WedSat. Apr. 23-26