The American String Project

Maria Larionoff and Barry Lieberman, Artistic Directors

The Unique Conductorless String Orchestra
Live from Benaroya Hall Seattle

2006

Beethoven
Sarasate
Shostakovich
The American String Project
THE UNIQUE CONDUCTORLESS STRING ORCHESTRA
LIVE FROM BENAROYA HALL SEATTLE

2006

BEETHOVEN
SARASATE
SHOSTAKOVICH

The name itself gives the first hint: not the American String Orchestra, or the American String Ensemble, but the American String PROJECT. Think “project” in one of its prime connotations — a plan in development, communal in nature, defining and refining its goals as its members engage — and you get a sense of the fluidity and camaraderie that are the hallmarks of this group.

The American String Project is an annual phenomenon where diverse performers and modes and visions mingle to create something that did not exist before: Fifteen string players from around the world gather in Seattle to perform works from the chamber music repertoire that have been arranged specifically for the group. The intimacy of the chamber music articulation, with its interplay of tone and color, is enriched and deepened, taking on the tonalities of a string symphony—but always with the proportion and exchange that characterizes the great chamber works.

Two further differences are salient: First, the Project draws from the world’s premier string players: soloists, concertmasters, chamber music artists, teachers. Moreover, this ensemble performs without a conductor. The group is anchored by its artistic directors, Barry Lieberman and Maria Larionoff, but its modus operandi is collaborative. Each work on a season’s program is assigned a “leader,” who together with all the musicians determines how best to shape and present the performance. From work to work, the players’ positions rotate, to egalitarian effect: at times even a musician who sits exclusively in the concertmaster’s chair in her or his regular job may occupy the last chair in the second violins.
The result of these differences, as audiences and critics over the past five seasons have discovered to their joy, is music making of thrilling vitality and communication—performance not as reproduction but as translation. From the introspection of Mozart to the energy of Beethoven and the poignancy of Mendelssohn; from the passion and tension of Prokofiev and Shostakovich to the late-twentieth-century yearning of Vasks; from Britten’s Britain to Sarasate’s Spain to Barber’s America: those who hear The American String Project have the privilege of experiencing performances of music at once familiar — but wonderfully new.

-Lynn Walterick
The American String Project
P.O. Box 15409
Seattle, WA 98115

www.theamericanstringproject.org

Recorded live in concert on June 8, 2006, Illsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall, Benaroya Hall, Seattle, Washington.
Recording Engineer: Bill Levey.
PERSONNEL

Julie Albers cello
Frank Almond violin
Toby Appel viola
Theodore Arm violin / viola
Stephanie Chase violin
Eugenia Choi violin
Yoko Fujita violin
Joseph Gottesman viola
David Harding viola
Maria Larionoff violin
Barry Lieberman double bass
Harumi Rhodes violin
Eriko Sato violin
Carol Sindell violin
Arek Tesarczyk cello
Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)
STRING QUARTET NO. 4 in C MINOR, OP. 18 NO. 4
(arranged Lieberman)

1. Allegro ma non tanto 9:14
2. Scherzo (Andante scherzoso quasi Allegretto) 7:38
3. Menuetto (Allegretto) & Trio 4:05
4. Allegro 4:37
LEADER: ERIKO SATO

Dmitri Shostakovich (1906-1975)
STRING QUARTET NO. 12, OP. 133
(arranged Lieberman)

5. Moderato – Allegretto 6:37
6. Allegretto 20:42
LEADER: MARIA LARIONOFF
Joseph Gottesman solo viola
Julie Albers solo cello

Pablo de Sarasate (1844-1908)
(arranged Chase)

7. CAPRICE BASQUE 6:02
8. ROMANZA ANDALUZA 4:52
9. ZIGUENERWEISEN 9:20
LEADER: STEPHANIE CHASE
Harumi Rhodes solo 2nd violin
Toby Appel solo viola
Arek Tesarczyk solo cello
**Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)**

.string quartet No. 4 in C minor, op. 18 No. 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Movement</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Allegro ma non tanto</td>
<td>9:14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Scherzo (Andante scherzoso quasi Allegretto)</td>
<td>7:38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Menuetto (Allegretto) &amp; Trio</td>
<td>4:05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Allegro</td>
<td>4:37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Leader: Eriko Sato

**Dmitri Shostakovich (1906-1975)**

.string quartet No. 12, op. 133

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Movement</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Moderato – Allegretto</td>
<td>6:37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Allegretto</td>
<td>20:42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Leader: Maria Larionoff
Joseph Gottesman *solo viola*
Julie Albers *solo cello*

**Pablo de Sarasate (1844-1908)**

(arranged Chase)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Movement</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Caprice Basque</td>
<td>6:02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Romanza Andaluza</td>
<td>4:52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Leader: Stephanie Chase
Harumi Rhodes *solo 2nd violin*
Toby Appel *solo viola*
Arek Tesarczyk *solo cello*

www.theamericanstringproject.org
www.msrdcd.com

©&© 2007 TASP. All Rights Reserved.