

The Society for Historically Informed Performance presents

The Cramer Quartet

Jessica Park, violin
Chiara Fasani Stauffer, violin
Keats Dieffenbach, viola
Shirley Hunt, violoncello

***Touché! French String Quartets at the
Dawn of Romanticism***

July 14, 2021
8:00p.m.

Hyacinthe Jadin

(1776-1800)

String Quartet in B-flat Major, Op. 1, No. 1

- I. Largo – Allegro non troppo
- II. Adagio
- III. Minuet – Trio
- IV. Allegro

Joseph Bologne

(1745-1799)

String Quartet in G minor, Op. 14, No. 6

- I. [Untitled]
- II. Allegro

About the Music

Hyacinthe Jadin (1776-1800) is a rarely heard French composer and pianist who lived and worked in Versailles at the end of the eighteenth century. Only a few scant details are known about Jadin's life, and his music is virtually unknown to contemporary audiences. I think we can safely say it is extremely rare to hear his music performed anywhere! Jadin was born into a musical family and was one of five brothers, all of whom were musicians. His father was a bassoonist in the French Royal Orchestra, and one of Hyacinthe's five brothers Louis-Emmanuel gained a modest reputation as a composer. Jadin's other compositions include piano sonatas, piano concertos, string trios, and numerous other string quartets. Towards the end of his life, Jadin taught piano classes at the Paris Conservatoire.

We love the poetic qualities of Jadin's lush, atmospheric music, which foreshadows a romantic Schubertian style.

--Shirley Hunt

Joseph Boulogne (1745-1799), also known as Le Chevalier de Saint-Georges, was an extraordinary man of many talents. He was a champion fencer, virtuoso violinist, composer, conductor, abolitionist, and revolutionary soldier. Born in Guadeloupe, he was the son of a slave and a wealthy planter. He was one of the first black Freemasons in France, and John Adams described him as “the most accomplished man in Europe.”

When we first heard Joseph Boulogne's String Quartet in G Minor, we were enchanted by the unique character of the piece. The elegant charm of this quartet is of the Classical period, but the drama and melancholy of this work anticipate early romanticism. In this particular work, the two violins share almost identical parts, passing melodies to one another throughout the movement. This doubling, shadowing, layering effect allows the melodies to play off one another and propels the music forward.

--Jessica Park

About the Cramer Quartet:

With period instruments and an invigorating historically informed approach, the Cramer Quartet brings uncommon warmth, transparency, and texture to Classical and early Romantic repertoire as well as commissioned works that explore and expand the sound world of gut strings. The quartet's stylish, nuanced interpretations and visionary approach to programming stimulate dialogue around old and new works, inviting audiences to listen with fresh ears. Members of the Cramer Quartet are persons of color, women, gender non-conforming/non-binary and LGBTQ+ individuals committed to centering the voices of underrepresented and marginalized communities.

Recent highlights include "Art in Tune" at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, in which the quartet performed on a set of 18th-Century musical instruments from the museum's collection in galleries throughout the museum. For the 2021-22 season, the Cramer Quartet will be presented by Five Boroughs Music Festival in a series of performances of *The Seven Last Words Project*, featuring Haydn's *The Seven Last Words of Christ* and seven recently commissioned compositions by Jessica Meyer, Colin Jacobsen, Nico Muhly, Tania León, Reena Esmail, Paola Prestini, and Caroline Shaw. Next Season the quartet will also launch *Haydn: Dialogues*, an ambitious multi-year cycle combining Haydn's 68 string quartets with sixteen new commissions by composers belonging to groups historically underrepresented in the classical music field.

The Cramer Quartet is the recipient of a Lower Manhattan Cultural Council Creative Engagement grant, as well as Chamber Music America's Ensemble Forward professional development grant, and the ensemble has been awarded multiple residencies at Avaloch Farm Music Institute.

www.cramerquartet.com

About the members of the quartet:

Korean-American violinist **Jessica Park** is in high demand as an interpreter of baroque and classical repertoire. She can be heard frequently with the country's premier period instrument ensembles, including the Handel and Haydn Society,

Boston Baroque, Trinity Baroque Orchestra, The American Classical Orchestra, and New York Baroque Incorporated. Ms. Park's commitment to the art of string quartet playing has resonated strongly throughout her career, resulting in performances with members of the Brentano, Cleveland, Emerson, Juilliard, Mendelssohn, Orion, Tokyo, and Ying Quartets.

Equally comfortable on the stages of Carnegie Hall and the set of Saturday Night Live, **Keats Dieffenbach** has established herself as a unique artist with infinitely varied interests and abilities. Lauded by the New York Times as an "impressive performer," Keats' dual specialization in contemporary and historical performance on multiple instruments keeps her in demand with many leading ensembles. Keats is a member of Orchestra of St. Luke's and the Mark Morris Dance Group Music Ensemble, and she has appeared frequently with The Knights, A Far Cry, and Carnegie Hall's Ensemble Connect.

Swiss violinist **Chiara Fasani Stauffer** enjoys playing music ranging from the Baroque to the twenty-first century and has had the privilege of performing across three continents. Since relocating to the United States in 2012, Ms. Stauffer co-founded Time Canvas, a chamber music group committed to bringing innovative music to people across a broad section of society. As a baroque violinist Ms. Stauffer performs with groups such as Apollo's Fire, The Washington Bach Consort, and Teatro Nuovo. In 2019 she was selected as an American Fellow of the English Concert.

Shirley Hunt performs throughout the Northeast on baroque cello and viola da gamba, appearing frequently with the Handel and Haydn Society, Boston Baroque, Emmanuel Music, Les Bostonades, New York Baroque Incorporated, TENET, and The Sebastians. She recently completed a 3-CD recording cycle containing J.S. Bach's complete unaccompanied cello suites and Sonatas for viola da gamba and harpsichord. Shirley resides in Boston's Jamaica Plain neighborhood, where she enjoys biking, watercolor painting, and meeting new cats.