Tchaikovsky's famous piano trio, which was written in memory of his beloved teacher Nikolai Rubinstein (1835–1881). The Ensemble da Camera of Washington played the Washington premiere of *Leaves from an Autumn Album* in 1996 as part of its annual series of concerts at the historic Lyceum in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia.

Commissioned by the famous American clarinetist and bandleader Benny Goodman (1909–1986) and Hungarian violinist Joseph Szigeti (1892–1973), Bartók's *Contrasts for Violin, Clarinet, and Piano* was completed in Budapest in 1938. It is a suite in three movements. In the notes for a recorded version of this work, Robert Mann, the former first violinist of the Juilliard String Quartet, provided the following general description of *Contrasts* to music historian Edward Jablonski: "Each movement has a tonal center...forming a strong chromatic bond. The violin and clarinet carry the main voices; the piano supplies rhythmic, harmonic and coloristic emphasis....The Hungarian language stress [on] the first syllable and the frequent use of dotted rhythms are outstanding rhythmic features. Melodies usually consist of a germinal motif repeated and developed. The most distinguishing harmonic feature is the use of the diminished fifth, or augmented fourth, with the major triad."

Program notes by Elmer Booze Program notes on Ryabov provided by Ricardo Cyncynates and edited and adapted by Elmer Booze

For the convenience of concertgoers the Garden Café remains open until 6:30 p.m.

The use of cameras or recording equipment during the performance is not allowed. Please be sure that cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices are turned off.

The Sixty-second Season of

THE WILLIAM NELSON CROMWELL and F. LAMMOT BELIN CONCERTS

National Gallery of Art



2475th Concert

THE ENSEMBLE DA CAMERA OF WASHINGTON

CLAIRE EICHHORN, clarinet RICARDO CYNCYNATES, violin & viola ANNA BALAKERSKAIA, piano

> Sunday Evening, 7 December 2003 Seven O'clock West Building, West Garden Court

> > Admission free

Program

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827)

Trio No. 4 in B-flat Major Op. 11 (1797)

Transcribed for the viola by Paul Klengel

Allegro con brio

Adagio

Tema con variazioni: Allegretto

Aram Khachaturian (1903–1978)

Trio for Clarinet, Violin, and Piano

(1932)

Andante con dolore, con molto espressione

Allegro

Moderato; presto

INTERMISSION

Vladimir Ryabov (b. 1950)

Leaves from an Autumn Album Op. 38 (1986)

Diminishing Light
In the Land of Lakes
Twirling Leaves
Haystacks
September Field and Bells Chiming
(After Ludwig van Beethoven)
Memento!

Béla Bartók (1881–1945) Contrasts for Clarinet, Violin, and Piano (1938)

Verbunkos (Recruiting Dance) Pihenö (Relaxation) Sebes (Fast Dance)

The Musicians

Founded in 1990, **The Ensemble da Camera of Washington** is one of the country's finest ensembles of its kind. Consisting of violin, clarinet, and piano, the ensemble is made up of players from Brazil, Germany, and Russia and has performed throughout the United States to outstanding reviews. Admired for its remarkable homogeneity, style, and virtuosity, the ensemble performs works covering four centuries of music for the solo, duo, and trio repertoires. Its CDs for the Vernissage Records label have received unanimous praise from radio, newspaper, and magazine critics. In addition to its active concert schedule, the trio mentors young ensembles and has presented a series of master classes at the Levine School of Music.

Clarinetist **Claire Eichhorn**, artistic director of the Ensemble da Camera of Washington, was born in Stuttgart, Germany, to a family of outstanding musicians. As the winner of the Young Soloist Competition at age seventeen, she made her debut as a soloist performing Debussy's *Première rhapsodie* with the Cleveland Orchestra. She continued her studies the University of Michigan, where her teachers were Alfred Zetzer, Fred Ormand, and Bernard Portnoy. Claire Eichhorn records for the Vernissage Records label, and her most recent CD, released last spring, is dedicated to works of Johannes Brahms. She is much sought after as a teacher and is a faculty member at the Levine School of Music. She performs on a set of Herbert Wurlitzer clarinets.

