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# Style

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## Musica Viva Rolls Out A Delectable Dessert Cart

There was a little something for everyone at the Embassy of the Czech Republic on Monday evening. The Washington Musica Viva chamber ensemble offered up an assortment of works by Czech composers like a dessert sampler—a medley that wisely included familiar favorites among the unusual innovations.

Perhaps only Parisian food and French wine could have sparked the creation of Bohuslav Martinu's "La Revue de Cuisine," a 1927 ballet about romance and jealousy among various kitchen utensils.

Tokyo-born conductor Masatoshi Mitsumoto led a sextet through the jazz-influenced work. Trumpeter Chris Royal, saxophonist Rhonda Buckley, bassoonist Ben Greanya, violinist Hasse Borup, cellist Amy Leung and pianist Carl Banner gave the four-movement suite a comical and colorful performance.

According to Musica Viva founder Banner, a botched love affair prompted Gustav Mahler to compose "Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen" ("Songs of a Wayfarer"). With Banner at the keyboard, mezzo-soprano Karyn Friedman captured the drama and spite of a spurned lover over its four songs. She has a solid and unexpectedly resonant voice that emotes naturally. The tragic and operatic "Ich hab' ein gluhend Messer" ("I Have a Burning Knife") inspired her best performance.

The husband-and-wife team of Borup and Leung opened the concert with Erwin Schulhoff's "Duo for Violin and Cello" and closed it with Banner on Dvorak's Piano Trio in G Minor, Op. 26. Both string players have intense, darkly hued tones and excel in fast and loud movements. Their Dvorak ended the concert as a chocolate soufflé would end a fine meal—contented smiles all around.

—Grace Jean