

speed with which he mastered harmony and counterpoint. He composed an opera when he was 13 years old, and before his death just short of his 20th birthday he had also composed an oratorio, several other sacred vocal works, a symphony, and three string quartets.

The quartets, composed between 1821 and 1822, were the only music he published during his lifetime, and they remain his best known works. They are modelled on the quartets of Haydn and Mozart, but they have their own personality and style. The D-minor quartet's *Allegro* opens with a terse motive that is amply developed before a second subject enters. That subject is in major mode, but in the reprise it appears at first in minor before the movement ends in major. The *Adagio* begins calmly as a florid aria for the first violin. The other instruments have their turns as the piece becomes more agitated, but calm prevails at the close. The *Menuetto* seems to start in the wrong key, and it plays with that expectation through its course. Its *Trio* slows into a leisurely waltz tempo. The finale begins with a slow introduction that is heard again after the exposition is completed. The main *Allegretto* dances along in the Spanish equivalent of a jig, with its second theme in F major. That theme returns in D major near the end, but the quartet ends quietly in D minor.

—Peter Bergquist

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ABOUT TONIGHT'S ARTISTS

The **Oregon String Quartet**, formed in 1982, is in residence at the University of Oregon School of Music. Committed to excellence in performance and music education, the members teach while maintaining busy concert schedules with the quartet and as soloists. They bring together a wide range of musical experiences, including years of chamber music collaborations with world-renowned artists, solo appearances with major orchestras and festivals, and principal positions with major symphonies. They have recorded on the Koch International, CRI, Centaur, and Albany labels. The Oregon String Quartet most recently recorded a compact disc, released by Koch International Classics, of works by the early 20th century African-American composer William Grant Still. The disc has been praised by the press for its beauty as well as its significant content. Strad Magazine hailed: "MUSICAL HEAVEN: OREGON STRING QUARTET . . . you will adore William Grant Still's 1960 string quartet, especially in a performance as sumptuously voiced and stunningly engineered as this." The Oregon String Quartet has been featured at the internationally-renowned Oregon Bach Festival, and is heard frequently on NPR. The quartet continues to enjoy performing and recording new compositions, including recently works by composers Victor Steinhardt and David Crumb.

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105th Season, 72nd program



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1:30 p.m.

Sunday afternoon
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