

3-9-1999

For Corigliano Quartet, An Impressive Initial Performance Leads to Blossoming Career

Follow this and additional works at: https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls

Recommended Citation

"For Corigliano Quartet, An Impressive Initial Performance Leads to Blossoming Career" (1999). *News Releases*. 8732.
https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls/8732

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Marketing and Communications at eCommons. It has been accepted for inclusion in News Releases by an authorized administrator of eCommons. For more information, please contact frice1@udayton.edu, mschlangen1@udayton.edu.

**FOR CORIGLIANO QUARTET, AN IMPRESSIVE
INITIAL PERFORMANCE LEADS TO BLOSSOMING CAREER**

DAYTON, Ohio — They'd never played together as a quartet before. They'd only three weeks to learn and rehearse an "incredibly difficult" piece of music. And yet, four talented young musicians from Indiana University so impressed internationally celebrated composer John Corigliano with their first performance of his "String Quartet" that he asked them to remain a quartet and become heir to his name.

The Corigliano Quartet will perform at 8 p.m. Thursday, March 18, in the Kennedy Union Ballroom at the University of Dayton as part of the 1998-99 Arts Series. The program will include Beethoven's "String Quartet in B-Flat Major," Op. 18, No. 6; "Night Fields," by contemporary composer Joan Tower; Mendelssohn's "Capriccio in e minor," Op. 18, No. 3; and Debussy's "String Quartet in d minor," Op. 10.

Tickets for the March 18 performance of the Corigliano Quartet are \$8 for the general public. Tickets are available by calling the Kennedy Union box office at (937) 229-2545.

The Corigliano Quartet has become an impressive young music force since their debut in 1996 at IU, with performances at many of the nation's leading music centers, including Carnegie Hall, Weill Recital Hall and the Kennedy Center, as well as a premier of Corigliano's "Farewell Quartet" in Korea in 1997. Other performances have taken the group to Chicago, Detroit, Houston, Indianapolis and Oklahoma.

In addition to the March 18 performance, the Corigliano Quartet will perform a preview of its repertoire and offer a demonstration of instruments from noon to 12:45 p.m. Wednesday, March 17, in the Kennedy Union Torch Lounge. Admission to the preview performance is free and open to the public.

On March 19 and 20, the quartet will participate in residency activities at the University, including workshops and masterclasses in composition and chamber music,

-over-

coaching sessions, and sight readings of compositions written and submitted by area high school and college music students.

Aside from noteworthy performances, the quartet also won the Chamber Music Yellow Springs concert series competition and placed as a finalist in the prestigious Naumburg Competition in New York City, both in 1998. The group currently serves as the first graduate quartet-in-residence at Indiana University, and members serve on the faculty as part-time visiting lecturers.

Melia Watras, a 1987 graduate of Colonel White High School and violist with the quartet, said she and fellow musicians Michael Jinsoo Lim, Sujean Kim and Jeffrey Zeigler have been thrilled with the quartet's as-yet-unceasing career momentum that started with their first performance, one that Corigliano himself described as "music-making of the highest order."

"It all started happening so fast we didn't even know what hit us," said Watras, whose father is UD teacher education professor Joseph Watras. "This has all been very exciting for an ad hoc chamber group who never expected to play together again after that first performance."

Under the guidance of musical coach Atar Arad, the quartet has created a repertoire that features traditional classical and contemporary quartet music. "We like to keep our hands in the composing mix," Watras said. "We do like to support American composers and focus on modern American music, but we make sure to blend that with the classical music of composers such as Beethoven and Bartok. We want people to remember where those music roots are, but we don't want them to think that's all there is."

Watras said members of the Corigliano Quartet are primed and "ready to press forward," and just recently signed with an artist management firm located in upstate New York. The firm approached the group for a contract after word of their outstanding reputation started to spread, she said.

-30-

NOTE TO EDITORS: For more information about the Corigliano Quartet, call **Melia Watras** at (812) 332-1751. For more information about the Arts Series, call **Denise Shoenberger** at (937) 229-2787. For a music sample, the Corigliano Quartet is featured in a performance of Frederick Fox's Dawnen Grey on an Indiana University-sponsored CD, and has recorded for Bayer Records with clarinetist James Campbell.