

STRINGS

December 2007

MOSTLY MOZART, TOO

Under the direction of cellist David Finckel of the Emerson String Quartet, and his wife and business partner, pianist Wu Han, the annual Music@Menlo festival has gained a reputation for excellence, both for its engaging chamber-music workshops and its brilliant performance series. The 2006 concert series, built around the 250th anniversary of Mozart's birth, provides material for the stunning seven-CD box set *Returning to Mozart*. The discs pair Mozart works with various other composers grouped in themed volumes dedicated to Shostakovich, the piano, the string quartet, winds, 20th-century music, Britten, and Messiaen's *Quartet for the End of Time*. Featured string players, culled from the festival's stellar faculty, include violinists Jorja Fleezanis, Joseph Silverstein, Jennifer Frautschi, Ani Kavafian, Tien-Hsin Wu; violists Paul Neubauer and CarlaMaria Rodrigues; cellists Finckel, Colin Carr, and Peter Wiley; bassist Scott Pingel;

and the Orion String Quartet, with Todd and Daniel Phillips (violins), Steven Tenenbom (viola), and Timothy Eddy (cello). Grammy Award-winning recording engineer Da-Hong Seetoo handles the technical side. The result is several hours of world-class chamber music performed by top-ranked players and captured for posterity by a first-rate sound engineer. The volumes can be purchased individually or as a set, available through www.musicatmenlo.org. —G.C.

Music@Menlo **LIVE**

Returning to Mozart



- 1 Mozart and Shostakovich
- 2 Mozart and the Piano
- 3 Mozart and the String Quartet
- 4 Mozart and Winds
- 5 Mozart and the Twentieth Century
- 6 Mozart and Britten
- 7 Mozart and the End of Time