

LOON LAKE LIVE

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES



About the composer:



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) was a composer of the Classical period who, along with Joseph “Papa” Haydn and Ludwig van Beethoven, basically defined the era. In fact Haydn remarked that “posterity will not see such a talent again in 100 years.” He began his musical career as a very young performer on violin and keyboard, under the tutelage and management of his father, renowned violinist and pedagogue Leopold Mozart. He was exceptionally talented and made his first compositions at the age of 4 and 5 years old, composing his first symphonies by the age of 10. He would go on to compose more than 600 works for chamber ensemble, symphony, opera, and many vocal and instrumental works.

Mozart’s music is held up as a prime example of the Classical style: clarity, balance, and transparency. However, he studied the music of the Baroque and increasingly began experimenting with boundary pushing chromatic harmonies which both hearkened back to that previous era and hinted at what would come in the Romantic era.

About the piece:

String Quartet K387, nicknamed the “Spring”, was composed in 1782 when Mozart was 26 years old. It is a 4 movement work. The Menuetto performed here is notable for its “wrong” accented notes and chromatic scales. This recording is from a performance in August of 2000 at the First United Methodist Church, Saranac Lake, NY and features Tracy Seeger and Catherine Beeson on violins, Lori Berkowitz on viola, and Sara Fierer on cello. Enjoy this archived recording with images curated by Mel Aman.

About the performers:

A versatile violinist, **Tracy Seeger** performs in the Austin Symphony Orchestra, The Tosca String Quartet, Austin Lyric Opera Orchestra, Conspirare, Austin Chamber Soloists, and San Antonio Symphony. She has toured the world extensively with David Byrne and has a large catalogue of studio work to her acclaim. Tracy has also performed in numerous Austin City Limits tapings, from Sufjan Stevens and Ray Lamontagne to Lyle Lovett and Don Mclean.

Catherine Beeson is Assistant Principal Viola with the Colorado Symphony, and has performed with Friends of Chamber Music - Denver, Lenape Chamber Ensemble (PA), Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra, Santa Fe Pro Music Chamber Orchestra, and Loon Lake Live. Catherine is a proud advocate for inclusion practices in the musical arts, lately focusing on opportunities for the neurodiverse community. She also curates community based performances with Ensemble Faucheu.

Violist **Lori Berkowitz (1928-2015)** lived and breathed music as principal violist for the American Symphony Orchestra and teacher at Manhattan School of Music, Children's Orchestra Society, and Princeton Chamber Week. She played at Loon Lake Live! from the very beginning, and was an active viola coach and chamber musician.

Cellist **Sara Fierer** has performed throughout the US, Austria and Central America. Currently, Ms. Fierer holds a position with the Boulder Philharmonic, teaches at the Denver Waldorf School and performs with Highlands Square Ensemble.