Mark Steinberg, violin
Serena Canin, violin
Misha Amory, viola
Nina Maria Lee, 'cello

with
Martha Elliott, soprano
Todd Palmer, clarinet

THE
BRENTANO
STRING QUARTET

Quartet-in-Residence•Princeton University

Sixteenth Residency Concert
February 22, 2007
Thursday evening at 8:00 p.m.
Richardson Auditorium in Alexander Hall
The Department of Music & The Friends of Music at Princeton

present

The Brentano String Quartet

String Quartet in E-flat Major, Opus 44, no. 3
Allegro vivace
Scherzo: Assai leggiero e vivace
Adagio non troppo
Molto allegro con fuoco

Felix Mendelssohn
(1809-1847)

Four Lyrics from Yeats (world première)
A Drinking Song
O Do Not Love Too Long
A Deep-Sworn Vow
After Long Silence

Edward T. Cone
(1917-2004)

Martha Elliott, soprano

— intermission —

Capriccio for String Quartet

Cone

Quintet in B Minor for Clarinet and String Quartet, Opus 115
Allegro
Adagio
Andantino; Presto non assai, ma con sentimento
Con moto

Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

Todd Palmer, clarinet

THURSDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 22, 2007 AT 8:00 PM
RICHARDSON AUDITORIUM IN ALEXANDER HALL

QUARTET-IN-RESIDENCE • PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
The Brentano String Quartet

The Brentano String Quartet was appointed Quartet-in-Residence at Princeton University in September, 1999. Made possible by a generous gift from an anonymous alumnus, the residency includes free public performances (of which this evening's is the eleventh); teaching and coaching chamber music in the Program in Musical Performance; working with undergraduate, graduate student, and faculty composers; and participating in courses taught by members of the faculty.

Since its founding in 1992, the Brentano String Quartet has been recognized by critics and audiences alike for its technical brilliance, musical insight, and stylistic elegance. The Quartet is named after Antonie Brentano, whom many scholars believe to have been Beethoven's mysterious "Immortal Beloved," and to whom he wrote his famous confession of love.

Within a year's time, the Brentano Quartet claimed the distinction of being named to three major awards: the first Cleveland Quartet Award, the 1995 Naumburg Chamber Music Award, and the Tenth Annual Martin E. Segal Award. For its first appearance in Great Britain at the Wigmore Hall, the Brentano was awarded the Royal Philharmonic Society Music Award for the most outstanding chamber music debut of 1997. The Brentano was the first Quartet-in-Residence at New York University, and was chosen by The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center to participate in the inaugural season of Chamber Music Society Two, a program designed for outstanding emerging artists on the verge of international careers in chamber music.

Appearances in the major musical centers of North America include New York's Alice Tully Hall, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Pittsburgh's Frick Museum, at the La Jolla Chamber Music Society, the Chamber Music Society of Detroit, the Ford Centre for the Performing Arts in Toronto, and at venues in Washington, D.C., San Francisco, Los Angeles, Houston, New Orleans, Kansas City, and Boston.

The Brentano's summer festival appearances have included the Festival DeDivonne in France, the Bath Festival, Chamber Music Northwest, the San Luis Obispo Mozart Festival, Chautauqua, Caramoor International Music Festival, and Interlochen's Advanced String Quartet Institute.

Mark Steinberg, violin is an active chamber musician and recitalist. He has been heard in chamber music festivals in Germany, Austria, and France, and has participated for four summers in the Marlboro Music Festival, with which he has toured extensively. He has also appeared with the El Paso Festival, on the BargeMusic series in New York, at Chamber Music Northwest, with The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, and in trio and duo concerts with pianist Mitsuko Uchida, with whom he has performed a complete Mozart sonata cycle. Mark Steinberg has appeared as soloist with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Kansas City Camerata, and the Philadelphia Concerto Soloists. He was the recipient of the 1992 Lotus Foundation Award, which included a recital in Weilhall, and was selected to give a 1993 recital in the Metropolitan Museum's "Introductions" series. Mr. Steinberg holds degrees from Indiana University and The Juilliard School; he has studied with Louise Behrend, Josef Gingold, and Robert Mann. He taught for six years on the chamber music faculty of Juilliard's Pre-College division, has taught at Princeton University, and is currently a member of the violin faculty of New York University.

Serena Canin, violin, was born into a family of professional musicians in New York City. An accomplished chamber musician, Ms. Canin was twice invited to the Marlboro Music Festival, and has toured the United States with Music-from-Marlboro, the Brandenburg Ensemble, and Goliard Concerts. In New York, Serena Canin performs regularly with the Orchestra of St. Luke's and the Sea Cliff Chamber Players. She has made frequent appearances on the Continuum Series at Alice Tully Hall, the Summergarden Series at the Museum of Modern Art, and at the Garden City Chamber Music Society, and at Chamber Music Quad Cities in Davenport, Iowa. Ms. Canin has taught at Princeton University, New York University, and taught chamber music at The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. She holds degrees from Swarthmore College and The Juilliard School; her teachers have included Burton Kaplan and Robert Mann. She lives in Manhattan with her husband, pianist Thomas Sauer.

