

MUSIC ACCORD

WILLIAM BOLCOM

Octet: Double Quartet (2007)

Program Notes

My OCTET: DOUBLE QUARTET celebrates the relationship of the Guarneri and Johannes Quartets. (In four movements, it also is an homage in places to the celestial Mendelssohn Octet; no 16-year-old has a right to write so beautifully, and that piece still makes my hair stand on end when I hear it properly played.)

The first, *Mystic Saraband*, coalesces the two quartets into a body of eight voices little by little. The four violins start, interlaced with each other's group but each in counterpoint with their other quartet member. The merger is complete in the second movement, *Mit Leidenschaft*, which explores the other ensemble possibilities of eight players with drama and intensity. In *Andantino lamentoso* I continue what has turned out to be a string of grieving slow movements in my recent symphonic and chamber works (it seems to me to be the mood of our time); but this is followed by a *Rondeau-Barcarolle* which answers the grieving with a kind of joy, perhaps related to the darker Mendelssohn one finds if one looks under the surface.

Octet: Double Quartet

Composer: William Bolcom

Instrumentation: double string quartet

Premiering Artists: Guarneri String Quartet and Johannes String Quartet

Duration: 15'

Publisher Contact

<http://www.bolcomandmorris.com/>

Artist Contact

Johannes Quartet @ franksolomon.com

<http://franksolomon.com/artist.php?aid=26>



William Bolcom



Johannes String Quartet. Credit: Lisa-Marie Mazzucco

About Music Accord

Comprised of top classical music presenting organizations throughout the United States, Music Accord is a consortium that commission new works in the chamber music, instrumental recital and song genres. The Consortiums goal is to create a significant number of new works and to ensure presentation of these works in venues throughout this country and, if the occasion arises, internationally. Music Accord awards commissions principally to performers who are US citizens or reside in the US and assists these performers in selecting composers who are United States citizens or who reside in the United States.

