

Southwest Chamber Music at The Huntington

Posted on [September 15, 2011](#)



An evening of polite decorum, heritage and fulfilling chamber music come together to make the Southwest Chamber Music a memorable experience at the Huntington Library. The beautiful setting of the loggia perched above the picnic filled grounds and botanical gardens lay a foundation of one of the most pleasurable classical listening experiences in the region. Ticket holders would not be the most appropriate term for the audience, as everyone feels like an invited guest to an exclusive, yet accessible musical reception.

The last light of summer's gaze faded behind the classical columns of the Huntington and gave way to the gathering crowd's warm embrace of the space and grounds. An air of East Coast sophistication wafted through the audience as the musician's first strings could be heard.

Quickly launching into Mozart with a settled ease, it was readily apparent the musicians had benefited from the cohesiveness that a chamber orchestra brings to practice. Unbridled by the encumbrance of a larger orchestra, chamber musicians are free to pursue a more minute and intimate feel with classical arrangements. Mozart would not have it any other way as he loved to write chamber music, including quintets for friends.

The music moved on to a more somber and reflective piece, *Ten Thousand Cereus Peruvianus for Harp and String Quartet* by Wadada Leo Smith, that challenged the audience. Every pause seemed more poignant than the last and the uplifting notes delved into territory that peaked the audience's intellectual curiosity.

Intermission was like none other, as guests were invited to explore the gallery of The Huntington with a collection of rare antiquities and paintings. This pleasant surprise reinforced the connection to the music and sense of a world lost in today's digital age.

The program concluded with the echo of summer's passing, Mozart's strings dancing about the mind and the quiet fulfillment that only live classical music can deliver.

To find out more please visit; <http://www.swmusic.org/>

September 15, 2011 by Alan Sutovsky – Cultural Diplomat