



November 21, 2009

## From Prague - Zemlinsky String Quartet

Frantisek Soucek, violin; Petr Strizek, violin;  
Petr Holman, viola; Vladmir Fortin, cello

Programme: MOZART String Quartet C major K. 465 "Dissonant"  
SMETANA String Quartet No. 2 D. Minor; ESTACIO Test Run for String Quartet  
DVORAK String Quartet F Major Op 96 "American"  
Encore: SMETANA Dance of the Comedians ( from "The Bartered Bride" )

# "A little bit of heaven"

Like a fine vintage wine, the Zemlinsky Quartet improves with age since I saw them at Banff 26 months ago. Tonight they reached the pinnacle of performance, mastering each offering with exquisite style, grace and verve. I cannot stop smiling with joy, excitement and much happiness. ( Cynthia Coop )

Extraordinary! How four can play as one. with passion! We are blessed. ( Judith London Bager )

The physicality and musicality of these performers shone through every piece of an interesting, eclectic program. They so obviously love what they do - their connection with each other was fascinating to observe. The underlying melodic romantic/ folkloric motif of the Czech composer Smetana will stay with me in the week to come. As well, the haunting beauty of the more familiar Dvorak. Czech mate! PS. So nice to hear Virtuosi connecting with young people at Miles Mac Collegiate! (Susan Weldon)

Another outstanding evening of music. Particularly liked the adagio in the Mozart. The verve with which the Smetana was played. And the Dvorak - never better! They play with such reverence for the music. (Sheila Lugtig)

An evening full of joy! Totally satisfying. I really liked the contrast between pieces of different cultural environments. Well chosen! You have spoiled us again with these superb musicians. Thank you! (M. Dammermann )

Excellent in every way! A memorable evening! Love the tone and intonation of the cello! Body English. is there a 'Body Czech' ? (Don Rodgers)

Excellent concert. Great artists. Performance was outstanding. Repertoire well chosen. (Roza Iomdina). Great concert! Both the Henschel and the Zemlinsky String Quartets were wonderful choices. (Anna Schwartz). Fabulous!!! Wow! Even better than our other quartet! I feel as if I am in Prague! Bravo the Czech composers. (Kathy Connor)



True virtuosity. What a magnificent concert. They put their heart and souls into the concert. Thoroughly enjoyed it. (Evelyn Downey) This concert was very, very good - like an outstanding full meal. (M. Evans) First few bars and 4<sup>th</sup> movement of Mozart were interesting. Smetana too. Loved the Estacio- so alive and rhythmical. The Dvorak was superb, over the top, splendid. (Don Bailey)

Excellent. A huge treat. (Vic Chernick ) Tight group!! Loved it. (David Connor) Outstanding! Bravo! (Brenlee Werner) High energy, precision, cohesion, faultless, entertaining. Bring them back. (R.K. Halprin) A little bit of heaven descended on us tonight! (Agnes Dyck)

*H. Strub, Ed.*

*Thank you all sincerely for your comments.*

### **Critic's Prize** **Susan Weldon**

CD — 8th Banff International String Quartet  
Competition : Compilation Recording