

Chamber Concert, September 7, 2012, Karolinum, Prague

Program:

Antonín Dvořák: String Quartet F-dur Opus 96 / American /

(Allegro ma non troppo - Lento - Molto vivace Finale - Vivace ma non troppo)

Franz Schubert: String Quintet C-dur Opus 165

(Allegro ma non troppo - Adagio – Scherzo Presto – Allegretto)

Evžen Rattay (cello)

He is one of the most eminent Czech cellist. He is a graduate of the Academy of Music in Prague and plays a Stredivarius cello. In 1972 he won First Prize at the Beethoven Cello Competition in Hradec u Opavy / Czech Republic/. He toured the world with the Talich Quartet / of which he was the co-founder /, with whom he performed more than three thousand concerts. Each year, the Talich Quartet performed concerts in leading French Festivals and was also highly appreciated in Great Britain, Germany, Japan and the United States. The Quartet recorded many musical masterpieces, including the complete Beethoven, Mozart and Bartok string quartets, for which they obtained the „ Grand Prix du Disque “

In recent years Evžen Rattay has been devoting more time to his soloist career. He has performed throughout Europe / including at the Wigmore Hall in London / and in Japan / in the Santory Hall Tokyo /

He recorded the complete Beethoven sonatas and variations for Calliope, the French record label, and also the complete Suites by J.S.Bach. He also recorded the complete Vivaldi Sonatas. Besides the common cello repertoire, Evžen has also been accompanied by non-traditional instrumentants and arranged some famous pieces for such musical ensembles. Some of these works are available on two CD's, Best of Cello and Cello - Party. Evžen Rattay is also member of Trio of Antonín Dvořák.

The Wihan Quartet,

[Leoš Čepický (violin) - Jan Schulmeister (violin) - Jiří Žigmund (viola) - Aleš Kaspřík (cello)], formed in 1985, are heirs to the great Czech musical tradition. The Quartet's outstanding reputation for the interpretation of its native Czech heritage and of the many classical, romantic and modern masterpieces of the string quartet repertoire is widely acknowledged.

They have developed an impressive international career, which includes visits to major festivals in Europe and the Far East. They visit the United States and Japan regularly and have had highly acclaimed tours of Australia and New Zealand. They are frequent visitors to the UK and can often be heard on BBC Radio 3 as well as in concert at Wigmore Hall, Bridgewater Hall, the South Bank and many other venues throughout the country

The Wihan Quartet has won many International Competitions including The Prague Spring Festival and the Osaka 'Char In 1991, they won both the First Prize and the Audience Prize in the London International String Quartet Competition.

During 2008 the Quartet completed the first ever cycle of Beethoven Quartets in Prague and also repeated this cycle at B Halls, London. Their landmark series of Beethoven concerts in Prague was recorded for release on CD and DVD on the Alliance label. The Independent said of the release of the Late Quartets: *'these [performances] are excellent: their fiery interpretations do full justice to Beethoven's final masterpieces.'* and International Record Review *'one of the best quart world today'*. Their recording of Dvorak Op.34/Op.105 was been chosen as a 'Recording of the Year' by MusicWeb Inte and BBC Music Magazine said of their Dvorak Op.61 recording: *'This is the finest recorded performance I have encoun. date'*. Full details of the Quartet's available recordings can be found on their website's [recordings page](#).

The Wihan are Quartet in Residence at Trinity College of Music, London, and for several years have taught many of the UK's gifted young Quartets at Pro Corda in Suffolk. The Quartet are great supporters of the work of the [CAVATINA Chamber Music Trust](#), giving inspirational concerts and master classes to young people in many parts of the country.