


Young, fresh string sounds from Canada

The Cecilia Quartet satisfies the audience at the Privatmusikverein (Private Music Society) with works by Haydn, Dvořák and Shostakovich – 07 April 1:00 p.m.

NÜRNBERG – No small gift for the best string quartet: a tour across the USA and Europe. In 2010, the Cecilia Quartet won the international competition in Banff, high up in the Canadian Rocky Mountains. Now, the four young ladies perform as guest artists at the “*Kleine Meistersingerhalle*”.



The Canadian Cecilia Quartet won the international string quartet competition in Banff.
Photo: Melissa Sung 

At times, they seduce the audience into dreaming of leisurely evenings, with flashes of Austrian-Bohemian ländlers showing through in the music of Haydn and Dvořák. By the time they get to Shostakovich's 7th string quartet, however, those dreams are punctuated by much gloomier undertones, as this piece represents the composer's dark lament for his departed wife. Violin strings are being plucked, at first engaged in a dialogue, then speaking individually. The second violin trembles, and finally the cello emits menacing, dark pizzicato sounds. Music from a different world, lonely and desolate.

Admittedly, major parts of Haydn's string quartet (opus 20, no. 3) are neither cheerfully innocuous nor comforting, either. The Cecilia women don't show us a jovial "Papa Haydn", but rather a harried master of complex musical art. During the 13th string quartet by Antonin Dvořák, viola and cello produce a warm and intimate fundamental tone. However, in this piece, the women from Toronto are not staying on the purely romantic course, either. The quartet masterfully illuminates the subtleties of the piece and moves elegantly and joyfully between major and minor keys. At the end, the audience's enthusiasm is rewarded with an encore, a piano waltz by Dvořák, adapted for strings. Then it's closing time for the winners of the Banff competition. This event is considered one of the major international competitions for young string quartets. Unlike in juvenile law, the age limit here is 35. The age of the Cecilia women ranges between 26 and 30.

The radio station *Deutschlandradio Kultur* will broadcast a report on the Cecilia Quartet on 08 April at 8:00 p.m. Next PMV concert: 18. May, Sergey Dogadin (violin) and Alexander Maslov (piano). Tickets: www.privatmusikverein.de