

# DAVID ROWE ARTISTS

## “Lights!” “Camera!” (“Opus 131” ...???)

Last spring Misha Amory of the **Brentano Quartet** received an unexpected call from a person until then unknown to anyone in the quartet, filmmaker Yaron Zilberman. Yaron explained he was putting together a project tentatively titled “A Late Quartet”, and had targeted the Brentanos for the soundtrack! (He has apparently been a Brentano fan since hearing them play Debussy at Carnegie Hall many years ago, and felt they would be the perfect fit for his vision.)

“A Late Quartet” is the fictional story of a world-renowned string quartet with a 25-year career, which finds itself at a personal and professional crossroads when the founding cellist is diagnosed with early Parkinson’s. This development triggers a series of interpersonal clashes and intrigues, which have been lurking under the surface for many years. As the quartet’s 25th anniversary concert looms, possibly becoming their last, only the power of music (Beethoven’s incomparable Opus 131) and the bond between the members can preserve their legacy.



photo: Joe Cohen

While we have been sworn to secrecy regarding the cast, it is indeed an impressive list...even I have heard of at least three actors! I can, however, mention that the cinematographer recently headed up the last two “Twilight” movies, Woody Allen’s latest, Cormac McCarthy’s “the Road” and “Talk to Her” by Amoldovar! Filming is scheduled to take place in early 2010.

But for the Brentanos, work began in earnest on November 3 when they gathered at the JCC of Manhattan’s auditorium and, with multiple cameras rolling, played for nearly 9 hours of a “test shoot”, the purpose of which was to familiarize the actors with the visual dynamics of string quartet playing. Watching the process was an amazing experience, as I witnessed dozens of camera operators, sound technicians, along of course with Yaron and his production crew work with precision efficiency to get what they wanted on film. (Plus, the catered dinner was excellent!)

It may not have quite been Hollywood “A-list” treatment (I and the Brentanos did take the subway, after all!), but there was no mistaking the high level of professionalism and dedication from all quarters, including, of course, the Brentanos. We will be sure to keep you posted as to when you can expect to see/hear them on a silver screen near you!

**Visit us at APAP!\***  
**Booth 842**

### \*(What about CMA?)

For the first time ever, David Rowe Artists will not be exhibiting at the Chamber Music America conference. I debated this for some time, but ultimately concluded I would not be comfortable at a conference celebrating Chick Corea with CMA’s highest honor, the Bogomolny National Service Award.

Mr. Corea is a superb musician, and I am sure a thoughtful, intelligent, man. But how – I ask – has he served the field of chamber music to earn this award?

So you will not find me in the CMA exhibit hall this year. I do, however, look forward to staying in touch, and wish everyone a wonderful holiday season!



## Berlin Philharmonic Wind Quintet releases latest recording.

The Berlin Philharmonic Wind Quintet's recording "Dances et Divertissements" (BIS 1532) featuring music of Taffanel, Jolivet, Tomasi, and the quintet

for piano and winds by Poulenc (with Stephen Hough), was released to widespread acclaim.

The *Daily Telegraph* (London) stated: "Poulenc's lyricism is treated with sensitivity and discretion, neither over-egged nor undernourished. Moments where the music might threaten to sound portentous are poignantly voiced. And there is ample wit and levity, Hough's lithe playing complementing the zest of the wind instruments in those passages in all three movements where the music irrepressibly bubbles along. This entire recital ... is performed with virtuosity and iridescent colour."

And *Classic FM* noted simply "The nimbleness of their playing is undeniably jaw dropping."

The quintet looks forward to their upcoming (Jan-Feb) North American tour which will include appearances in Austin, Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, Boston, Athens, and Vienna, VA.

The Berlin Philharmonic Wind Quintet will be available for a very brief tour in early October, 2010.



## Jerusalem Quartet's "Miraculous Haydn"

The Jerusalem Quartet continues to impress both in concert (major tours throughout Europe and Australia this fall) and on disc.

