

MUSIC

QUARTET PULLS STRINGS TO HONOUR LOCAL COMPOSER

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Roger Deegan, founding member of the Edmonton Composers' Concert Society, passed away last August. Deegan was not only a strong advocate of local composers but also a composer himself, and on Sat, Apr 28, the Strathcona String Quartet will be performing a program of material dedicated to Deegan.

Consisting of Jennifer Bustin and George Andrix on violins, Moni Matthew on viola and Josephine van Lier on cello, the Quartet will be featuring pieces by Deegan, Andrix, Tom Golub and Dave Wall when it performs an evening of contemporary chamber works.

The Deegan portion of the program will include pieces titled "Box Car Boogie," "Very Like a Motherless Child," and "Bashaw Boogie." While these may seem like strange titles for a string quartet, Andrix says that they actually make perfect sense having originated from Deegan.

"In his youth, Roger fancied himself a boogie woogie piano player," Andrix explains. "They are definitely modern compositions, but the boogie woogie style makes them light and fun."

Another one of the pieces on the program, Dave Wall's "Wakish," lends a more philosophical edge to the program.

"It's a programmatic piece," Bustin muses, "Wall's imagining of what it would be like to die—that second when you're dying, and then coming back to life."

She notes that the format of the string quartet allows for a more dynamic performance—the kind necessary to tap into and express the emotions in a piece like Wall's—than what a single player could achieve.

"Chamber music is very rewarding," she says. "Soloists coming together gives you a lot more freedom of expression."

Her quartet colleague Andrix shares the sentiment.

"Chamber music in general and the string quartet in particular has resulted in some of the world's finest compositions," he says. "Whether you're one of the world's finest string quartets or whether you're an amateur group, the string quartet just seems to be one of the most satisfying things to play." **V**

Sat, Apr 28 (8 pm)

The Strathcona String Quartet

Convocation Hall, University of Alberta, \$10 - \$15