

FAMILIAR NAMES, FRESH FACES

LAFAYETTE QUARTET

Formed 17 years ago and now in its twelfth year in residence at the University of Victoria, British Columbia, the Lafayette Quartet continues to prosper. Its members have developed a dynamic string programme at the university's school of music that emphasises chamber music but is also rich in opportunities for orchestral playing and development as a soloist.

The Lafayettes' energetic sound can be enjoyed on their growing collection of CDs. Their latest recording, a disc of Schubert, Fanny Mendelssohn and Rebecca Clarke for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, has been nominated for a West Coast Music Award and they are planning a disc of unrecorded contemporary works including quartets by compatriots Murray Adaskin and Eugene Weigel.

Last year's scheduled performances of a complete Beethoven cycle in Seattle and Berlin were first postponed and then cancelled, due to the women's decision to lend moral support to their cellist, Pamela Highbaugh Aloni, as she went through a difficult year battling breast cancer. She is now back in full health, and plans are underway to resurrect the cycle.

The players aim to mark their 20th anniversary together in the 2006-7 season with a performance of the Bartók cycle. 'Bartók's genius was comparable to Beethoven's in that he was able to convey the depth of human experience, even though his language was vastly different,' says first violinist Ann Elliott-Goldschmid. 'As a quartet we seem

to be attracted to music that brings us closer to the human context.'

BARBARA MCDUGALL



First violin Ann Elliott-Goldschmid

Second violin Sharon Stanis

Viola Joanna Hood

Cello Pamela Highbaugh Aloni

Festival Festival of the Sound, Parry Sound, Ontario, August 2004