

Programme Note by Chris Darwin: please use freely for non-commercial purposes

Luigi Boccherini (1743-1805) Guitar Quintet DG 448 in D. (1781? arr 1798)

Fandango

Raised in Lucca Italy, Boccherini spent most of his life as a chamber musician to the Bourbon royal court and other nobility in Madrid. He also managed to hold the position of *compositeur de notre chambre* to the Prussian court while continuing to live in Madrid. An accomplished cellist, he attached himself to the Spanish court's string quartet thereby inventing the 2-cello quintet. He was an immensely prolific composer writing hundreds of trios, quartets and quintets. However, for a commission from guitarist François de Borgia, Marquis de Benavente, Boccherini cheated. He arranged movements from earlier string and piano quintets for guitar and string quartet. This *Fandango* movement from the resulting D major quintet deviates from standard string-quintet practice by introducing castanets into the line-up.