

Gotham Early Music Scene (GEMS) presents



MIDTOWN CONCERTS

Thursday April 11, 2024 1:15 pm

St Malachy's Church – The Actors' Chapel in New York City

Live Streamed to [midtownconcerts.org](https://www.midtownconcerts.org) and [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com)

Quartet Salonnieres

The Road from Prague: Mozart in Context

Aniela Eddy, Natalie Rose Kress & Chiara Stauffer ~ violins & viola

Cullen O'Neil ~ violoncello

String Quartet in A Major, Op. 6, No. 1 (1789)

Antonio Rosetti (1750–1792)

Allegro spiritoso

Menuetto. Moderato

Romance. Larghetto

Rondeau. Allegro come presto

String Quartet in B-flat Major, Op. 32, No. 1 (1788)

Leopold Koželuch (1747–1818)

Allegro

Andantino con sordini

Rondeau. Allegretto

String Quartet No. 15 in D minor, K. 421/417b (1783)

W.A. Mozart (1756–1791)

Allegro moderato

Andante

Menuetto. Allegretto and Trio

Allegretto ma non troppo

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ABOUT THE PROGRAM

We all recognize Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven as the three pillars of the Classical Era. But these composers did not develop in a vacuum. In fact, there is such an extraordinary amount of music written by talented contemporaries of these composers, that it would take decades of programming to even scratch the surface. Take two of Mozart's Bohemian colleagues, Antonio Rosetti and Leopold Koželuch, who each left over 400 compositions. Both born in small towns of present-day Czech Republic, these composers studied in Prague and eventually led successful careers in Western Europe: Rosetti in Bavaria and Paris; and Koželuch in Vienna. While any close friendship that may have existed between Mozart and Rosetti or Koželuch is undocumented, both Bohemians had important connections to Mozart. Rosetti wrote a requiem that was performed at his funeral, while Koželuch succeeded the great composer's position at the court of Emperor Franz II (at double Mozart's compensation). In fact, Koželuch's renown during his lifetime reached the point that a contemporary biographer of musicians, Ernst Ludwig Gerber, wrote that "Leopold Koželuch is without question with young and old the generally most loved among our living composers, and this with justification." And this was at the height of Mozart's and Haydn's careers. Mozart's music has enjoyed unwavering appreciation through three centuries for a reason. *String Quartet No. 15 in D Minor*, written in 1783 and dedicated to Haydn, showcases the breathtaking depth and imagination characteristic of the genius's final decade—and a somewhat less characteristic element of darkness, this work being one of only two minor key quartets among Mozart's twenty-three. In today's program, two lively and often humorous quartets by Rosetti and Koželuch set the stage for this magnificent work by Mozart, shedding light on the musical context in which Mozart composed—and what set him apart.

ABOUT THE ENSEMBLE AND ARTISTS

Acclaimed for its spirited, engaging, and highly original interpretations, **Quartet Salonières** is devoted to performance practices of the Baroque through contemporary time periods. Members Aniela Eddy, Natalie Kress, Chiara Stauffer and Cullen O'Neil met during their studies in the Historical Performance program at The Juilliard School. After discovering a mutual passion for string quartet repertoire played on period instruments with gut strings, the quartet embarked on a journey to share this passion with audiences around the world. They have toured nationally and internationally, performing together on stages across North America, Europe and Africa. As recipients of the Public Diplomacy Grant awarded by the U.S. Embassy in Tanzania, Quartet Salonières recently returned from a month-long residency there where they gave concerts and collaborated with local artists, students, and faculty across the country. Past engagements include concerts presented by Early Music America, San Francisco Early Music Society, Knox Instrumental Measures, Musicivic Musicast and Berkeley Early Music Festival. They were awarded the position of Quartet-in-Residence at the Carmel Bach Festival and recently served as guest artists at LaGuardia High School for the Arts and Williams College. Additionally, the quartet has been featured live on New York's WQXR and Michigan's WMUK "Let's Hear It" radio programs. Quartet Salonières is the recipient of the George J. Jakab Global Enrichment Grant, Chamber Music America's Ensemble Forward Grant and is generously supported by the New York State Council for the Arts. Your tax-deductible donations, in support of Quartet Salonières, are graciously appreciated and can be made using the QR code below:



**Please join us for a reception following this performance in celebration of
GEMS' 150th Midtown Concerts Livestream**

Next Week: Nuova Pratica
The American Baroque