



The Sixty-seventh Season of
The William Nelson Cromwell and F. Lammot Belin
Concerts

National Gallery of Art
2,726th Concert

Geringas Baryton Trio

April 26, 2009
Sunday Evening, 6:30 pm
West Building, West Garden Court

Admission free

Program

Josef Haydn (1732–1809)

Baryton Trio in A Major, H. 11/108

Moderato

Menuet

Finale: Allegro assai

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827)

Duet for Viola and Cello, WoO 32 (“Eyeglasses”)

Allegro

Minuetto

Haydn

Baryton Trio in B Minor, H. 11/96

Largo

Allegro

Menuet

INTERMISSION

Anton Kraft (1752–1820)

Sonata in G Major for Two Violoncelli, op. 1, no. 2

Moderato

Adagio

Finale: Rondo con variazioni; allegretto

Haydn

Baryton Trio in D Major, H. 11/113

Adagio

Allegro di molto

Menuet

Finale: Presto

The Musicians

The Geringas Baryton Trio is made up of cellist and conductor David Geringas, who is one of the leading international performers on the baryton; cellist and former student of David Geringas, Jens Peter Maintz; and violist Hartmut Rohde. All three artists are professors at Berlin's *Musikhochschulen* and have been chamber music partners for a number of years. With successful solo careers of their own, they are also winners of major competitions and have received numerous awards. They present this concert of music by Haydn and German composers in tandem with a concert of music by Haydn and Italian composers, which they performed at the Library of Congress on April 24, 2009. The Geringas Baryton Trio appears at the National Gallery by arrangement with Shupp Artists Management of Port Jefferson, New York.

DAVID GERINGAS

David Geringas studied at the Moscow Conservatory, where his teacher and mentor was Mstislav Rostropovich. Since winning the first prize at the Tchaikovsky Competition in 1970, Geringas has performed as soloist with the Chicago, National, and Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestras, as well as with many major orchestras worldwide. In addition, he recently made his conducting debut with the Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra.

Geringas has received numerous awards for his recordings including the 1994 Diapason d'Or, for a recording of chamber music by Henri Dutilleux, and the Grand Prix du Disque, for a recording of twelve cello concertos of Luigi Boccherini. A recording of the cello concertos of Hans Pfitzner was honored in 1994 with the prize of the Deutsche Schallplattenkritik. Geringas received Lithuania's highest honors for his worldwide contributions to his native country's music, and German President Horst Köhler awarded Geringas the *Verdienstkreuz erster Klasse* for his achievements as musician and ambassador for German culture. Since 2000 he has taught at the Berlin Hochschule für Musik, and also serves as honorary professor at the Moscow Conservatory and the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing, China.

HARTMUT ROHDE

Hartmut Rohde, winner of the Naumburg competition, is one of Europe's most sought-after violists. He is a founding member of the Kandinsky String Trio and a member of the Mozart Piano Quartet, with which he appeared at the National Gallery in 2006. In addition to his numerous radio recordings for major European networks, Rohde has also recorded for Arte Nova, Decca, EMI Classics, the Freiburger Musikforum, MDG, and Naxos. He won the 2003 Echo Klassik prize and the 2004 Supersonic Award. Since 1993 he has been a professor at the University of the Arts in Berlin. He also acts as guest professor for viola and chamber music at the Royal Academy of London, which recently awarded him its prestigious honorary membership.

JENS PETER MAINTZ

In 1994 Jens Peter Maintz became the first cellist in seventeen years to win the ARD International Competition, which is open to all instrumentalists. He won the 1997 Echo Klassik prize for his Sony Classical recording of solo works by J. S. Bach, Dutilleux, and Zoltán Kodály. His recording of cello concertos by Isang Yun with the Deutsche Sinfonieorchester Berlin was released on the Capriccio label in 2003. He has also recorded works of Tchaikovsky for cello and chamber orchestra under the direction of David Geringas. In 2004 Maintz accepted a professorship for cello at the University of the Arts in Berlin.

Program Notes

To commemorate the 200th year of Joseph Haydn's death, the Geringas Baryton Trio has undertaken a world tour with his seldom-heard works written for the baryton trio, consisting of baryton, viola, and cello. The baryton is a stringed instrument similar to the bass viol that has six bowed strings and up to forty sympathetic strings, which resonate with the main strings as they are played. Some of the sympathetic strings can be plucked from behind by the left thumb. It was due to the love for this instrument on the part of Haydn's patron, Prince Nikolaus Esterházy, that Haydn composed a total of 126 baryton trios between 1765 and 1774. Esterházy learned to play the baryton, which had not been widely played since the middle of the seventeenth century, and he commissioned Anton Neumann (c. 1720–1776) and Luigi Tomasini (1741–1808), to write for the instrument. Because the baryton is extremely susceptible to changes of temperature and humidity, the Trio opted to play the overseas concerts on the tour on modern instruments, rather than exposing the barytons to the risks and rigors of air travel.

Beethoven composed his “Eyeglasses” duo for cello and viola around 1796–1797, most likely for his patron and good friend, Nikolaus Zmeskall. A skilled amateur cellist and secretary to the Hungarian Chancellery, Zmeskall was one of the friends of Beethoven who dared to tease him and did not mind being teased in return. In one letter Beethoven writes to Zmeskall, “Je vous suis bien obligé pour votre faiblesse des votre yeux” (I am most obliged for the weakness of your eyes). This would explain the nickname Beethoven gave to the duet, which he probably wrote for the two of them to play together. The *minuetto* is not only charming and gentle, but it also includes a canon between the two instruments.

Although Austrian composer and cellist Anton Kraft originally moved from his hometown of Rokitzat to Vienna to pursue a career in law, he quickly found employment playing the cello in the Imperial Court Orchestra.

He left Vienna in 1778 to play in the court orchestra of Prince Nikolaus Esterházy when it was under Haydn's direction, and used the opportunity to study composition with the master composer. After Haydn left the Esterházy court in 1790, Kraft continued his career as a composer, performer, and teacher. Haydn's famous *Cello Concerto in D Major* was written for him, as was the cello part in Beethoven's *Triple Concerto*. Kraft's own contributions as a composer include several sonatas for cello, various string duos, and a concerto for cello and orchestra.

Next Week at the National Gallery of Art

Alexandria Symphony
Kim Allen Kluge, conductor
With
Alessandra Marc, soprano

Music by Richard Strauss, Tchaikovsky, and Wagner

May 3, 2009
Sunday Evening, 6:30 pm
West Building, West Garden Court

The use of cameras or recording equipment during the performance is not allowed. Please be sure that cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices are turned off.

Please note that late entry or reentry of the West Building after 6:30 pm is not permitted.

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