

# **THE DOVER QUARTET**



**Joel Link   Camden Shaw   Milena Pajaro-van-de Stadt   Brian Lee**

**with**

**CHU-FANG HUANG**



**at**

**MARY HELEN BERLANGA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**in an**

**OUTREACH PROGRAM**

**for**

**STUDENTS and TEACHERS**

**courtesy of the**

**CORPUS CHRISTI CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY**

**sponsored by**

**Corpus Christi International Competition for Piano and Strings**

**Article by Carol Domasco**

**Above photos from press kits**

**The Dover Quartet and pianist Chu-Fang Huang, in cooperation with the Corpus Christi Independent School District, courtesy of the Corpus Christi Chamber Music Society and sponsored by the Corpus Christi International Competition for Piano and Strings, presented an exciting outreach program to the lucky students of the Mary Helen Berlanga Elementary School on Friday, March 28, 2014.**

**In a brief interview before the event, the musicians shared that, as each concert season develops, they are requested more and more frequently to give outreach programs like the one being presented, and they love having such close contact with their listeners. They have served many audiences finding the most unusual one to be for students at the Alabama School for the Deaf and Blind. While the blind students were able to hear the music, the artists were pleased that the deaf students seemed very entertained just watching them play, and they noted that some students took pleasure in imitating the artistic movements of this very energetic ensemble. In response to the question of what the quartet and Miss Huang would advise the children concerning a career in music, they promptly replied, “If you love it – do it!” They also said that they hoped the audience would love the music they were about to play.**



**Diane P. Moore**

**Principal Diane P. Moore opened the program and asked the students to welcome the musicians. The enthusiastic young people immediately projected an attitude of respect and courtesy as they prepared to be entertained. The artists introduced themselves, and the program began.**



**Pianist Chu-Fang Huang opened the event with the First Movement of the Chopin Sonata in B-Flat Minor. Ms. Huang said that this sonata was written by Chopin in a troubled time of his life. Yet this amazing composition contains, in its four movements, the many moods - heavy and light, somber and happy, gloomy and joyous - being experienced by its composer, and the first movement exemplifies the contrasts of agitation and serenity to their lowest depths and greatest heights.**



**The Dover quartet then presented the third movement, Allegro non Troppo, of Quartet No. 3 in F Major by Shostakovich. The composer liked to give names to the movements of his works, and this movement he called, “The Forces of War Unleashed.” World War II was fraught with unspeakable hardship for Russia with the result that it left Shostakovich bitter and depressed as he turned to his writing of chamber music to vent his rage and show the world the horrors of this war. This movement perfectly portrays its title with its imitations of bombings, sirens, overblown marches, nervous dances, and suggestions of profound sorrow.**



**Lastly Ms. Huang joined the quartet in an exciting rendition of the first movement of Schumann’s Piano Quintet in E flat Major, Opus 44. It was explained that Schumann loved his wife Clara so much that he wove her name into most of his compositions, and the sound of a two-note phrase that resembled a sigh was demonstrated. Part of the movement contains a beautiful duet between the viola and the cello which was characterized as being a love duet between the Robert and Clara Schumann.**

**The musicians ended the program with a question and answer session with the audience. They shared their personal backgrounds as well as their musical history. All five musicians had attended the same school, the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, PA, but this was the first time they had given a performance together. All five had studied music most of their lives, and they also told the students which**

**other instruments they were able to play. The thanked the audience for their attention, and they said their goodbyes. It had been a wonderful experience for all present.**

