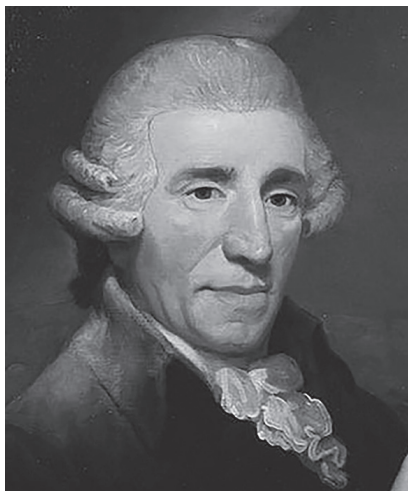


HAYDN

BEETHOVEN



“Joke” quartet
opus 33 no.2 in E^b

“Quartett Serioso”
opus 95 in f

BEETHOVEN
Quartet in B^b opus 130

SALOMON STRING QUARTET

Friday 19th November 2021 at 7.30pm

ST MARGARET LEE

LEE Terrace SE13 5EA

Tickets £15 in advance from:
standages@pobox.com or
020 8319 3372



Of all Haydn's string quartets the opus 33 set of 1781 contains his most light-hearted and humorous music. The quartet in E^b acquired the nickname "The Joke" chiefly on account of the last movement, which plays tricks with the listener's expectations at the finish; but the bumptious Scherzo (all the Menuet movements are so called in this set) and in particular its associated Trio, with Haydn's sliding fingerings, is even more brazenly comic. All these high spirits coincided with the early days of Haydn's affair with Luigia Polzelli, an Italian soprano at the court of Prince Eszterházy.

Beethoven's opus 95 on the other hand, which he titled "Quartett serio" in his autograph score, was written in the aftermath of the rejection of his proposal of marriage to Therese Malfatti, the young niece of the famous Doctor Malfatti. If the antics of Haydn's opus 33 quartets are a reflection of his mood at that time perhaps Beethoven's feelings and frustration can be heard in the first movement of his opus 95. The opening unison bars certainly sound like a statement of rejection. They are followed by a passage of entreaty, which is interrupted by an extended repeat of the initial figure and this dialogue continues throughout the movement.

Beethoven's opus 130 quartet is the third of three, which he wrote for the Russian Prince Nikolaus Galitzin. At the first performance its six movements were not received with equal enthusiasm. In particular the last, which we now know as the Grosse Fuge, continued to perplex audiences and players for a long time afterwards. Joseph Joachim, for instance, refused to include it in his many concert cycles of the complete Beethoven quartets. However, the more understanding members of that first audience, who did want to come to terms with the great fugue, nevertheless also managed to persuade the composer to write another, and more accessible, alternative last movement.

Simon Standage 2021

Haydn Quartet in E^b major opus 33 no.2 (The Joke)

Beethoven Quartet in f minor opus 95 "Quartett serio"

Interval

Beethoven Quartet in B^b major opus 130

THE SALOMON STRING QUARTET

Simon Standage and Catherine Martin	<i>violins</i>
Adam Römer	<i>viola</i>
Andrew Skidmore	<i>cello</i>