Janáček's *String Quartet, No. 1* was inspired by Leo Tolstoy's *The Kreutzer Sonata*, a novel that deals passionately with the subjects of infidelity and betrayal. Tolstoy's novel was in turn inspired by Beethoven's *Violin Sonata No. 9 in A Major, Op. 47* ("Kreutzer"). The quartet presents a unique sonority in the world of string quartets by combining harmonic freedom, complex rhythms, and astounding expressive intensity with constant references to Moravian folk music.

Beethoven is purported to have said to his friend, Karl Holz, that his *Quartet, Opus 131* was his favorite. Holz was present when Schubert heard the quartet for the first time, and reported that the latter “fell into such a state of excitement and enthusiasm that we were all frightened for him.” The quartet is unprecedented in length, with seven movements that are played without pause, yet its musical structure is highly organized and tightly packed. Richard Wagner, especially moved by the last movement, wrote: “This is the fury of the world’s dance: fierce pleasure, agony, ecstasy of love, joy, anger, passion, and suffering; lightning flashes and thunder rolls; and above the tumult the indomitable fiddler whirls us on to the abyss.”

-Program notes by Melvin Berger, edited by Alain Fancal, Ida Levin, and Elmer Booze

---

**March 1998**

1. National Gallery Orchestra
   - George Manos, conductor
   - Delius: *On Hearing the First Cuckoo in Spring*
   - Dvořák: *Scherzo capriccioso*
   - Schumann: *Symphony No. 1*

2. Christian Tetzlaff, violinist
   - J. S. Bach:
     - Partita No. 2
     - Sonata No. 3
     - Partita No. 3

---

**The Fifty-sixth Season of**

**THE WILLIAM NELSON CROMWELL and F. LAMMOT BELIN CONCERTS**

**National Gallery of Art**

**2260th Concert**

**THE TALICH STRING QUARTET**

Jan Talich Jr., violin
Vladimir Bukac, violin
Jan Talich Sr., viola
Petr Prause, cello

Sunday Evening, February 22, 1998
at Seven O’Clock
West Building, West Garden Court

*Admission Free*
PROGRAM

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  Quartet in D Major, K. 575  (1789)
(1756-1791)  (1789)

Allegretto
Andante
Menuetto: Allegretto
Allegretto

Leoš Janáček  String Quartet No. 1  (1923)
(1854-1928)  (After Tolstoy: "The Kreutzer Sonata")

Adagio con moto
Vivace
Andante; con moto
Adagio

INTERMISSION

Ludwig van Beethoven Quartet in C-Sharp Minor, Op. 131  (1826)
(1770-1827)  (1826)

Adagio, ma non troppo e molto espressivo
Allegro molto vivace
Allegro moderato
Andante, ma non troppo e molto cantabile
Presto
Adagio quasi un poco andante
Allegro

The TALICH QUARTET takes its name from the noted conductor and founder of the Czech Philharmonic, Vaclav Talich, to whom two of the current members of the quartet are related. Formed at the Prague Conservatory in 1964, the quartet is recognized as one of Europe’s finest and performs regularly in major cities throughout the world. During its 1987 North American debut and its seven subsequent American tours, the Talich has won accolades for its subtle and elegant interpretations of the string quartet repertoire. The quartet is particularly noted for its interpretations of the great Czech composers Smetana, Dvorak, Martinu, and Janáček, and it has recorded many of their works on the Calliope label. The Talich’s many other recordings have garnered numerous awards, including a Golden Disc from Supraphon and several Grands prix du disque and Diapasons d’or. The ensemble appears at the National Gallery by arrangement with Melvin Kaplan, Incorporated, of Burlington, Vermont.

First violinist JAN TALICH Jr. and violist JAN TALICH Sr. are both members of a family of Czech musicians who have been prominent since the eighteenth century. Jan Talich Sr. founded the Talich Quartet in 1964 and has devoted his career to it ever since. He was its first violinist until 1972, at which time he became its violist. As a soloist, he is particularly noted for his interpretation of Shostakovich’s viola sonatas. Jan Talich Jr. has been honored throughout Europe as both a soloist and chamber musician, winning numerous distinctions and prizes. He is founder and director of the Talich Chamber Orchestra, and his recordings of Czech music enjoy a wide following. He studied at the Prague Conservatory and in the United States and England.

Violinist VLADIMIR BUKAC had a varied musical career before joining the Talich Quartet. As a member and violin soloist of the Orchestra Ensemble Kanazawa, he toured throughout Japan. He served as a first violinist with the Czech Philharmonic, was concertmaster of the Chamber Orchestra at the University of Prague, and was a member of the Prague and Suk Chamber Orchestras. A graduate of the Prague Conservatory, he also studied in Freiburg, Germany.

PETR PRAUSE has served as first cellist in the Prague Czech Radio Symphony Orchestra and has been a member of numerous orchestras, including the Beethoven Chamber Orchestra and the Czech National Symphony. He has performed as soloist with orchestras in France, Denmark, England, and eastern Europe. He completed his undergraduate music training in Prague, after which he won top honors at the Guildhall School of Music in London.

Published in Vienna in 1789, Mozart’s Quartet in D Major, K. 575 was written at the request of King Frederick of Prussia, who was an excellent cellist. The principal subject of the first movement is stated by the first violin and cello, followed by the second theme, which is introduced by the cello alone. The movement proceeds with a spirit that is animated and optimistic. The second movement features an imitative dialogue among the four instruments, while the third presents muscular sforzati, presaging the quartets of Beethoven. The trio of this menuetto features a lyrical melody, entrusted to the cello as it sings high above its normal range. The Finale is a rondo, with the principal subject quoted from the first movement.