

Chamber Season Concludes with Three Greats

Written by Lila Meeks

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The music on the April 27th's program of USCB's chamber music series comes from four distinct periods and three unique outlooks: Baroque-era rigor and craft from Johann Sebastian Bach; World War II-era intensity and pathos from Dmitri Shostakovich; Classical-era grace and balance coupled with Romantic-era passion and self-expression in the person of Felix Mendelssohn.

Bach's Sonata No. 3 for Violin and Keyboard, a four-movement sonata da chiesa (church sonata) opens the evening's program. Baroque techniques such as fugue and passacaglia are handled with such ease and unforced mastery that one's attention is seduced by the sheer melodic beauty of the piece. Bach, a masterful performer on keyboard and violin, was keenly attuned to their potential and exploited both similarities and differences.

Dmitri Shostakovich lived through harrowing times, witnessing Stalin's regime annihilate millions of

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