COMING EVENTS

The Caltech Glee Clubs present “A Night at the Opera”
May 18, 8:00 pm, Dabney Lounge and May 19, 8:00 pm, Ramo Auditorium
These back to back concerts will feature opera choruses, including "Brindisi" from La Traviata and "Va, Pensiero" from Nabucco, works from The Magic Flute, Fledermaus, and Tannheuser, among others. Students will perform solo arias, as will guest artist mezzo-soprano Olga Perez.

Caltech Chamber Music
Sunday, May 20 – 3:30 pm, Dabney Lounge
Beethoven String Quartet Op. 130, music for two pianos

Donald E. Hudson Chamber Music Fund
Richards Instrumental Music Fund

Today’s concert is sponsored by Caltech’s Office of Student Affairs, the Friends of Caltech Instrumental Music, and the Donald E. Hudson Chamber Music Fund. Dr. Richard Hudson established the fund in February of 2001 in memory of his brother and fellow Caltech alumnus, Donald. A lifelong lover of chamber music, Donald Hudson served as Professor of Mechanical Engineering at Caltech. Donald E. Hudson Visiting Artists Jill Box (bassoon), and Sharon Harman (violin) have been an integral part of Caltech’s student chamber music program this term as coaches of several student ensembles.

We also wish to acknowledge the generous assistance of the Richards Instrumental Music Fund which supports private lessons for Caltech students.

Caltech’s Student Chamber Music Program was established in 1979, with Delores Bing as its founding director. Along with the other instrumental and vocal ensembles sponsored by the office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, the chamber music program has given hundreds of Caltech students the opportunity to study and perform great music as a means of cultural enrichment and much needed stress relief.

Caltech Chamber Music
Spring 2007 Concert Series

Sunday, May 13, 2007
3:30 PM
Dabney Lounge
California Institute of Technology
Sonata No. 9 in F Major for Two Violins and Basso Continuo
“Golden Sonata”  Henry Purcell (c. 1659-1695)
Maestoso
Adagio
Canzone: Vivace
Grave
Presto

Bagatelle No. 3 in G minor, Op. 47  Antonin Dvořák (1841-1904)
Emma Schmidgall (‘07, Physics/History) violin
Eric Chin (‘10, CNS) violin
Esther Wang (‘09, ACM) cello
Marcela Hrda (‘10, Physics) piano

Trio in E-flat Major  Archduke Rudolph of Austria (1788-1831)
III. Larghetto – Theme from the Octet by Prince Louis Ferdinand of Prussia

Six Grandes Marches Et Trios D 819  Franz Schubert (1797-1828)
1. Allegro maestoso
2. Allegro ma non troppo
4. Allegro maestoso

Hungarian Dances  Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)
5. Allegro
Wing Ning Yung (‘07, Chemistry) piano
Cameron Taketa (‘07, Mathematics) piano

Intermission

Piano Trio in E-flat, Op. 70, No. 2  Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)
Poco sostenuto – Allegro ma non troppo
Allegretto
Allegretto ma non troppo
Finale. Allegro

Laura Panattoni (graduate student, Social Science) violin
Elizabeth Wood (community) cello
Hui Khoon Ng (graduate student, Physics) piano

Allen Gross coached the piano four-hands music, and Delores Bing coached the other ensembles on today’s program.

Program Note
Although there is no direct connection between Beethoven’s Piano Trio, Op. 70, No. 2 and the Archduke, it is appropriate for the music of Archduke Rudolph of Austria to appear on the same program with Beethoven’s music. Starting around 1804, and continuing for twenty years, the Archduke was Beethoven’s piano pupil, and the only composition student Beethoven ever taught. Rudolph was a talented musician, and a tolerant aristocrat. Despite the considerable breach of protocol created by Beethoven’s repeated cancellations of the royal piano lessons, the Archduke forgave the composer, when he found himself so involved with composition that he repeatedly failed to keep appointments at the Imperial Court.

Archduke Rudolph was Beethoven’s greatest and most reliable patron. When various circumstances prevented other nobility from continuing payments promised to Beethoven, as arranged by Rudolph, the Archduke himself made up the difference. In gratitude, Beethoven dedicated more compositions to Archduke Rudolph than any other patron, namely the Fourth and Fifth Piano Concertos, two piano sonatas, a violin sonata, the great “Archduke” piano trio, the Missa Solemnis, and the Grosse Fuge for string quartet.

The work on today’s program, the last movement of Archduke Rudolph’s Trio in E-flat, is a set of variations upon a theme composed by Prince Louis Ferdinand of Prussia (1772-1806). The Prussian prince, one of the most gifted soldiers of his generation, was killed at the Battle of Saalfeld where he commanded 8,300 men. He was also a gifted composer, having produced several works, including the Octet in F, Op. 12 from which Rudolph extracted the theme. It was common practice for composers to write variations upon their own themes, or those of another composer. Bearing no connotations of plagiarism, the use of another’s material was a form of flattery.

Notes by Delores Bing