It’s no accident that we’ve likened our upcoming season to a gem that, legend has it, Kōkichi Mikimoto, the inventor of the cultured pearl, swallowed daily to enhance his health and wellbeing. As a 2011 study undertaken at McGill University recently found, the “musical chills” we experience when we hear a beautiful passage by Mozart or Prokofiev can help us concentrate, alleviate stress, and even fight many major illnesses.

An exquisite pearl… a glorious musical moment… the power of both lies not only in their surpassing beauty but in their matchless individuality. Pearls come in a symphony of shapes and colors. They can be round, oval, or baroque; they can be white, pink, gold, green, blue, or black. The ensembles joining us this season are equally varied, presenting multi-hued pearls of the repertoire ranging from Mozart to Milhaud, Schubert to Shostakovich, Beethoven to Bartók… a priceless strand of iconic works!

Coleman has always believed in the life-affirming power and splendor of music. Why not follow Mikimoto’s example and join us on Sundays with Coleman?

All concerts are presented on Sundays at 3:30 p.m. in Caltech’s Beckman Auditorium.

67th Annual Coleman Chamber Ensemble Competition

Just as Mikimoto “seeded” oysters to grow cultured pearls, Coleman cultivates the future of chamber music though its annual competition, which offers young musicians the opportunity to perform before a panel of distinguished judges who not only award prizes but also provide evaluations that shape developing careers. This experience is a privilege you are invited to share, bringing your energy as an audience member, free of charge. Past prize winners include the Calder and Tokyo Quartets, eighth blackbird, and the Ahn Trio. Past judges include Jascha Heifetz, Gregor Piatigorsky, and Anne-Marie McDermott—who returns to Coleman this year performing with the Imani Wind Quintet.

This wonderful weekend of chamber music features entrants from schools and conservatories worldwide. Please join us for the final round of the Competition on Saturday, April 27 as students compete for $15,500 in prizes, and also for the Winners Concert on Sunday, April 28, both in Caltech’s Ramo Auditorium.

October 7, 2012
Emerson String Quartet
Mozart Quartet in D Major, K. 499 “Hoffmeister”
Adès The Four Quarters

November 4, 2012
Imani Wind Quintet with Anne-Marie McDermott
Coleman Tzigane
Haas Wind Quintet, Op. 10
Mozart Quartet in E-flat Major for Piano and Winds, K. 467
Stravinsky The Rite of Spring (arr. Russell)
Poulenc Sextet in E Major for Piano and Wind Quintet, FP 183

January 20, 2013
Escher String Quartet
Poulenc Quartet No. 2 in F Major, Op. 92
Shostakovich Quartet No. 8 in E minor, Op. 110
Beethoven Quartet in E Major, Op. 59, No. 2 “Rasumovsky”

February 17, 2013
Schubert Ensemble
Martinu Piano Quartet No. 1, H. 267
Mozart Piano Quartet in E minor, K. 478
Schumann Piano Quartet in E-flat Major, Op. 47

March 3, 2013
Endellion String Quartet
Britten Three Divertimenti
Bartók Quartet No. 2 in C Major, Op. 17
Beethoven Quartet in D Major, Op. 18, No. 2 “Rasumovsky”

April 7, 2013
Kavafian-Schub-Shifrin Trio
Saint-Saëns Sonata for Violin and Piano No. 3 in D minor, Op. 75
Fauré Sonate for Cello and Piano, PF 184
Stravinsky Suite from L’Histoire du Soldat

PARKING is FREE. Parking is available in the lots south of Del Mar Boulevard between Wilson and Chester Avenues, and in the structures at 301 and 305 South Wilson Avenue. Handicapped parking is available in the lot south of Beckman Auditorium, accessible from Michigan Avenue.

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Emerson String Quartet

"Conductors have come to count on these superb musicians, who... continue to play with technical command, musical insight, vivid imagination and irresistible enthusiasm." — CLEVELAND CLASSICAL

Cleveland, OH (October 7, 2012)

Imani Wind Quintet with Anne-Marie McDermott

"...this is an immensely talented ensemble. Each of those players... could, one might say, make a living as a soloist. Together, they're highly in sync. Hyperknit, a generous, brilliant sound, and bring a lot of energy." — music review

Pasadena, CA (March 3, 2013)

Embellish: Schubert String Quartet

"This superb classical quartet is playing as well as anyone in the world at present and its interpretations have a rare intellectual penetration." — L. COHEN, CONCERTO.COM TO THE STRING QUARTETS

Beverly, MA (April 20, 2013)

Kavanagh-Schub-Schifrin Trio

"Do they have the tea angle... for the three hyper-advanced—" music review

Kendall, MA (April 7, 2013)