

November, 2010

Dear Friends,

The convergence of two major anniversaries, one century apart, is the impetus for the next concert of Chamber Music Rochester entitled **Robert Schumann and Samuel Barber: A Double Birthday Party**. Robert Schumann (1810-1856), one of the most important composers of the Romantic Period, and Samuel Barber (1910-1981), one of America's greatest composers, have more in common than meets the eye. They both left a voluminous legacy of works in nearly every musical genre, each with a special affinity for vocal repertoire. The concert will take place at the Memorial Art Gallery on November 21, at 7:30 PM.

The concert will begin with the **Trio for Violin, Viola, and Cello** by Nadine Dyskant Miller, winner of the High School Division of the 2009 CMR Young Composers Composition Competition. Currently a home schooled junior, Nadine's work exhibits maturity and finesse that belies her youth.

Samuel Barber's "**Dover Beach**" for **Baritone and String Quartet, Op. 3**, based on a Victorian text by Matthew Arnold, was actually performed and recorded by the composer himself, who was a fine baritone. This early work was the beginning of a life-long outpouring of important vocal compositions, including two operas, "Knoxville: Summer of 1915", and the "Hermit Songs". Barber's **String Quartet, Op. 11** is an underperformed masterpiece. However, the slow movement has attained iconic status in its orchestral version entitled "Adagio for Strings". This movement is the essence of sadness. It has been borrowed numerous times by Hollywood in films such as "The Elephant Man" and "Platoon". It continues to evoke profound emotion over seventy years after its creation.

Robert Schumann was one of the greatest song composers in the history of music. His lieder output rivals the great Franz Schubert in scope and quality. Four songs from "**Liederkreis**" for **Baritone and Piano, Op. 39** will begin the second half of the program. The concert will come to a rousing conclusion with the **Quartet in Eb Major for Piano and Strings, Op. 47**. This tour de force is one of the most exuberant and brilliant pieces in all of chamber music.

We are pleased to welcome the celebrated bass-baritone, Jan Opalach, for Dover Beach and the Schumann songs. Jan's artistry was most recently enjoyed in the New York City Opera's production of Richard Strauss' "Intermezzo". Jan will be joined by a wonderful string quartet comprised of Shannon Nance and Liana Koteva Kirvan, violins, Marc Anderson, viola, and Kathleen Murphy Kemp, cello. Pianist Joseph Werner will also join the celebration.

As always, the pre-concert chat will begin at 7:00 PM and will feature appearances by some of the evening's distinguished performers. We look forward to seeing you on November 21 for our double birthday party!

Sincerely,

Stefan Reuss and Joseph Werner, Co-Artistic Directors