



October 31, 2009

From Munich - The Henschel String Quartet

Christoph Henschel & Markus Henschel, Violin;
Monika Henschel, Viola; Mathias Beyer-Karlshøj, Cello

Programme: HAYDN String Quartet in G Major, Op 76 No.1; SCHULHOFF String Quartet No. 1; MENDELSSOHN String Quartet in E Minor, Op 44, No. 2

Encore: SCHUMANN Sherzo from A Minor String Quartet



Schumann Scherzo the perfect Halloween treat



It's really hard to find the right words for such an accomplished performance - amazing! Magic! I found the subtle communication among the players fascinating. It was really enhancing the musical expression.

(M.Dammermann)

A challenging program played with *élan*. I had never heard of Schulhoff and was interested in his story and truly blown away by his music. Evocative of the composers who preceded him, this piece is prescient of the new music that came after. The Mendelssohn was simply perfection. **(Susan Weldon)**

Haydn - This showed all the exuberance of the composer - brilliance, virtuosity and total involvement. Wonderful ensemble. The performers breathed as one. The hymn-like second movement breathtaking. Schulhoff - A lively tour through the sights and sounds of a city (perhaps Prague), with great dance rhythms - all handled with ease and total musicianship. Mendelssohn - Warm tones, wonderful arched phrases and beautiful melodies. As an encore, the Schumann Scherzo was a perfect Halloween treat. **(Virginia Heinrichs)**

The Haydn was very unusual and, to be honest, not to my liking- rhythmically much too free. The Schulhoff was very exciting and the Mendelssohn was very beautiful and lyrical. A tremendous variety in playing style from very light and floating to very vigorous. **(Linwood DeLong)**

Still another truly amazing performance! I hadn't heard Schulhoff before but can't wait to hear more of him. This quartet's incredible synchronicity and enlivening interpretation made for a totally enjoyable evening. Even Haydn sounded new, and the Mendelssohn took me straight to heaven. **(Sheila Lugtig)**

A superior selection of music. The Schulhoff in particular blended the 19th and 20th century music in a way that expressed imagery solely through the sounds. It was a haunting choice for Halloween. Superb! **(Anon.)**

A truly virtuosic ensemble. It was like opening a pile of wonderful gifts, each one more beautiful and amazing than the last. **(Sarah Lugtig)**

Four voices singing as one. An evening to remember! **(Audrey Vail)** Consummate playing - impossible to imagine better! **(M. Evans)**

For further tributes, we thank:
(Jorge Machin-Lucas, Anna & Leonard Schwartz, L. Billinkoff, Brenlee Werner)

Thank you all sincerely for your comments.

Critic's Prize

Susan Weldon

CD — Cypress String Quartet
(featuring Haydn, Ravel, Schulhoff)