

entertainment

Chamber music concert superb

Essential to the enjoyment of any concert or recital is the feeling that the performers are deriving satisfaction from what they are doing. When this feeling is absent, even the most professional performances may sound a bit jaded, and as a result, lose their grasp on the audience.

Perhaps nowhere is this as evident as it is in chamber music, where the audience and the performers are, hopefully, in close juxtaposition to one another. In this most demanding genre, a bored or even a complacent musician is as noticeable as a bleeding thumb on a minister.

dave ware strike up the band

This lack of complacency was in evidence in the Tuesday evening recital provided by the Lincoln String Quartet. Performing a traditional piece by Franz Schubert, as well as more modern, dissonant pieces by William Brezina and Bela Bartok, the quartet proved themselves competent musicians capable of tackling a wide range of forms of musical expression, with a fine degree of proficiency.

The first piece to be performed was Schubert's Quartet No. 1 in B flat. The

quartet handled the work smoothly, although the first violinist experienced an intonation problem, consistently playing a trifle sharp, as well as experiencing a faintly nervous vibrato in the second movement.

Brezina's First Quartet in D (Lisa) was an energetic, jumpy work that conveyed a sparkling vivacity mirroring the joy of the father on the birth of his daughter. Brezina's work is a confusing piece (at least to untrained ears), but its vital "sense of life" marks it as a composition of merit, and one to remember. The quartet handled it cleanly, with a verve born of good musicianship, making the performance a tasty one, worthy of special praise.

Only on the third piece, Bartok's Quarter No. 1, Opus 7, did the quartet run into major difficulties. An atonal composition blessed with an almost interminable third movement, Bartok's piece seems to meander along, lacking any sense of purpose or direction. The musicians soldiered along dutifully, but the music seemed to stretch on and on, quite burying the merits of the players.

However one feels about the choice of material, though, one must praise the Lincoln String Quartet for having provided an evening of music that in the main was a decidedly uplifting experience.

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