

Brahms tried and rejected so many ideas when composing that he sometimes had enough material left over after completing one composition to begin a new one. Consequently, he composed a number of works that appear in pairs in the same genre. As expressed by Alfred Frankenstein (1906–1981), the American writer on music and art, the two works in such pairs usually “comment on each other.” Brahms’ *Quartets for Strings, Op. 51, Nos. 1 and 2*, are a perfect example of this phenomenon, as they were written in the same year. The quartet on this program, *No. 2*, is intimate, well disposed, and Viennese in flavor, in contrast to its sibling, which has a more daring and intellectual character. The first four notes of the quartet, A-F-A-E, represent the motto: *frei, aber einsam* (free, but lonely), according to Brahms’ friend and colleague, the Hungarian violinist Joseph Joachim (1831–1907). This sequence of notes does not appear again in any of the subsequent movements. The second movement (*Andante moderato*) is tripartite (ABA) in form and reaches a level of introspection and profundity that is unmatched throughout the other movements. The third movement (*Quasi minuetto: Moderato*) is thoroughly diverting, as pleasure is mixed with sadness by means of a contrasting middle section (*Allegretto vivace*) that is typical of Brahms. The fourth movement (*Finale: Allegro non assai*) is a rondo in waltz time (3/4) with a coda, marked *Più vivace*, that brings the quartet to a scintillating close.

Program notes by Elmer Booze

*The use of cameras or recording equipment during the performance is not allowed.*

*For the convenience of concertgoers the Garden Café remains open until 6:30 p.m.*

*Selections from concerts at the Gallery can be heard on the second Sunday of each month at 9:00 p.m. on WGMS-FM, 103.5.*

***Fifty-ninth Concert Season at the National Gallery of Art  
2000-2001***

**Under the Direction of George Manos**

**Sundays at 7:00 p.m. in the West Building, West Garden Court**

**PERFORMERS**

**February**

4 Juliana Osinchuk, *pianist*

11 Razumovsky String Quartet

18 Leila Josefowicz, *violinist*  
John Novacek, *pianist*

25 The Chamber Music Society  
of Lincoln Center  
David Shifrin, *artistic director*

**PROGRAMS**

Clementi: *Sonata, Op. 47/2*  
Philip Munger: *Fragile Vessel*  
Fauré: *Impromptu*  
Poulenc: *Impromptu*  
Saint-Saëns: *Allegro  
appassionato*

Shostakovich: *Quartet in F  
Major, Op. 73 (1946)*  
Tchaikovsky: *Quartet in D  
Major, Op. 11*

Falla: *Suite populaire espagnole*  
Shostakovich: *Sonata, Op. 134*  
Gershwin: *Porgy and Bess Suite*  
Novacek: *Four Rags*  
Vieuxtemps: *Souvenir  
d'Amérique*

Rorem: *Autumn Music*  
Chausson: *Concerto for Violin,  
Strings, and Piano in D Major*  
Mendelssohn: *String Quartet  
No. 2, Op. 87*

*The Fifty-ninth Season of*

THE WILLIAM NELSON CROMWELL and  
F. LAMMOT BELIN CONCERTS

**National Gallery of Art**



*2370th Concert*

**PENDERECKI STRING QUARTET**

**JEREMY BELL, violin JERZY KAPLANEK, violin**

**CHRISTINE VLAJK, viola PAUL PULFORD, cello**

Sunday Evening, 28 January 2001  
Seven O'clock  
West Building, West Garden Court

*Admission free*