*BBC Music Magazine's* review of their most recent harmonia mundi release appeared under the headline "Miraculous Haydn", and explained: "The Jerusalem Quartet's second recording of Haydn Quartets is an absolute triumph. Their playing has everything you could possibly wish for. Miraculously honed intonation and perfect ensemble is matched throughout by an innate understanding of Haydn's mercurial and immensely varied musical language... This has to be one of the best Haydn quartet recordings to be released in his anniversary year."

Writing about the same recording, *Classics Today* said "These are magnificent performances.... These players don't put a foot wrong interpretively.... There's no need to say more: why read on when you could be listening?"

Also, their earlier harmonia mundi recording of Schubert's "Death and the Maiden" quartet received the prestigious **ECHO Classic Award** during a gala ceremony from Dresden's Semperoper in October.

The Jerusalem Quartet is available in North America between Oct 13 – 31, 2010. They will also return in 2011/12 (dates TBA)

## St. Lawrence record Adams for Nonesuch



John Adams and SLSQ enjoy a break between recording sessions at Banff. Photo by Kim Williams

In early October the **St. Lawrence String Quartet** journeyed to Banff to perform the Canadian premiere of **John Adams'** "String Quartet" (composed for them last year).

Following the concert they stayed on for two days while **Nonesuch** recorded the work in Banff's world-class facility. Since the Banff Centre was the Canadian co-commissioning partner for "String Quartet", and since Banff holds such a special place in SLSQ history (they won the 1992 competition, launching their international career), recording there seemed especially appropriate.

John Adams was on hand, and confirmed again how pleased he is that St. Lawrence inspired him to return to the string quartet as a compositional vehicle. Of course we

(John, SLSQ, the folks and Boosey & Hawkes who publish John's music, and we at David Rowe Artists) are all thrilled and proud that by the end of the 09/10 season SLSQ will have performed "String Quartet" over 35 times worldwide!

Fast on the heels of the Adams success, SLSQ will shepherd another major chamber music commission into being in 2010/11 with **Oswaldo Golijov's** new work for string quartet (co-commissioned by Stanford University Lively Arts and Carnegie Hall). Please contact us to be part of that highly anticipated season.

## Brentano Quartet challenges reviewers abilities

This Fall two very experienced reviewers found themselves challenged as they attempted to convey the sort of musical magic routinely on display by the **Brentano Quartet**.

First it was the *Louisville Courier-Journal*, which stated:

**“It’s hard to communicate the sheer exuberance of these four artists, and the remarkable insight and discipline they brought to works that demanded impeccable musicianship. They devoted themselves not simply through supreme energy, but via complete authority and involvement. Nobody coming out of Comstock [Auditorium] could doubt they’d heard something vivid and vital.”**

**“Sunday’s performance was altogether superb, making light of every complexity. So too was the account after intermission of Beethoven’s third and final “Rasumovsky” quartet. If the spectacular, whirling final Allegro molto didn’t send you out of Comstock feeling utterly joyful, then I’m afraid there’s little hope for your soul.”**

And following their concert for Berkeley’s Cal Performances, *San Francisco Classical Voice* wrote:

**“The Brentano Quartet has been a great string quartet for many years.”**

**“It’s difficult to describe the sense of concentration — not so much of mental attention (though of course there’s that, too) as of palpable density — in the quartet’s playing. It is at once extremely powerful and minutely controlled. You have the impression of enormous vitality and energy, though constrained by a kind of muscular discipline that makes the quartet’s every collective action intensely purposeful. There’s nothing diffuse or haphazard; every plane in the music’s shape is cleanly and decisively cloven, as though carved with a very sharp blade through very hard wood.”**

**“The quartet moved with uncanny unanimity of mind. The supple line pulled back and pressed forward with the startling bodily integrity of a single beast — turning, pausing, dashing ahead, suddenly rearing up. I’ve never been quite happy with the ideal of the quartet-as-hive-mind, having heard ensembles refine themselves into blindingly perfect blanks in pursuit of it. But what the Brentanos do is something beyond**

