



BENJAMIN KOPP with SYMPHONY WINDS

Saturday 22 April 2023, 12:00 am
Phillips Hall | Blackheath Blue Mountains NSW

Two master craftsmen—Beethoven with his creative harmonies
and Mozart with his beautiful melodies.

Two quintets for piano and winds, written in the same key, with the same instrumentation and same basic structure...and there the similarities end. The exciting Symphony Winds Quintet features distinguished pianist, Benjamin Kopp, performing with notable Principals of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, and each a soloist in their own right in Australia and internationally.

Ludwig van BEETHOVEN | Quintet for Piano and Winds in E flat Opus 16 (1796)

- I Grave ~ Allegro ma non troppo
- II Andante Cantabile
- III Rondo ~ Allegro ma non troppo

Wolfgang Amadeus MOZART | Quintet for Piano and Winds in E flat K.452 (1784)

- I Largo ~ Allegro moderato
- II Larghetto
- III Rondo ~ Allegretto

PROGRAM NOTES

Beethoven was inspired by Mozart's music from an early age and he is said to have been influenced to write this Quintet for Piano and Winds in E flat after hearing and admiring Mozart's quintet in the same key.

The first movement is in sonata form and begins with a slow introduction, marked *Grave*. The winds start, after which the piano enters with a solo flourish. Thematic materials are then shared in an egalitarian fashion, until another flourish from the piano leads into the *Allegro* proper. The movement ends with a coda that gives the horn a perilous arpeggiated figure, played earlier on the piano with ease.

The *Andante Cantabile* invites lyrical, rhapsodic solo and ensemble dialogue from all the performers.

The *Rondo*'s nonchalant theme is embellished and embroidered with a flurry of activity that includes a solo piano cadenza in the first half of the finale. It said that

Beethoven, who performed the piano part himself when the work was new, would indulge in much improvisational activity, trying to fool the wind players, who—at first amused and then displeased—were waiting to come back in.

Mozart: Quintet for Piano and Winds in E flat: This is Mozart's only Quintet with piano and it was first performed on 1 April 1784 at the Burgtheater, with Mozart himself at the piano. Later, he wrote to his father commenting on the beauty of the performance and saying he considered the quintet "the best work" he had produced. The first movement is in sonata form and begins with a slow introduction, marked *Largo*. The main theme then appears featuring solo piano and is taken up by the winds a few bars later.

The second movement is often marked *Larghetto*, but the indication is missing from the original score. There are some particularly beautiful moments when the different groupings of the wind are accompanied by arpeggio patterns on the piano. The third movement, marked *Allegretto*, is a five-part rondo with the primary theme played first by piano solo and then by the winds shortly thereafter. Near the end, there is a cadenza for all five instruments.

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| Notes by LOUISE JOHNSON

Benjamin Kopp | piano
Shefali Pryor | oboe
Francesco Celata | clarinet
Matthew Wilkie | bassoon
Euan Harvey | horn