The Composers' Ensemble at Princeton presents

THE CASSATT STRING QUARTET

WORKS OF

Paul Hindemith
Steven Mackey
Julia Wolfe GS
Theophanis Dymiotis GS

Monday, March 25, 1991
8:00 p.m.

FRANK E. TAPLIN '37 AUDITORIUM
in Fine Hall
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY CAMPUS
String Quartet No. 2

The Second Quartet took two years of intermittent work (spring 1989-early 1991) during which I repeatedly diverted my attention to writing other pieces. Part of the reason for this delay in completion was trepidation at the thought of adding to the already vast string quartet literature which boasts dozens of great and justly popular works—a feeling of insecurity not lessened by my having composed a twenty minute quartet two years or so earlier. Fortunately, Princeton University came to the rescue by engaging the Cassatt Quartet to perform student works and thus gave me an excellent incentive to bring the task to a conclusion.

The first movement (which was in fact the second in order of composition) is essentially a central stretch of abrasive, fast music flanked by related sections of moderately slow music in which the note E and its tonal world take center stage (hence the title).

The second movement was the first to be composed and was premiered by the Atlantic Quartet in May, 1989. The Two Miniatures pay tribute to Debussy and Schoenberg respectively—the two figures who have contributed the most to shaping the music of our century. Although Take Twelve toys with 12-tone technique (with absolutely no intent at parody), the Miniatures follow the spirit and not the letter of the composers they salute.

Chrysanthema was composed last. The alternation of declamatory phrases and flowing choral passages as well as other aspects of the music were suggested to me by Janáček’s Sonata for Violin and Piano which I worked on as a violinist in the early part of 1990. The chrysanthemum brings to my mind the idea of mourning; the title might then be appropriate for a movement that pursues dark colors and revolves round the tonality of C Minor.

— Theophanis Dymiotis GS
The Program

String Quartet No. 2

I. All about E
II. Miniatures
   (i.) Hommage à Debussy
   (ii.) Take 12
III. Chrysanthema

String Quartet No. 1

INTERMISSION

Fumeux Fume

Volatile, eruptive
Organum
Silver Spheres
Poing
Free Fall
To Ash

String Quartet, Opus 22

Fugato
Schnelle Achtel. Sehr energisch
Ruhige Viertel. Stets fließend
Mässig schnelle Viertel
Rondo

Laura Goldberg, violin
Michiko Oshima, viola
Muneko Otani, violin
Anna Cholakian, violoncello

Theophanis Dymiotis GS
(b. 1965)

Julia Wolfe GS
(b. 1958)

Steven Mackey
(b. 1956)

Paul Hindemith
(1895-1963)
The Composers' Ensemble at Princeton

The Composers' Ensemble at Princeton (formerly the Princeton Ensemble) is a professional musical performance organization under the direction of Princeton faculty composer Steven Mackey and Michael Pratt, conductor of the Princeton University Orchestra. The Composers' Ensemble will feature a cross section of a lively and varied international music culture, in programs which reflect diverse sources of influence, spanning six centuries of notated music from Western Europe, vernacular and world musics, computer music, and music technology, improvisation, performance art, and of course, twentieth-century American concert music.

The Composers' Ensemble at Princeton was founded to serve the educational needs of the Composition Program in the Princeton University Music Department. It provides an opportunity for young composers to hear, discuss, and revise their work before sharing it with a wider public by arranging classroom readings of works in progress. It is consistent with these educational aims to present their music in public concerts surrounded by other music which influenced its creation. In fact, many of the concerts are themselves creations by the composers represented, who are charged with designing programs that project a particular point of view.

The Cassatt String Quartet

The Cassatt Quartet was formed in 1985 with the encouragement of the Juilliard Quartet; the Quartet was awarded an unprecedented scholarship to study chamber music at The Juilliard School. During this period, the members of the Cassatt were inaugural participants in Juilliard's Young Artist String Quartet Residency Program, and served as teaching assistants to the Juilliard Quartet. Since then, the Cassatt Quartet has won First Prize at the Fischoff and the Coleman National Chamber Music competitions, was awarded the first Tanglewood Chamber Music Fellowship, and the Florence Allen Award from the Chamber Music Society of the Monterey Peninsula. The Ensemble is in residence at the Caramoor Center for Music and Arts of Westchester, New York, as well as the Worcester Performing Arts School in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Upcoming Events

April 12, 1991: Double Edge Piano Duo
Richardson Auditorium
Works of Martin Butler '85, Steven Mackey, and Igor Stravinsky.

April 23, 1991: The Cassatt String Quartet
Taplin Auditorium
Works of Stan Link GS, Su Lian Tan GS, and others.

April 25, 1991: Jane's Minstrels
Taplin Auditorium
Works of Katharine Norman GS and others.

May 16, 1991: The Composers' Ensemble at Princeton
Taplin Auditorium
Works of Evan Bennett GS, Su Lian Tan GS, and Tim Geller GS.

All performances are at 8:00 p.m.

This concert presented by The Composers' Ensemble at Princeton is made possible, in part, with the continuing support of The Friends of Music at Princeton.