**exceptional blend, balance, intonation, and ensemble; they seem to act in concert like the muscles of a limb, pulling in various directions yet with a single intent, accomplished in a single gesture.”**

Incidentally, this review is one of the most beautifully written, informed, even poetic I have ever encountered, and I encourage you to read it in full at:

<http://www.sfcv.org/reviews/cal-performances/one-voice-one-mind>



OP. 131, TAKE TWENTY-THREE...Brentano Quartet and film crew at the test shoot for “Late Quartet” (see cover story)

### Prazak offers Martinu on disc and in concert

The Prazak Quartet’s contributions to an all-Martinu recording (for Praga Digitals) received a hearty endorsement from *Gramophone*: “The Prazak Quartet’s [readings] of the spikier Third (1929) and lyrical Sixth...are equally impressive.”

While the Prazaks are not touring North America this season, they have been keeping very busy in other regions including Europe (Copenhagen, Paris, Manchester, Brussels) and an extended November visit to Japan.

**The Prazak Quartet will return to North America (with Martinu and many other composers in tow!) between Nov 1 – 20, 2010 and March 1 – 20, 2011.**

## SPRING 2010 CONCERT HIGHLIGHTS

### BERLIN PHILHARMONIC WIND QUINTET

Jan 26 Kerrville, TX  
Jan 27 Austin, TX  
Jan 28: Kerrville, TX  
Jan 29: Chicago, IL  
Jan 30: Detroit, MI  
Feb 2: Cleveland, OH  
Feb 3: Waterloo, ON  
Feb 5: Boston, MA  
Feb 6: Athens, GA  
Feb 9: Danville, KY  
Feb 11: Troy, NY  
Feb 12: Vienna, VA

### BRENTANO QUARTET

Jan 10: Palm Beach, FL  
Jan 15: Philadelphia, PA  
Jan 22: Buffalo, NY  
Jan 24: Schenectady, NY  
Jan 26: Ft. Collins, CO  
Jan 27: Denver, CO  
Jan 28: Logan, UT  
Jan 29: Phoenix, AZ

Feb 5: New York, NY  
(Lincoln Center)  
Mar 27: Storrs, CT  
Mar 31: Easton, PA  
Apr 6: Houston, TX  
Apr 9/10: Ashland, OR  
May 1: Overland Park, KS  
June 10: Chicago, IL  
(Orchestra Hall)

### DAVID FINCKEL & WU HAN

Jan 3: Schenectady, NY  
Jan 25: New Orleans, LA  
Jan 31: New York, NY  
(Lincoln Center)  
Feb 11: Hartford, CT

### DAVID FINCKEL, WU HAN & PHILIP SETZER

Feb 13: Columbus, OH  
Feb 14: Ann Arbor, MI  
Feb 19: Chicago, IL  
Feb 20: Richmond, VA  
Feb 21: Boston, MA  
Mar 20: Morrow, GA

Mar 21: Palm Beach, FL  
Mar 22: Savannah, GA  
Mar 23: Cleveland, OH  
Mar 25: Portland, OR  
Mar 27: Costa Mesa, CA  
Mar 28: Pasadena, CA  
May 8: Durham, NC

### ST. LAWRENCE STRING QUARTET

Jan 15: Anchorage, AK  
Jan 26: Hanover, NH  
Jan 27: Philadelphia, PA  
Feb 5: Tempe, AZ  
Feb 21/22: New York, NY  
(Lincoln Center)  
Feb 25: Toronto, ON  
Mar 7: Santa Monica, CA  
Mar 14: St. Paul, MN  
Mar 16: Portland, ME  
Mar 17: Providence, RI  
Mar 20: Sanibel, FL  
Mar 23: Paris, France  
Mar 25: London, UK (Barbican)  
Apr 8: Hartford, CT

Apr 9: Boston, MA  
Apr 10: Katonah, NY  
Apr 15: Tempe, AZ  
Apr 20-23: Vancouver, BC

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"And Happy Holidays to you, too!" Photo: Helena Rowe

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