Program Update

Dmitri Shostakovich: String Quartet No. 15 in E-flat minor, op. 144  
   Elegy – Adagio

David Lang and Joseph Rolnick: I Lie

Caspar Christian Hoffmann and Nikolaj Frederik Severin Grundtvig: Hil dig, frelser og forsoner  
   (Hail You Savior and Redeemer) (arr. Phillip Faber)

Alfred Schnittke: String Quartet No. 3  
   Andante

Nordahl Grieg and Otto Mortensen: Kringsatt av fiender (To the Youth) (arr. Jakob Laegaard)

Alfred Schnittke: String Quartet No. 3  
   Agitato

- Intermission -

Jexper Holmen: Puer natus est

Johann Sebastian Bach: Fuga a 3 soggetti from The Art of Fugue, BWV 1080

Johann Sebastian Bach: Vor deinen Thron Tret’ ich

Eric Whitacre: Sleep

Alfred Schnittke: String Quartet No. 3  
   Pesante

Karin Rehnquist: I himmelen (In Heaven’s Hall)

Rune T. Sørensen, Carl Nielsen/B.S. Ingemann: Danish traditional music and songs
A couple of years ago we were invited to perform with the Danish National Girls’ Choir for their yearly summer concert. We didn't know exactly what to expect. Probably our idea of a girls' choir was quite traditional: Polite girls with good posture, singing beautifully. But what we experienced at that concert was quite different. The girls could certainly sing, but they were also highly original. They presented a different, ambitious and exciting concert and really showed us – and the audience – what a choir can be.

A typical cliché about classical music is that it is easygoing and nice: “Oh darling, give me a glass of wine, and let us relax with some nice generic background classical music.” On paper the concert tonight looks just like that. A string quartet and a girls choir sounds like asking for extra cream on a Frappuccino.

But that is not exactly how things are going to play out.

The string quartet as a medium is capable of expressing a wealth of characters and emotions, light as well as dark ones. This is why composers have been writing music for this ensemble for hundreds of years. And do you think singing girls are just adorable and cute? Think about the girl twins from Stanley Kubrick's *The Shining*.

The concert tonight emerges from a singular dark point. A lonely violin with the most melancholic statement in music history. From there we will expand, open up and travel through all characters imaginable to end up in a bright sphere of light. The music will be old and new, beautiful and weird, some of it from Denmark. Classical music is a reflection of everything that life entails: A string quartet can sound ugly and a girls’ choir has more power than any army of men.

Put down your wine and come play with us.

– Danish String Quartet