

Concert “Cuc Cu – Quartet”

11 June 2008 – 20.00h

Goethe Institute

56-58 Nguyen Thai Hoc street, Hanoi



Aliisa Hyvönen
Viola

Henri van den Hombergh
Violin

Nguyen Thi Diu Huong
Violin

Nguyen Quoc Chanh
Cello

Founded early 2007 in Hanoi, this strictly amateur quartet has already performed at various occasions in Hanoi as well as in Tam Dao National Park. The age range spans forty years, from 14 to 54. This concert is the second time the quartet plays in a more formal setting.

The members all firmly believe that playing chamber music together is an excellent form of cross cultural communication, entertainment and relaxation. The objective of this concert is to create a clear incentive for intense study and practice as well as sharing with friends, colleagues and music lovers the beauty of some string quartet music from the masters of this classical genre

Nguyen Thi Diu Huong is 23 years old and presently a History student at Hanoi National University. She plays the violin as a hobby. Music has been one of the indispensable parts in her life since she was very small. She started formally learning the violin at the age of 7 and 2 years later she was offered a scholarship and accepted as a student of Hanoi National Conservatory of Music. As a promising student, she received repetitive scholarships to pursue her studies. After graduating from high school, she undertook a one-year course at the Conservatory of Music of Luxembourg. At that time she enjoyed playing in several ensembles and orchestras, a great opportunity indeed to study in a Western musical environment. Since her return to Vietnam in 2004, she has attended several musical activities. This is her second season with the “Cuc Cu Quartet”.

Aliisa Hyvönen was born in Finland in 1993. She started to play the violin at the age of 6. Turning ten, she changed to the viola and is satisfied with her choice. She has played in various youth orchestras and ensembles from string quartet to Klezmer orchestra, through her music school, summer camps and her primary school. In addition to classical music, she is also interested in (Finnish) folk music and in Finland she has formed a folk music duo with her friend. Aliisa is happy to have been accepted into the “Cuc Cu Quartet” as its youngest member. She thinks it has been a very good musical learning experience for her. She hopes to continue to enjoy playing the viola as her hobby.

Nguyen Quoc Chanh was born in Hai Phong Harbor City in 1969. At the age of 9 years, he started cello lessons and consequently joined the Ha Noi Conservatoire. He graduated in 1994 and played for a year in the Vietnam Opera Orchestra and in many quartet formations. In 1996 he decided to work in the Vietnam Air Petrol Company. All those years he did not practice the cello. He is a talented ball room dancer and has been known for several years as an excellent tennis player, engaging in competitions almost every weekend. Right from the start he enthusiastically decided to join the “Cuc Cu - Quartet”! He even bought a nice cello and enjoys very much playing chamber music again.

Henri van den Hombergh was born in the Netherlands in 1953 and started violin lessons at age 10. During his general education and his studies as a medical doctor he has enjoyed this hobby and played in various amateur ensembles and orchestras. After his studies he chose to work in developing countries, and since 1985 he has worked in many countries in Africa. During his last assignment in Kenya, he became an active amateur musician again and joined the Nairobi Symphony Orchestra. During those seven years, he participated in over 10 concerts. Henri has worked for the last two years as GTZ-Chief Technical Advisor in the health sector of Vietnam. Since December 2006, he has been taking violin lessons again after more than 30 years of playing without supervision. This has enabled him to meet many Vietnamese musicians and found the “Cuc Cu – Quartet”. He firmly believes that making music together is an ideal way to interact with the people and the culture of Vietnam

Programme

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

String quartet in B-flat major, no 12, Kv. 172

1. Allegro spiritoso
2. Adagio
3. Menuetto & Trio
4. Allegro assai

Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy

String quartet No.1 in E-flat Major opus 12

1. Canzonetta, allegretto

Ludwig van Beethoven

String quartet in F-major, Opus 18, no 1

1. Allegro con brio
2. Adagio, affettuoso ed appassionato
3. Scherzo, Allegro molto – Trio
4. Allegro

The concert will be on a first come, first in basis, no tickets are sold, only a donation box for voluntary contributions will be at the entrance.

After the concert the members of the quartet do invite you for an informal drink in the garden to meet friends, colleagues and music lovers. Maybe more ensembles can be born as a result of this concert.

The proceeding of this concert will be used to support the ongoing efforts of "OPERATION SMILE", Vietnam.