

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Q&A David Finckel, cellist

'Mount Everest of piano trios

By **Adrienne Murchison**
For the AJC

Simply put, the music of Franz Schubert is an emotional experience.

A master of his music must be able to expose the vulnerability of the music and the composer, says cellist David Finckel.

Finckel, pianist Wu Han and violinist Philip Setzer will perform tonight at Spivey Hall. They will perform Schubert's Piano Trio No. 1 in B-flat major, Op. 99 and No. 2 in E-flat major, Op. 100. "If you tried to say this piece is like a person, you'd say this is a very sensitive person," Finckel adds.

Married for nearly 25 years, Finckel and Han are co-artistic directors of New York's Chamber Music Society at Lincoln Center. Their colleague Setzer is a member of Finckel's Emerson String Quartet.

Finckel recently talked with The Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

Q: Why are these piano trios so special?

A: This program in some ways is the Mount Everest of piano trio programs. You don't go there unless you know what you're doing and you've got some training in survival. Within the eight movements of this concert you pretty much find every human emotion and circumstance that I can possibly imagine.

Q: What makes the cello so dear to you?

A: I started playing at age 10. I loved the way it sounded, the way it felt. A cello is a beautiful thing to look at. I just remember falling in love with the thing. We as string players use something called a vibrato. Like a good singer, has a natural vibrato. And when I started, I didn't have a good vibrato. And then one day when I was about 13, all of a sudden it just worked. I could sound like my teacher. She always sounded so beautiful. I was thrilled to hear that sound coming out of my cello.

Q: For musicians, Spivey Hall is a wonderful place to perform.

A: I've played there about a half-dozen times. It's not only an acoustically wonderful hall, the whole setting, the care that was put into it; it's almost as though they treated that performance

space with a kind of sacred respect. Also, unless you performed there you wouldn't know that green room is without question the most elegant green room that I've ever been in anywhere in the world.

Concert preview

Schubert Piano Trios
Cellist David Finckel, pianist Wu Han and violinist Philip Setzer

8:15 p.m. today, \$40.
Pre-concert talk at 7:15 p.m. Spivey Hall, Clayton State University, 2000 Clayton State Blvd., Morrow. 678-466-4200, www.spiveyhall.org.