

REVIEW

Chamber music concert delights

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Chamber Music Charleston, an enterprising group of players, gave their last Holy City Series concert of the season Sunday afternoon at St. Matthews Lutheran Church.

The music of Edvard Grieg, Astor Piazzolla and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart filled the church and delighted the small, attentive audience.

Opening with Grieg's Holberg Suite, in an unattributed arrangement for piano quar-

ter, violinist Mayumi Nakamura Smith, violist Katrina Smith, cellist Tim O'Malley and pianist Irina Pevzner displayed the enthusiasm, technical skill and musical understanding expected of this group. Grieg's nod to the 18th century originally was composed for piano 2-hands and later orchestrated. It emerges as 19th century romanticism, regardless of performance form.

Argentina produced Piazzolla (1921-1992) who was a champion of the tango. He gained international fame

only within the past 20 years. His "Primavera Portena," a rousing tango about spring, is part of a longer work inspired by Vivaldi's "The Four Seasons."

The group, as a piano trio (minus the viola), seemed swept away by the vigor and originality in the music, as did the listeners.

Mozart's "Piano Quartet No. 1 in G Minor, K. 478," an unusual work that pushed formal music ahead from classical era to early romantic, brought out the best in the reconstituted quartet. With Pevzner's piano and Nakamura Smith's violin in a contest for domination, this ensemble caught Mozart's fundamental musical principles to perfection.

Chamber Music Charleston will perform other concerts in late May, June, July and August.