

For immediate release

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Editor's note: The name J Freivogel in the 2nd graph is correctly spelled without a period after the initial J.

JASPER QUARTET TO PLAY MOZART, SCHUMANN, SHOSTAKOVICH —JULY 15

BUENA VISTA, COLORADO—Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart began studying the harpsichord at age four. A young man who started playing the violin at age two will join his colleagues in a performance of a famous Mozart quartet Saturday, July 15 in Buena Vista.

The young phenom is J Freivogel, a member of a famed St. Louis family of musicians. At age six he was permitted to be second violinist in the Freivogel Family String Quartet. Now he is first violinist for the Jasper Quartet, formed three years ago at Oberlin University in Ohio. They will play Mozart's "Spring Quartet" July 15 in a concert beginning at 7:30 p.m. at Valley Fellowship Church, 608 South San Juan Street, Buena Vista, Colo.

It is part of the Salida Aspen series of concerts in Salida and Buena Vista. The Jasper Quartet is in residence this summer at the Aspen Music Festival and School, which provides the music for the Salida Aspen Concert series, celebrating its 30th year.

Members of the Jasper Quartet have now graduated from Oberlin, and will be doing advanced work together in the fall at Rice University in Houston, Texas.

By age five, Mozart was doing sight readings and improvisations on the harpsichord, a keyboard instrument that preceded the piano. Mozart wrote minuets at age five, his first sonata at age seven and his first symphony at age eight. Mozart, Johann Sebastian Bach and Ludwig van Beethoven are generally considered the three greatest composers of all time.

The "Spring Quartet" was one of six quartets that Mozart wrote beginning in 1782. They were written in response to a group of six quartets composed by Franz Joseph

Haydn, a close friend of Mozart but also a rival. Upon hearing three of the quartets, Haydn told Mozart's father, "Before God and as an honest man I tell you that your son is the greatest composer known to me either in person or by name. He has taste and, what is more, the most profound knowledge of composition." The six Mozart quartets are now known as the "Haydn Quartets."

The Jasper will also perform a quartet by Robert Schumann, "Opus 41, No. 3," the last of three quartets composed in 1842. Schumann was trying to impress his young wife, Clara Schumann, who was then one of Europe's finest pianists, and was upstaging her husband, who at that time had only written a few things and was better known as a music critic.

Although he never wrote another string quartet, Schumann became one of the best composers of the Romantic era, penning four symphonies, a cello concerto and piano concerto and several chamber works. He died in an insane asylum in 1956, and his widow went on to have a lifelong platonic relationship with a young composer, Johannes Brahms.

In a third work on the program, the Jasper Quartet will be joined by a pianist for the "Piano Quintet in G Minor" by Dmitri Shostakovich, a Russian composer. It is one of his most frequently performed chamber works.

The pianist is still another young phenom: Ang Li, who made her recital debut at age six in her native Beijing and her orchestral debut at age thirteen with the Little Orchestra Society of New York in Avery Fisher Hall.

The Shostakovich work was written in 1940 during the stressful months right before Hitler reneged on his agreement with Stalin and attacked Russia. In 1936, Pravda had denounced one of Shostakovich's operas as "crude, primitive, vulgar" and then later slammed a ballet work. Shostakovich was out of favor with the Russian government but loved by the public. The feverish work reflects the composer's inner turmoil.

Salida Aspen Concert tickets are \$10.00 at the door or in advance online at < SalidaAspenConcerts.org >.

The series continues with the remaining concerts as follows:

- Thursday, **July 20**, 2006, 7:30 p.m. at Held Auditorium, Salida High School, 10th and D Streets, Salida, Colo. – Edgar Meyer, one of the foremost double-bassists of the

day will perform original works by Edgar Meyer as well as transcriptions by Edgar Meyer.

- Saturday, **August 5**, 2006, 7:30 p.m. at the Steam Plant Theater for the Performing Arts, downtown historic Salida at Sackett Avenue and G Street in Salida, Colo. – Pianist Ann Schein, violinist Earl Carlyss and cellist Darrett Adkins, all esteemed faculty members Aspen Music Festival and School, will perform the Antonín Dvořák “Dumky” Trio, among other works.
- Saturday, **August 12**, 2006, 7:30 p.m. at John Held Auditorium, Salida High School, 10th and D Streets, Salida, Colo. – Russian-born pianist Rita Sloan with violinist David Halen, concertmaster of the St. Louis Symphony, and French horn player Jennifer Montone will perform Paul Dukas Villanelle for Horn and Piano, César Franck Sonata for Violin and Piano, Mozart Variations for Solo Piano and the Brahms Horn Trio.

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July 7, 2006