



## Laureates of Banff and Honens -

Saturday, October 25 , 8pm

**TinAlley String Quartet & Hinrich Alpers, piano**

Programme: SCHUMANN Kinderszenen MENDELSSOHN String Quartet Opus 13  
SHOSTAKOVICH Piano Quintet Opus 57

“Perfection at its finest!” *(Herschal van Über)*

Schumann - sad, melancholic, mercurial, his moods ever-changing. Alpers' brilliance at the keyboard reflects the composer's state of mind in all its glory. A brilliant, virtuosic, sensitive assault on our senses. Bravo Schumann & Hinrich Alpers. **(Cynthia Laure Coop)** Alpers' playing has a magnetic quality to it; while one is still relishing the present note there is already a sense of being drawn forward to the surprise of the next. I loved it **(Agnes Dyck)** I loved the program. The first half of Schumann's Kinderszenen & Mendelssohn's Quartet Opus 13 was so melancholic. **(Laura Weir)**

A great evening. Pianist Alpers rendered the Schumann with care and poetry. The Mendelssohn was played musically and with style. **(Don Rodgers)** It was good to hear the Schumann live, including its interesting experiments with



pedaling and rubato, compared to some recorded stand-by. What passionate Mendelssohn and how wonderful to hear the Shostakovich live! **(M. Evans)**

The pianist was marvelous. His sensitive playing was spellbinding. The quartet was a very cohesive group and played so well together. This was the best concert for me this season.

**(Joyce Aitken)** Alpers: Compelling... evoked childhood with my adult's understanding. TinAlley: Superb playing - emotion flowed from one player to the next, yet spoke with one heart. **(Nancy McKeen)** There are many highlights to this wonderful concert, but for me they were the lyrical, soft passages at the beginning of the Schumann and the eerie mood created by the violinist playing quietly without vibrato. **(Linwood DeLong)**

Alpers' playing was so expressive. I enjoyed his comments too. And the quartet's Mendelssohn almost evoked tears. Then the two melded beautifully in the quintet. The Scherzo was brilliant. **(Sheila Lugtig)**



I was entranced by Alpers' playing. The melody always sang beautifully over the harmonies and was constantly strong and clear. His playing in the Shostakovich quintet was delicious to listen to. When the TinAlley played, I was amazed by how perfectly the sounds coming from each instrument blended together. **(Heather Stewart)** A Schumann with wistful heart, a great Mendelssohn and a Shostakovich with irony and wit. **(P. Malchy)**

Alpers played with such sensitivity! It was a quality sustained and maintained by TinAlley who added an element of élan! And then the passion of the Shostakovich! What a splendid evening!! **(Judith London Bager)**

The best string quartet yet at Virtuosi Concerts. They played like their nerve endings were attached! **(Laura Weir)** I thought I didn't like Shostakovich, but the group seduced and cajoled me into appreciating the intricate and interesting musical ideas he puts together. Thank you. **(Don Rodgers)** The Shostakovich was riveting! **(Don Bailey)** The pianist was fabulous and the quartet was fantastic. The expression was sensitive and the musical line crisp and beautiful. **(Edith Toews)** This was fantastic playing by the string quartet. I have never enjoyed any better! **(Helen Toews)**

I particularly enjoyed watching the strong & confident bowing of the principle violin. She really exudes confidence & I think she has good reason to feel this way. The 2<sup>nd</sup> violin was also very enjoyable to watch. Her facial displays of emotion were delightful. The music was played beautifully as I had expected after seeing them last summer in Banff. The music evoked many strong and warm feelings and was the perfect antidote to the cold which is about to befall us tonight outside.

**(Moir Swinton)**

There is nothing 'tinny' about these fine musicians. We were most privileged to hear them. **(Miggie Lampe)**

Virtuosi Concerts have lived up to their name once again. Yet the title 'virtuosi' still does not convey the special qualities of warmth, sensitivity & devotion to the integrity of the music exhibited by tonight's five young artists. May they return many times in the future. **(Muriel Smith)** Thoroughly enjoyable. The quartet has a big sound and each artist has demonstrated marvelous ability.

**(Lou Billinkoff)** It feels like I have watched a musical of instruments! I could see the stories the composers tried to express with their music! Fabulous and fantastic! Bravo!! **(Lee Jeongmin)** Wow! Sweet perfection. They feel every note and made every emotion come alive. **(K. Fuhr)**

*(Mireille Theriault, ed.)*

### 🎻 VIRTUOSI WINNERS CIRCLE 🎻

Headline: **Herschal van Über**

CD Prize: "Cypress String Quartet"

Critics Award: **Heather Stewart**

CD Prize: "Quatuor Annesci: Pathways of Music"