

Brentano Quartet

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

Synopsis: *The Dark, Coiled Intensity of F Minor*

The program starts with a Bach Prelude that introduces f minor as a key that admits little light, closed in and dense. In Op. 95 (“Serioso”), Beethoven wrote a work that is compact and brutal. When the Brentano Quartet approached Bruce Adolph to write a work inspired by the Beethoven he answered immediately: “Opus 95: so many nuggets of genius: the unhinged rhythmic knots, the scales off the cliff’s edge, the muttering, the gnashing of molars!” The result is his new work, “Coiled,” written for this program. That coiled intensity also informs Shostakovich’s Eleventh Quartet in f minor (Beethoven’s f minor is also his eleventh), that compressed, eloquent masterpiece. And it is no coincidence that Mendelssohn’s final quartet, written in the anguished aftermath of his beloved sister’s death, refers in key and affect directly to this seminal Beethoven work.

Prelude in F Minor J. S. Bach (2685 – 1750)
From Book 2 of the Well-Tempered Clavier

Quartet in f minor, Op. 95Ludwig Van Beethoven (1770-1827)

Coiled (inspired by Beethoven’s Op. 95) (2017)Bruce Adolph (1955)

~ Intermission ~

Quartet No.11 in F MinorDimitri Shostakovich (1906-1975)

Quartet in F Minor, Op. 80Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

*Subject to change