Violinist **Ricardo Cyncynates**, born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, studied with his father and made his debut at age eleven as the winner of Brazil's National Young Soloist Competition. In 1987, following his

tenure with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Cyncynates was appointed assistant concertmaster of the National Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Mstislav Rostropovich, with whom he also appeared as a soloist. He completed his studies at the Santa Cecilia Conservatory in Rome, the Accademia Chigiana in Siena, and Indiana University. Cyncynates has given master classes throughout the United States, Asia, and South America. His violin is the 1873 "David," made by Jean-Baptiste Vuillaume.

Pianist Anna Balakerskaia received her master of music and doctor of musical arts degrees from the State Conservatory in Saint Petersburg and was later appointed a faculty member at both the Moscow and Saint Petersburg State Conservatories. She studied piano with the renowned pianist and master teacher Nadeszda Golubovskaia and chamber music with Professor Tamara Fidler. Balakerskaia has been awarded many prizes, among them the Best Accompaniment Diploma, which she won three times from the International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow. Her many recordings are on the Vernissage Records label. Anna Balakerskaia teaches at George Mason University and the Levine School of Music.

Program Notes

Beethoven's *Trio in B-flat Major*, op. 11, was originally written for clarinet (with an optional violin part), cello, and piano. As noted by author Friedhelm Klugmann in his article, "Piano Trios and Piano Quartets" (*Ludwig van Beethoven, Bicentennial Edition, 1770–1970*): "[With this work,] Beethoven again entered the realm of social entertainment music." Noted more for its enchantment than for its profundity, op. 11 was Beethoven's capitulation to the taste of the populace. Enamored with the tone and virtuosity of the Bohemian clarinetist Joseph Beer (1744–1812), Beethoven assigned the primary melody of the work to the clarinet.

Dedicated to Countess Maria Wilhelmina von Thun (1744–1800), the trio has three movements. The vivacious first movement is marked Allegro con brio. The second movement (Adagio) contains one of

Beethoven's most tender and expressive melodies. The third movement (Tema con variazioni: Allegretto) unfolds a set of variations based on a popular melody extracted from the third act of the opera, *The Corsair*, by Joseph Weigl (1766–1846).

Although it was written in 1932, the Trio for Clarinet, Violin, and Piano by the Armenian composer Aram Khachaturian did not receive its American premiere until 1949, seventeen years later. The trio incorporates Armenian folk melodies as well as folk melodies and rhythms of other republics bordering Armenia. Khachaturian, who began the serious study of music during his mid-twenties, was twenty-nine years old when he composed this work. It gives evidence of the innate musical gift that culminated in his later works, such as the ballet Gayane (1940-1942), from which the ever popular "Sabre Dance" emerged; the Violin Concerto (1940), which Jean-Pierre Rampal transcribed for flute in 1968; and the ballet Spartacus (1950-1956). Named the People's Artist of the USSR in 1954, Khachaturian wrote music that is neither iconoclastic nor innovative. Nevertheless, it is considered highly original and personal and has earned a place in the history of music in the former Soviet Union. Writer Boris Schwarz (The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians) states: "His music is straightforward and elemental in its appeal to human emotions....He represented socialist realism at its best."

Vladimir Ryabov, the composer of *Leaves from an Autumn Album*, was born in Chelyabinsk and has been described as one of the most original of the younger generation of Russian composers. The winner of the 1991 Prokofiev International Composers Competition, Ryabov's style represents a new romanticism that is characterized by emotional richness, philosophical profundity, ethical rigor, a wide range of musical imagery, and freedom of form. *Leaves from an Autumn Album* was composed in memory of Smabatovich Alumyan, a pianist and professor at the Moscow Conservatory, after his untimely death in 1986. Eloquence and a feeling of nostalgia are heartfelt in this trio. The work is composed in six short descriptive movements that are tinged with impressionistic language and explore with great emotion a life that was left incomplete. Ryabov's trio is in many ways analogous to