

January, 2009

Dear Friends,

As the winter of 2009 continues to make its way into the record books, Chamber Music Rochester invites you to bask in the warmth of the Memorial Art Gallery on the evening of Sunday, January 25, for our concert entitled **The Finger Lakes Chamber Ensemble Plays Piano Quintets of Liptak and Shostakovich**. Formed in 1990, the Finger Lakes Chamber Ensemble is comprised of violinists David Brickman and Patricia Sunwoo, violist Roberta Crawford, cellist Stefan Reuss, and pianist Michael Salmirs. This group of premier musicians combines virtuosity, intelligence, and wit in their performances and their programming. This particular program celebrates the art of the piano quintet as represented by a Twentieth-Century Russian master and a living American composer.

As an opener, violinist David Brickman and pianist Michael Salmirs will perform the “**Dithyrambe**” movement from the **Duo Concertant for Violin and Piano** by Igor Stravinsky. Written in 1932, this short and touchingly lyric piece belongs to the mature composer’s so-called “neoclassic period”, where he reverently looks back at music of the distant past for his inspiration. Next, the members of the Finger Lakes Chamber Ensemble will perform the **Quintet for Piano and Strings** by Rochester composer and Professor of Composition at the Eastman School of Music, David Liptak. This work was premiered in October of 2006 by the Finger Lakes Chamber Ensemble and was the result of a joint commission in collaboration with the Cassatt Quartet. The opening movement, “Shaping the Invisible”, is dark and austere, but also contains fervent and impassioned outbursts of great dramatic impact. The second movement, “Glacier”, evokes icy images with its slow tempo and eerie string harmonics. The final movement, “Spring Images”, conveys the rebirth of nature by means of complex rhythms and deft interplay. David Liptak’s musical language is unique and compelling. We hope you enjoy the surprises and rewards of this journey into music of the new century.

The concert will end with the magnificent **Quintet in G Minor for Piano and Strings, Opus 57** by Dmitri Shostakovich. Written in 1940, the work has become a standard in the chamber music repertoire. Cast in five movements, it runs the gamut of emotions from the serene to the whimsical to the triumphant. There is no better vehicle for the virtuosos of the Finger Lakes Chamber Ensemble than this masterpiece.

The pre-concert chat will begin, as always, at 7:00 PM. The featured speaker will be composer David Liptak.

We look forward to seeing you again on January 25 at the Memorial Art Gallery.

Sincerely,

Stefan Reuss and Joseph Werner, Co-Artistic Directors