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Dr. Kregor & Dr. Floyd
Music in Vienna
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The College Conservatory of Music has brought a real treat to the people of Cincinnati. The Ariel Quartet composed of Alexandra Kazovsky, Gershon Gerchikov, Jan Gruning, and Amit Even-Tov performed its final concert of the 2015-2016 CCM season this past Tuesday evening, March 1, 2016. The quartet was originally founded in Israel over 17 years ago while the four musicians were in school. They are internationally recognized, but luckily are on retainer at CCM as the in-house quartet for a few more years.

The performance was held in the Conservatory's largest theater, Patricia Corbett Auditorium. Patrons spanned the ages, from college students hoping to gain a deeper appreciation for music to older generations out for a night on the town. There were over 250 in attendance to witness this quartet perform some of music's greatest pieces. The performance lasted about two and a half hours, but patrons raved at the end of each piece.

The quartet is composed of three violins and a single cello. They sat in a cluster, with two violins on the left and then the cello separating the last violin on the right. As there was no conductor, the violinist on the far left side led the pieces because it was easy for the other three musicians to make eye contact and follow his non-verbal cues.

Three pieces were performed: Haydn's "String Quartet in F Major, Op. 77, No. 2," Bartok's "String Quartet No. 1, Op. 7," and Brahms's "String Quartet, Op. 51, No. 2." Years of practice and a level of comfortability with reading each other's cues was evident in each performance.

Haydn's "String Quartet in F Major, Op. 77, No. 2" was the perfect opener to the concert. With four very distinct movements, the crowd was captivated. The second movement, the *Menuetto: Presto, ma non troppo*, was a dance movement that had a steady beat. In the third movement, the piece opened with a slow intro from just the cellist and a different violinist. Seeing the quartet perform with each musician leading them was a site to see!

There was only one minor technical detail in the performance, and it seemed to just be a small miscommunication between the performers and the stage crew. A microphone was brought to the stage, but the musicians spoke loudly to the audience instead. There was a large chuckle from the crowd when the musicians quickly carried the microphone and set it on the side of the stage.

The second piece, Bartok's "String Quartet No. 1, Op. 7," consisted of three movements. The pieces were much longer, and themes were not as recognizable. In the last song of the evening, Brahms's "String Quartet, Op. 51, No. 2," it was impressive to see the four musicians still so engaged and enthusiastic about playing the pieces after hours of performing. It truly speaks to the talent the quartet has and their passion for sharing their love of music.

The Ariel Quartet is a performance not to miss out on, so be sure to check the CCM 2016-2017 season schedule and book your tickets today!