

Programme notes by Chris Darwin. Please use freely for non-profit activities

**Roman Hoffstetter (1742-1815)** attributed to **Josef Haydn (1732-1809)** as String Quartet in F major Op.3/5, Hob. 3:17 'Serenade'

*Presto*

*Andante cantabile*

*Menuet and Trio*

*Finale: Scherzando*

Roman Hoffstetter was a Benedictine monk in the Odenwald region of south-west Germany. He was primarily in charge of the monastic kitchens but also directed the choir and played the organ. He admired Haydn: *"everything that flows from Haydn's pen seems to me so beautiful and remains so imprinted on my memory that I cannot prevent myself now and again from imitating something as well as I can."* The success of his imitation became clear in the mid 1960s when Alan Tyson, H.C. Robbins Landon and László Somfai showed that the quartets known as Haydn's Op 3 were in fact composed by Hoffstetter. Not only were they stylistically different from Haydn, but the publisher, Bailleux, had only partly succeeded in erasing Hoffstetter's name from some of the parts. Incidentally, Hoffstetter, in turn, was published by Breitkopf as the composer of a viola concerto which turned out actually to be written by his good friend Joseph Martin Kraus (the 'Swedish Mozart').

The 'Serenade' second movement of the fifth of the 'Op 3' quartets contains one of the best known of all string quartet melodies, played by the first violin against a pizzicato accompaniment. It is perhaps unlikely that it would have become so well-known had it not been passed off as by Haydn.

*Andante cantabile*

