

GH String Quartet Unites, Looking for Live Gigs

BY SCOTT TURNER
GIG HARBOR LIFE

The four polished musicians sat facing each other in a small circle.

The space was alive with a force of character before any of the four bows touched a single string.

As they do on a regular basis, the Ambrosia String Quartet dove into their practice with poetic convention, quickly bouncing sounds, filled with expression and sweet emotion, throughout Annette Kepsch's posh Gig Harbor home.

The four instrumentalists: Kepsch, Heather De Pree, Benjamin Beers, and Jenny Robinson, first met each other while playing in the Peninsula Civic Orchestra, something they still enjoy doing regularly.

Kepsch thought there might be a harmonious chemistry if they pooled their years of experience together to form a quartet.

"We've been playing in the orchestra together for a couple of years.

"We were used to working together. Our personalities meshed, and we know how to listen to one another, so I thought it would be very workable, and it was," Kepsch said.

The ensemble performs with two violins, a viola and a cello, and offers their unique services at events like corporate parties, weddings, funerals, private parties, anniversaries, and just about anywhere, anyone has a special event that they would like to have a string quartet at, she said.

From classical to contemporary, Keb-

sch said if a song can be played on strings, they can make it happen with a twist of elegance and grace.

All of the members of the Gig Harbor-based Ambrosia String Quartet are well-schooled and musically gifted. The ladies are all established teachers, and Beers is a professional violin maker, with a business on Fox Island.

"Our goal from the beginning is to do gigs for different special events. We have all performed in different orchestras, symphonies, quartets and trios before. So, we all have the experience to make this work," Kepsch added.

"There is a lot of experience, camaraderie, warmth, and vast knowledge of the music, and a real willingness to please anyone who is interested in having us play," De Pree added.

In today's digital world, the quartet is in competition with iPods, DJs and everything in-between for event entertainment.

"With strings, we bring warmth and class to the wedding or event, and that's something very special. Strings are warm and classy, and, there's nothing like watching and listening to musicians, right there, who are producing the music," Kepsch said.

Robinson said that they are trying to bring their string music to a wide range of people, so they can experience something special, and understand that music is really in the soul of everybody.

For information and music samples, visit ambrosiastringquartet.com, or call (253) 509-0787.



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Ambrosia String Quartet members, from left, Annette Kepsch, Benjamin Beers, Jenny Robinson and Heather DePree practice regularly, and offer their sweet-string talents for local events.