

# Amateur Chamber Music Society Inc

## — CONCERT —

### — PROGRAM —

#### **BEETHOVEN *String Quartet Op18 No2***

(1) *Allegro* (2) *Adagio cantabile*  
(3) *Scherzo - Allegro* (4) *Allegro molto quasi presto*  
violins Jenny Allison and Judy Mitchell  
viola Eve Salinas cello Anne Stevens  
25'

#### **BEETHOVEN *Sonata in F major Op24 "Spring"***

(1) *Allegro* (2) *Adagio molto espressivo*  
(3) *Scherzo - Allegro molto* (4) *Rondo: Allegro ma non troppo*  
violin George Carrard piano Murray Brown  
21'

### — INTERVAL —

#### **SHOSTAKOVICH *Piano Quintet in G Minor Op57***

(1) *Prelude: Lento* (2) *Fugue: Adagio* (3) *Scherzo: Allegretto*  
(4) *Intermezzo: Lento* (5) *Finale: Allegretto*  
violins Derek Davies and Jenny Allison viola Barbara Robinson  
cello Jane Smith piano Marjorie Hystek  
30'

### — REFRESHMENTS —

Concert Organiser: George Carrard  
The manager and volunteer staff of the  
Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre  
provide light refreshments (wine, juice, fruit, cheese, biscuits) and  
charge \$10 entry donation (\$5 concession/seniors) to cover costs and  
to raise funds for the Centre.

## - Notes -

#### **Ludwig van BEETHOVEN (1770-1827) *Sonata in F major Op24 "Spring"***

Beethoven composed his second string quartet between 1798 and 1800 and his famous *Pathetique* sonata in 1800. A year later, as a young 31 year old, well established as a pianist and composer in Vienna, he wrote the sonata for piano and violin, later nicknamed "Spring". This sonata has an overall mood of optimism and the nickname is appropriate. In that year, there is no premonition of the decline in Beethoven's health – yet it was only a year later that he wrote the Heiligenstadt Testament to his brothers telling of his depression and deafness.

The Spring Op24 in F major contrasts in mood to the more dramatic Op23 in A minor. The two sonatas are a pair, showing two of Beethoven's moods – he intended them to be Op23 No1 and No2, but the publisher named them Op23 and Op24. Both sonatas were commissioned by Count Moritz von Fritze, who organised their première for a select audience at his very up-market address, the Fries palace. Moritz von Fritze had married into the not too welcoming Austrian aristocracy, was nominally the head of the banking firm Fries and Co, and was in the process of frittering away his father's fortune, luckily spending a significant amount on the arts. His late father, who had become one of the richest men in the Austrian Empire as a banker and manufacturer of brassware and cotton goods, also had aristocratic aspirations: he had built the Fries palace opposite the Hofburg palace, home of the Austrian Emperor [<http://www.peter-sheppard-skaerved.com/2009/11/beethoven-sonatas-op-23-and-op-24/>].

The sonata has a refined quality, appropriate to the von Fritze salon, and is pleasant, elegant and cheerful. It is in four movements – a change from the conventional three-movement sonata of the time. The first movement *Allegro* opens with a much loved gentle lyrical theme, followed by a robust second theme – a reversal of the convention. The accompaniment to the opening theme is fairly nondescript but, in the second slow movement *Adagio molto espressivo* he recalls the gentle opening theme and develops the accompaniment into something more significant. The third movement *Scherzo - Allegro molto* is very short, and is a break from the ideas of the two preceding movements - the violin playfully mimicking the piano off the beat. The finale *Rondo: Allegro ma non troppo* was at the time, the longest and most elaborate of that form in a violin sonata. It has a genial air like the first movement.

**SHOSTAKOVICH (1906–1975) *Piano Quintet in G Minor Op57***

Living well into the 20th century made Shostakovich one of the most celebrated composers of that century. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War he had a difficult relationship with Stalin and the Government although he remained staunchly attached to Russia. He was influenced by Prokofiev and Stravinsky while his compositions also show a hybrid style with sharp contrasts and elements of grotesque characteristics.

Among his works are 15 symphonies and six concerti. Although a brilliant pianist he wrote only one piano quintet, two piano trios an early set of preludes and later twenty four 'Preludes and Fugues.'

During the height of the Stalinist regime he turned to film music and light jazz. The arrangement of Tea for Two is very quirky and popular.

**Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre**

16 Fitzroy St Kirribilli tel: 9922 4428  
[www.KNCsydney.org](http://www.KNCsydney.org)

**Amateur Chamber Music Society**

<http://www.acms-australia.org/>

***Chamber Music Concert***

5pm Sunday 3 June 2012  
16 Fitzroy St Kirribilli

For information on future concerts, go to the website <http://www.acms-australia.org/> and click on "Concerts" in Navigation panel on the left hand side.

All chamber music players are welcome to join the Amateur Chamber Music Society. If interested, go to the website, click on "Join Us", download an application form and post to ACMS Membership Secretary, PO Box 584, Balgowlah NSW 2093.

