

CHAMBER MUSIC
N O R T H W E S T
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presents

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CHAMBER MUSIC NORTHWEST PRESENTS PORTLAND
DEBUT OF ZUKERMAN CHAMBER PLAYERS ON MARCH 5

SUNDAY MATINÉE CONCERT
CONTINUES CELEBRATION OF MOZART

Critical praise for Zukerman Chamber Players:

“Those who came to gawk at Zukerman got some great music-making in the bargain...this was a superb performance that lifted the listener out of everyday worries.” – *Montreal Gazette*

“Zukerman’s presence...galvanized his twenty-something colleagues to match his conviction and musicianship.” – *The Chicago Tribune*

Along with his violinist friend Itzhak Perlman, **Pinchas Zukerman** has become nearly a household name among classical music lovers. His recently-formed Zukerman Chamber Players makes its Portland debut under the auspices of Chamber Music Northwest on Sunday, March 5, at 4 PM, in Kaul Auditorium at Reed College, offering a program of well-known classics for strings by Dvorák, Brahms and Mozart.

A prodigious talent recognized worldwide for his artistry, Pinchas Zukerman has been an inspiration to young musicians throughout his adult life. In a continuing effort to inspire and motivate future generations of musicians through education and outreach, the renowned artist has teamed up with four protégés – violinist **Jessica Linnebach**, violists **Jethro Marks** and **Ashan Pillai** and cellist **Amanda Forsyth** – to form the **Zukerman Chamber Players**. Since the summer of 2003, the ensemble has performed at the Aspen, Ravinia and Tanglewood Festivals, and abroad at the Verbier, Schleswig-Holstein, Tivoli (Denmark) and Musica Mundi (Belgium) Festivals, and at London’s BBC Proms. Other engagements have taken them to France, Spain and Turkey. The Zukerman Chamber Players has two recordings for CBC Records and Altara.

The **Zukerman Chamber Players** will perform three works:

ANTONIN DVORÁK

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART

JOHANNES BRAHMS

Terzetto in C Major for Two Violins and Viola, Op. 74 (1887)

Quintet in C Major for Strings, K. 515 (1787)

Quintet in G Major for Strings, Op. 111 (1890)

The concert takes place at 4 PM, in Kaul Auditorium at Reed College (SE 28th and Woodstock Blvd.). Tickets are \$10 (students/senior rush)-\$21-\$28-\$40, and may be purchased from the CMNW box office, by phone 503-294-6400 or in person at 522 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 924, from 10 AM – 4 PM Monday-Friday. Program notes, artist bios and music samples can be found at www.cmnw.org.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Dvorák wrote his Terzetto, Op. 74, in 1887 at the peak of his success as a composer, while living in Prague. An able violist himself, he wrote this work, a trio for two violins and viola, and went on to write several more small chamber works for strings and piano. The Terzetto is quintessential Dvorák: lyrical and warmly emotional, with sections of vivacious Bohemian dances and waltz-like Ländler. Exactly one hundred years earlier, **Mozart** composed his Quintet in C Major for Strings, K. 515. One of six such “viola quintets” (two violins, two violas and cello), the C Major is possibly the best-known. Full of grace and optimism, it was written in 1787 when Mozart was 32 (four years before his death), at the zenith of his short career. **Brahms** wrote two string quintets (with two violas), and the Quintet in G Major, Op. 111, is one of his last and most mature chamber works, written in 1890 in Bad Ischl outside of Salzburg. The Brahms biographer Walter Niemann called this quintet “the most passionate, the freshest, and the most deeply inspired by nature” of all Brahms’ works.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Born in Tel Aviv in 1948, **Pinchas Zukerman** began studying violin at age eight, and with the guidance of Isaac Stern and Pablo Casals, came to America in 1962 to study with Ivan Galamian on scholarship at Juilliard. He has held numerous artistic positions, including Music Director of the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and Principal Guest Conductor of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Zukerman is in his seventh season as Music Director of Canada’s National Arts Centre Orchestra, and also conducts the Chicago and Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestras this season. During the 2005-2006 season, he presented recitals throughout Europe with pianist Marc Neikrug, and took part in a highly anticipated North American tour with longtime friend and colleague Itzhak Perlman. Mr. Zukerman’s extensive discography contains over 100 titles and has earned 21 Grammy nominations and two awards.

Young Canadian violinist **Jessica Linnebach** has appeared with leading orchestras across North America including those of Philadelphia, Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa, Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver. Violist **Jethro Marks** has performed as soloist and chamber musician throughout the United States, Europe and Canada. He has performed at the Mostly Mozart and Ravinia Festivals, the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, and on the stages of Carnegie Hall and Alice Tully Hall. Sri Lankan born British violist **Ashan Pillai**, a prize-winner at international competitions, is currently principal violist in the Barcelona Symphony Orchestra, where he is also professor of viola in the Conservatoire Superior. Canadian cellist **Amanda Forsyth** is principal cellist of the National Arts Centre Orchestra, where she appears regularly as soloist and in chamber ensembles.

ABOUT CHAMBER MUSIC NORTHWEST

This concert is the fourth of six in Chamber Music Northwest’s 2005-2006 Fall-Winter-Spring Concert Series, and the music of Mozart is included in the three remaining programs, marking the 250th birthday of **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** (1756–1791). Coming on April 21 and 22, as part of Portland’s citywide “Month of Mozart” celebration, are all-Mozart concerts featuring the Borromeo String Quartet, violinist Ani Kavafian and pianist André-Michel Schub. Mozart’s music will be prominently featured in CMNW’s 36th annual Summer Festival, June 26 – July 30, 2006; program details will be announced in March.

At **Chamber Music Northwest** (founded in 1971), internationally acclaimed soloists and ensembles come together for a fall-winter-spring concert series and a summer festival to explore the beauty and endless variety of chamber music, in performances of rare commitment and supreme artistry. Performances of CMNW are heard on National Public Radio’s “Performance Today,” and CMNW has six compact discs commercially available on the Delos International label, as well as annual season highlight recordings. In 2004, CMNW became an international presenter when David Shifrin led a concert tour in Japan.