ALLEGRO FROM "QUINTEN" QUARTET

Op. 76, No. 2
Franz Joseph Haydn
Arranged by Brendan McBrien

INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor Score
Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Cello
String Bass

Program Notes

Composed in 1797, near the end of his life, this work displays Haydn's fondness for captivating rhythms and sonorities and is nicknamed the "Quinten" (or 'Fifths') Quartet after the falling perfect fifths that are a thematic feature in this first movement. The four note motif is an almost constant presence, either in its original shape or in augmented, diminished, or canonic versions. Written in the dark key of D minor, this work, set in sonata form, is reminiscent of the "Sturm und Drang" ("storm and stress") style of the 1760s and 70s, which featured a rhythmic and harmonic agitation that propelled the music with, at times, maniacal energy. During that period Haydn wrote a number of symphonies in that style. Notable examples are Symphony No. 44 "Trauer" ("Mourning"), Symphony No. 45 "Farewell," and Symphony No. 49 "La Passione."

Notes to the Conductor

Both musicians and and ence will be captivated by this chamber music masterpiece set for string orchestra, with an added bass part to strengthen its harmonic movement, making this the perfect concert or contest closer for your orchestra. Since this is an arrangement of a string quartet, great care should be given to matching intonation and articulation styles to capture the transparent texture of chamber music. Effort went into creating a string bass part that supported the music without simply following the cello at the octave. While this work could be performed without a bass, the expanded sonorities of the string ensemble would be enhanced by the bass part, making the harmonies richer and clearer.



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