

Danish String Quartet

Sunday, November 16 at 3 PM

Lensic Performing Arts Center

Program Update

STRAVINSKY Three Pieces for String Quartet (1914, 7 minutes)

Dance—Eccentric—Canticle

JONNY GREENWOOD Suite from *There Will Be Blood* (2007, 17 minutes)

Oil—HW/Hope of New Fields—Future Markets

Prospectors Quartet—Detuned Orchestra

BEETHOVEN Quartet in F Major, Op. 135 (1826, 25 minutes)

Allegretto—Vivace—Lento assai, cantabile e tranquillo—Grave, ma non troppo tratto. Allegro

Intermission

DANISH STRING QUARTET Original compositions and traditional tunes (30 minutes)

The Russian composer **Igor Stravinsky** completed his *Three Pieces for String Quartet* just one year after his revolutionary *The Rite of Spring*. Both works are inspired by Russian folk music and share a charged atmosphere reminiscent of a primitive world suffused with pagan ritual. Whereas *The Rite of Spring* requires an orchestra of 100 and lasts 30 minutes, the *Three Pieces* is like a miniature version of the same story but with only 4 musicians and 7 minutes in duration.

Jonny Greenwood (b. 1971) is a classically-trained English musician who has infiltrated the rock scene. He started out as a recorder player in baroque groups and then became a violist with youth orchestras. Once he stepped into a rock band (Radiohead), he taught himself piano and guitar, and subsequently his band has sold more than 30 million albums. Greenwood has also become a sought-after film composer with three Academy Award nominations, including *There Will Be Blood* (2007) that won the Critics' Choice Award and Best Film Score (British Film Awards), and best film score of the decade by *Rolling Stone* magazine.

Beethoven's *Quartet Op. 135* was his last string quartet and adds an exclamation point to a long line of breathtaking quartets begun by Haydn and nurtured by Mozart. Although Beethoven most often dedicated his music to his wealthy patrons, his last string quartet was dedicated to Johann Wolfmayer, a cloth merchant and tailor. During the last three years of Beethoven's life, Wolfmayer would periodically make a new coat for him and then secretly bring it to the composer's room, place it upon a chair, and spirit away the old one. Clearly, Beethoven was aware, and in return, bequeathed upon his tailor a ruffle of enduring fame.

Original compositions and traditional tunes—The Danish String Quartet violinist Rune Tonsgaard Sørensen remarks that "For centuries, the North Sea was the main communication channel of Northern Europe, the highway and the internet of bygone eras ... When we play our Scandinavian music, audiences will come up and tell us how much it sounds like Irish music. There are many good reasons for that, including this geographical aspect and the seas. We have this image that somewhere in the North Sea is a spot where all these stories unfold. Folk music doesn't really have borders."