The Hughes Quartet
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The Hughes Quartet is named in honor of Dr. Royal D. Hughes, the first professor of music at The Ohio State University, and chairman of the department of music from 1925 to 1939.

The Quartet was organized in 1955 and is composed of artist faculty members of the School of Music. Through its campus programs and off-campus tours, the Quartet has achieved distinction as a highly artistic ensemble which is in demand for community, college and university, and educational programs.

GEORGE HARDESTY, Violin
THOMAS MOORE, Violin
LAURENCE BURKHALTER, Viola
GORDON EPPERSON, Cello
Few value chamber music

By ANYA SILECKY
Lantern staff writer

University campuses are a popular haven for composers who try to make a living by writing chamber or symphonic music, said Thomas Wells, associate professor of composition for the School of Music.

"There is no commercial value to 'serious' music," Wells said. "The public has no need for it."

Wells said when people go to the cinema and hear background music, they think it's fantastic. When the same kind of music is performed by an orchestra at a concert, people's reactions are different, he added.

He will have the opportunity Saturday to inspire greater music appreciation during the world premiere of his latest work, "Three Pieces for String Quartet." The melodic piece was written for, and will be performed by the Hughes Quartet, a group of four OSU music faculty members.

The quartet, formed in 1985, was named after Royal D. Hughes, chairman of the Music Department from 1925-1938.

Members of the string ensemble include violin players Michael Davis and Jonquil Thoma, viola player Edward Adeison, and cello player William Conable.

The first of the three movements which comprise Wells' work starts out slowly and quietly, and with a heavy sense of sadness.

"It's a look at the darker side of life," Wells said.

But as the piece develops into the third and final movement, the mood is lightened by a brisk, easy-going tempo that points to the optimistic side of life, Wells said.

The Hughes Quartet will also perform Beethoven's Quartet Opus 74, "The Harp," and Mozart's "Quintet 407 for Horn and Strings."

"This isn't just music, it's a dialogue between instruments," said Addison, a five-year faculty member for the OSU School of Music.

Beethoven's "Harp," a work of tremendous complexity, is one of the truly great string quartet compositions of all time, the Yale University graduate said.

"There is a timelessness to music like this," Addison said.

The Hughes Quartet performance of "Three pieces for String Quartet" will be 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7 in Weigel Hall Auditorium. The concert is free. For more information call 292-ARTS.