Misha Amory, viola, won the 1991 Naumburg Viola Award and has since gone on to a diverse career as soloist, chamber musician, and teacher. He has performed with orchestras in the United States and Europe, and has been presented in recital at New York's Alice Tully Hall, on the Los Angeles Ambassador series, Philadelphia's Mozart on the Square Festival, the Seattle Chamber Music Festival, the Vancouver Festival, The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, and the Boston Chamber Music Society. He released a recording of Hindemith sonatas on the Musical Heritage Society label in 1993. Misha Amory holds degrees from Yale University and The Juilliard School. His principal teachers were Heidi Castleman, Caroline Levine, and Samuel Rhodes. Himself a dedicated teacher, Mr. Amory serves on the faculties of Juilliard and the State University of New York at Stony Brook, in addition to his teaching and coaching activities at Princeton.

Nina Maria Lee, violoncello, is an active chamber musician who has collaborated with such artists as Felix Galimir, Jaime Laredo, David Soyer, Nobuko Imai, Isidore Cohen, Mitsuko Uchida, and András Schiff. She has performed at the Marlboro and Tanglewood Festivals, and toured with Music-from-Marlboro and participated in the El Paso International Chamber Music Festival. As a strong advocate of education, she has also appeared on programs to introduce music to children as part of a project at the Kaplan Space at Carnegie Hall. Ms. Lee began studying the cello at the age of twelve in St. Louis. At sixteen, she was accepted at The Curtis Institute of Music, where she studied cello with David Soyer and chamber music with Karen Tuttle and Felix Galimir. In 1992, Ms. Lee attended Boston University as a biology major, where she studied cello with Michael Reynolds. She has been awarded top prizes in such competitions as the St. Louis Symphony Young Artists Competition and the National Foundation for the Advancement of the Arts Talent Search. She is the recipient of bachelor's and master's degrees in music from The Juilliard School, where her teacher was Joel Krosnick.
Martha Elliott, sopranos, has enjoyed a rich and varied performing career including a wide variety of repertoire and styles. Her crystalline voice, impeccable musicianship, and dynamic presence are equally at home in music of the Baroque with period instruments, opera, musical theatre, chamber music and contemporary avant-garde. She has toured all over the world with new music ensemble Continuum, performing in New York City, South Africa, Europe and Asia as well as throughout the United States. She has worked with over 50 composers presenting their new works, and has been critically acclaimed for her performances of Pierrot lunaire, and the music of John Cage, as well as for the role of Miranda in the world première of Peter Westergaard’s opera The Tempest. She has also presented world premières with the Princeton University Orchestra while on tour throughout Eastern Europe and the United Kingdom. Martha has sung with the Naumberg Award winning New Millennium Ensemble, and is a member of Philadelphia’s Network for New Music. She has also appeared at the Philadelphia Fringe Festival as well as New York’s Knitting Factory and Sonic Boom Festival. She is featured on the new CD Geenyoeh, music of Jennifer Margaret Barker, which was nominated for three Grammy awards, including best new piece, sung by Martha Elliott.

Graduating with honors from Princeton University, she went on to receive a Masters from Juilliard, where she studied with Ellen Faull. She worked with Jan DeGaetani at Aspen, Phyllis Curtin at Tanglewood, and George McKinley in Philadelphia. She has been teaching at Princeton University since 1985 and is married to conductor Michael Pratt. They have a daughter, Emily and a beagle, Thisbe.

Todd Palmer, clarinet, made his New York debut at Carnegie Recital Hall as a winner of the 1987 Artists International Competition, and in 1988, he won the Grand Prize in the Ina Hogg Young Artist Competition in Houston (the first wind player to win this prestigious competition!).

Since winning the 1990 Young Concert Artists International Auditions, Mr. Palmer has given enthusiastically received performances throughout the United States. He has played recitals in the Young Concert Artists Series in New York at the 92nd Street Y and at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., at Merkin Concert Hall in New York, and at Princeton University.

A superb chamber player, Todd Palmer has played with The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center in New York at Alice Tully Hall and the Kennedy Center, with Musicians from Marlboro, and at festivals including Bravo!, the Spoleto Festival U.S.A., and the Marlboro, Vancouver and Tanglewood Music Festivals. Mr. Palmer has collaborated with the Borromeo, Brentano, Orion, and St. Lawrence String Quartets, and has performed as guest artist in Schubert’s Shepherd on the Rock with sopranos Kathleen Battle, Renée Fleming, Roberta Peters, Beverly Hoch, and Dawn Upshaw.

Born in Hagerstown, Maryland, Todd Palmer began playing the clarinet at the age of 16 following seven years of study of the trumpet. He earned his Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees from the Mannes College of Music under the tutelage of renowned clarinetist, Gervase de Peyer. His critically acclaimed CD, Hermit Songs, was released in 1995 by Koch International Classics. This all-American recording contains works by Bernstein, Copland, Gershwin, and Mr. Palmer’s arrangements of music by Barber and Ives.
Latecomers will not be admitted during the performance of a work.

The use of sound recording or photographic equipment at Richardson Auditorium is expressly prohibited.