

THE T'ANG QUARTET

Yu-Ying Ng, violin

Chek Meng Ang, violin

Lionel Tan, viola

Leslie Tan, cello

Thursday, April 15, 1999

8:00 p.m.

Lillian H. Duncan Recital Hall

RICE UNIVERSITY

the
Shepherd
School
of Music

PROGRAM

String Quartet in F Major, Op. 77 No. 2

Franz Joseph Haydn
(1732-1809)

- I. Allegro moderato*
- II. Menuetto: Presto, ma non troppo*
- III. Andante*
- IV. Finale: Vivace assai*

String Quartet No. 3 (1993)

Bright Sheng
(b. 1955)

INTERMISSION

String Quartet in A minor, Op. 51 No. 3

Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

- I. Allegro non troppo*
- II. Andante moderato*
- III. Quasi minuetto, moderato*
- IV. Finale: Allegro non assai*

BIOGRAPHY

The T'ANG Quartet was formed in 1992 with its members unanimous in purpose: extending the sheer fun and enjoyment of classical music to a larger audience as well as aspiring to new levels of artistic achievement. The group has been at the forefront of the chamber music scene in South-east Asia since its debut. Known there for their passionate playing and flamboyant image, the quartet has achieved a highly personal and attractive artistic profile.

Before coming to the U.S. in 1997, the quartet members were also members of the Singapore Symphony Orchestra, and despite an extremely busy schedule, the group was able to find time to popularize classical music. This enthusiasm won them an appearance on MTV-Asia.

The name T'ANG is an acronym of the players' last names — TAN, ANG, and NG. T'ANG also signifies that golden age of the arts in China — the T'ANG Dynasty. Although the T'ANG Quartet members are from Singapore, they are ethnically Chinese. The four musicians were trained in London: Yu-Ying and Chek Meng at the Royal Academy of Music, Lionel at the Royal College of Music, and Leslie at Trinity College of Music. Individually they have also studied with members of the Amadeus Quartet and the Emerson String Quartet.

After a competitive selection process involving seven other young professional quartets, the T'ANG Quartet is the first group to be enrolled in the highly innovative Master of Music degree program in String Quartet Performance at The Shepherd School of Music. In addition to intensive coaching by Shepherd School faculty members in the quartet repertoire, the program includes historical and theoretical study of the repertoire, private instrumental lessons, and orchestral participation.

In a concert last spring of the Houston Composers' Alliance at Stages Theater, Shepherd School faculty composer Richard Lavenda invited the quartet to give the world premiere of his Clarinet Quintet with Houston Symphony clarinetist Richard Nunemaker.

Last summer the group attended the Quartet Fellowship Program of the Aspen Music Festival, studying with the American, Orion, and Emerson String Quartets, Donald Weilerstein, Sylvia Rosenberg, James Dunham, and Michael Tree, and giving several festival and community concerts.