



April, 2008

Dear Friends,

After months of snow and ice, the onset of spring in Rochester is always a cause for celebration. On Sunday, May 4, at 7:30 PM in the Performance Hall of the Hochstein Music School, Chamber Music Rochester will end its Thirty-First Season with a musical feast perfect for the occasion. **A Spring String Spectacular**, with music by Brahms and Mendelssohn and an all-star roster of performers, will make your spirits soar.

The concert will begin with a performance by this year's recipients of CMR's Scholarship Award to Hochstein's Chamber Music Connection. This award, given annually to a chamber group from the Hochstein Music School, culminates in a performance at our season finale. In past seasons these performances by high school students have been a source of great inspiration and excitement. This year's Honors String Quartet will perform the first movement of the **String Quartet in A Minor, Op. 51**, by Johannes Brahms.

Next, violinists Mikhail Kopelman and David Brickman, violists Melissa Matson and Michael Larco, and cellists Stefan Reuss and Kathleen Murphy Kemp will play Brahms' **Sextet for Strings in B<sup>b</sup>, Opus 18**. Written in 1860, when the composer was still in his twenties, this magnificent work is one of the pinnacles of Romantic chamber music. By adding an extra viola and cello to the traditional string quartet, the great master created a canvas with nearly orchestral possibilities. Full of drama, passion, and virtuosity, this is the youthful Brahms in all his glory.

The addition of violinists Shannon Nance and Daryl Perlo to complete a "double string quartet" can only mean one thing: the **Octet for Stings in E<sup>b</sup> Major, Op. 20** by Felix Mendelssohn. It is nearly inconceivable that this marvel of perfect string writing, complete with soaring melodies, deft interplay, and devilish passagework was penned by a sixteen-year old boy! Prepare to be swept away by the sheer energy and exuberance of this masterpiece.

The pre-concert chat will begin at 7:00 PM and will include interviews with several of the evening's performers. We will also be announcing the programs and artists for the Thirty-Second Season of Chamber Music Rochester. We are eager to share what we think is one of our most exciting seasons ever. We would like to remind all members at this time that you may invite up to four guests to this concert for free. Call Chris Burton at 586-5690 or email [tickets@chambermusicrochester.org](mailto:tickets@chambermusicrochester.org) with the names and addresses of your guests. Seating at the Hochstein Music School is not reserved, so please get there early for your favorite seats. There is ample parking in the lot across the street and at the Sister Cities Garage around the corner on Church Street. We look forward to seeing you on May 4 for our season finale!

Sincerely,

Stefan Reuss and Joseph Werner, Co-Artistic Directors