

MUSIC

Serafin String Quartet brings heavenly sound to local church

By Andre Lamar
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Serafin String Quartet has an otherworldly sound to begin with, but inside the sanctuary of the Calvary Episcopal Church, it's bound to be downright heavenly.

The group is set to perform at the Lore Avenue church on Sunday, Feb. 13.

Cellist Lawrence Stomberg has always been enthusiastic about performing at Calvary because of its supportive congregation, enthusiastic audience and awesome acoustic space.

And this performance offers even more to look forward to, as Serafin will share the stage with internationally renowned opera singer Grant Youngblood.

"We're delighted," said violinist Kate Ransom, who lives near Bellefonte. "We've wanted to collaborate with Youngblood for several years."

Serafin and Youngblood will perform composer Samuel Barber's piece entitled "Dover Beaches." The piece is a beauti-

IF YOU GO

WHAT Serafin String Quartet
WHEN 2 p.m., Feb. 13
WHERE Calvary Episcopal Church, 304 Lore Avenue, Wilmington
COST Free, donations are recommended
INFO www.serafinquartet.org

ful, yet gloomy lyric poem that was inspired by the beaches of Dover in England, said Stomberg, of Pike Creek. In addition, the quartet will also play Mozart's "Dissonance Quartet" and Beethoven's "Op. 59 #3."

The ensemble is also comprised of violists Ana Tsinadze and Timothy Schwarz.

The quartet takes its name from master violin maker Sanctus Serafin, who in 1728 crafted the violin currently played by Ransom, Stomberg said. Truth be told, there are a variety of string quartets throughout the world. But there's



(From left to right) Serafin String Quartet is comprised of Timothy Schwarz, Kate Ransom, Lawrence Stomberg and Ana Tsinadze. CONRAD ERB PHOTO

only one that's wired like Serafin.

"We have a very broad eclectic taste, as a quartet," Ransom said. "We get as much inspiration from playing music of today, as we do from playing the music of composers like Mozart."

While staying true to their style, the ensemble has shifted gears for their second recording project, Ransom said. In contrast to their recent self-titled album, which featured a traditional sound, their

upcoming project will offer more contemporary tunes and chamber music composed by Pulitzer Prize and Grammy Award winner Jennifer Higdon, she said.

Although Higdon's pieces are complex to learn, the ensemble has grown to embrace the process.

"We're inspired by a challenge," Ransom said. "By playing Higdon's music, we're expanding our knowledge of musical language."

The release date for the album hasn't been determined.

With the Feb. 13 concert date approaching, Stomberg said their audience can expect Serafin to bring their A-game.

"Hopefully we're communicating how we feel about the music," he said. "That's what our job is and we're hoping the audience can connect with us on sort of an emotional level."

"The music we're playing has so many feelings, emotions and moods rolled up into an hour-and-a-half concert."

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