Dalton Wed@7:30 pm: Live and Interactive!

2014-15 Season
318th Concert

Wednesday 4 March 2015
Dalton Center Recital Hall
7:30 p.m.
Pre-Concert talk with Prof. Renata Artman Knific at 7 p.m.

KONTRAS QUARTET
Dimitri Pogorelov, Violin
Francois Henkins, Violin
Ai Ishida, Viola
Jean Hatmaker, Cello

Intimate Letters

Ludwig van Beethoven
1770-1827
String Quartet Opus 18, Number 1
I. Allegro
II. Adagio affettuoso ed appassionato
III. Scherzo: Allegro molto
IV. Allegro

Anton Webern
1883-1945
Langsamer Satz

intermission

Leoš Janáček
1854-1928
String Quartet Number 2 ("Intimate Letters")
I. Andante – Con moto – Allegro
II. Adagio – Vivace
III. Moderato – Andante – Adagio
IV. Allegro – Andante – Adagio

Building emergencies will be indicated by flashing lights and spoken announcement within the seating area. If the notification is for fire, please exit the building immediately. The tornado safe area in Dalton Center is along the lockers in the brick hallway to your left as you exit to the lobby behind you. In any emergency, walk—do not run—to the nearest exit. Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during the performance. Because of legal issues, any video or audio recording of this performance is forbidden without prior consent from the School of Music. Thank you for your cooperation.
Admired for their virtuosity, vibrancy and energy, the KONTRAS STRING QUARTET is rapidly becoming one of the most sought after chamber groups on the scene. "Kontras", which means "contrasts" in Afrikaans, is a fitting name for the unique ensemble comprised of artists from four different parts of the world: Europe, Africa, Asia, and North America. It is this wonderful diversity that informs the group's interest in music from Russia, South Africa, Japan, and the United States. (the quartet members' home countries), and inspires Kontras to present the traditional quartet literature in a new and unexpected light.

Formed while the group's members were string principals in the Chicago Symphony's Civic Orchestra, Kontras have enjoyed extensive training with the members of the famed Vermeer Quartet, and celebrated conductor and educator Cliff Colnot. Kontras enjoyed immediate recognition, winning their first musical contest only a half a year after the Quartet's inception: the group outcompeted seasoned string quartets from around the country to become the Quartet-in-Residence with the Western Piedmont Symphony, N.C. This engagement has led to numerous concert appearances throughout the southeastern states. Passionate about music education and outreach, Kontras has made a major impact on students of all ages in North Carolina, presenting over two hundred innovative, interactive, and educational performances and reaching over 40,000 children.

The Kontras Quartet's recent performances include concerts at Chicago's Symphony Center, Paul Recital Hall of the Juilliard School, television appearances on NBC and PBS, multiple broadcasts on classical radio stations nationwide, and a performance on the main stage of MerleFest, the biggest bluegrass festival in the world.

Kontras was awarded a grant in early 2013 by Chamber Music America’s Classical Commissioning Program, with which the Quartet has commissioned Jens Kruger of the Kruger Brothers to write a new piece for them. The grant was made possible with generous funding provided by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Chamber Music America Endowment Fund.

During the 2014-15 season, Kontras will serve as Quartet-in-Residence with both the Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra in Skokie, Ill., and the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras, leading orchestra sectionals, and giving master classes and workshops on chamber music and composition. It has also recently been announced that Kontras will be in residence with Western Michigan University School of Music for the upcoming season.

This concert is a Bullock Performance Institute (BPI) presentation. BPI events are made possible through the cooperation and support of several community fine arts units: the Donald P. Bullock Music Performance Institute; WMUK National Public Radio; the Western Michigan University College of Fine Arts and School of Music; and WMU's chapters of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia and Sigma Alpha Iota music fraternities.