

Monday, July 25 • 7:30 pm
Porter Center, Brevard College

Miami String Quartet

Ivan Chan, violin • Cathy Meng Robinson, violin
Chauncey Patterson, viola • Keith Robinson, cello

Ludwig van Beethoven: The Three *Razumovsky* Quartets

String Quartet in F Major, Op. 59, No. 1

Allegro

Allegretto vivace e sempre scherzando

Adagio molto e maestoso

Thème Russe: Allegro

String Quartet in E minor, Op. 59, No. 2

Allegro

Molto adagio

Allegretto

Finale: Presto

INTERMISSION

String Quartet in C Major, Op. 59, No. 3

Introduzione: Andante con moto;

allegro vivace

Andante con moto quasi allegretto

Menuetto: Grazioso

Allegro molto

The Miami String Quartet

The Brevard Music Center is pleased to welcome back the Miami String Quartet. Praised in the *New York Times* as having “everything one wants in a quartet: a rich, precisely balanced sound, a broad coloristic palette, real unity of interpretive purpose and seemingly unflagging energy,” the Miami String Quartet has established its place among the most respected quartets in America. They have appeared in major concert halls across North America, Europe and Asia.



Last fall, the ensemble joined Kent State University in Ohio as quartet in residence. The same position was held at the Hartt School and Florida International University. They were the resident ensemble of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Centers Chamber Music Society Two from 1999 to 2001. For the last several years, the Quartet has served as resident ensemble at the Kent/Blossom Music Festival in Ohio, as well as appearing at Mostly Mozart and Ravinia. And, in 2000, the group was awarded the prestigious Cleveland Quartet Award.

The Miami String Quartet's interest in new music has led to many commissions and premieres. In March 2000, the ensemble gave the world premiere of Augusta Reed Thomas' *Invocations*. Other highlights include a new work by composer Annie Gosfield commissioned by the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, a joint commissioning by the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and the Virginia Arts Festival of a piano quintet by Bruce Adolphe, and a new work by composer Stephen Jaffe commissioned by the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society.

Their discography includes three discs to date. A recording of the first two quartets of Ginastera was released in 1994. It was followed three years later by a disc featuring quartets by Saint-Saëns and Fauré on BMG Conifer. In 1999, the group released the first three quartets of Peteris Vasks after giving their American premieres.

Upcoming Chamber Series Events

July 27	The Miami String Quartet
August 1	An Evening with Miles Hoffman Known to millions of listeners as a music commentator on National Public Radio's <i>Morning Edition</i> and <i>Performance Today</i> , Hoffman is also a highly regarded violist.
August 3	I Solisti di Brevard BMC's chamber orchestra, comprised of handpicked string students from the Young Artists' Division, concludes the 2005 Chamber Music Series with an evening of Baroque music.

Beethoven: A Historical Timeline

Boston Massacre	1770	Born December 16 in Bonn, Germany
	1778	First public recital
	1787	Visits Vienna and takes lesson with Mozart
French Revolution begins	1789	
Mozart writes <i>The Magic Flute</i>	1791	
Haydn composes his "Surprise" Symphony		
	1792	Leaves home to study with Haydn in Vienna
Edward Jenner introduces smallpox vaccination	1796	First symptoms of deafness become apparent
Napoleonic Wars begin		
Volta builds first battery of zinc and copper plates	1800	Premieres his first symphony; composes Op. 18 String Quartets
Purchase of French Louisiana by United States	1803	
Goya paints "Execution of the Citizens of Madrid"	1808	Premiere of <i>Choral Fantasy</i> and Fifth and Sixth symphonies
Wellington defeats Napoleon at Waterloo	1815	Claims guardianship of nephew Karl after brother's death
Lord Byron writes <i>Don Juan</i>	1818	Deafness forces him to use conversation books to communicate
First steam ship crosses the Atlantic		
Monroe Doctrine closes American continent to European powers	1823	First performance of Ninth Symphony and parts of <i>Missa Solemnis</i>
G.S. Ohm formulates his law defining electrical resistance	1827	Dies after prolonged illness on March 26

About the Program

Scholars have divided Beethoven's seventeen string quartets into three periods – early, middle and late. The Opus 59 quartets, written between 1805 and 1806, are the first three of five from his middle period (the other two are Opus 74 and Opus 95). Commissioned by Prince Andreas Razumovsky, and later assuming his name, they were published together and are often played and recorded as a set.

Over the course of history, patronage has served a vitally important role in nurturing all areas of art. Unlike Mozart, who seemed to constantly knock heads with his patrons, Beethoven was fortunate to have rich and cultured supporters who enthusiastically championed his work (and enabled his comfortable lifestyle). Razumovsky was the Russian ambassador to Vienna, and in addition to his love for the arts, built a splendid embassy-palace with his own funds just outside the city wall overlooking the Danube.