

## **Klein friends perform well**

*The Peninsula Times Tribune*

By Dorothy Nichols

Irving M. Klein Memorial Scholarship Fund concert, Spangenberg Auditorium, Gunn High School, Palo Alto. Program: Beethoven, Sonata for Piano and Violin, Op. 24, "Spring"; Mozart, Piano Quartet in G minor, K. 478; Schubert, Cello Quintet, Op. 163; Mendelssohn, Trio No. 1 in D minor, Op. 49.

A generous program of chamber music masterpieces was presented Thursday evening to benefit the scholarship fund in memory of Irving Klein, founder of the California Music Center of Belmont. Program selections were from music played at the center. Performers were colleagues of Klein.

The musicians were thoroughly professional and expert in technique. These were not permanent ensembles that could attain a high polish, but their tone was beautiful and expressive in Schubert's deeply moving Adagio from the Cello Quartet. It seemed at the start that the players – Marc Gottlieb, Vasile Beluska (violins), James Carter (viola), David Goldblatt (cello) and Stefan Reuss (extra cello) – were going to squeeze every drop from the work, but they did not cross the line into sentimentality. They retained a fine feeling for the music's heart-breaking appeal.

Problems mainly had to do with balance in Beethoven's "Spring" sonata. Pianist Machiko Koblalka's crisp, vigorous playing was apt to dominate Daniel Koblalka's fine but gentle tone. The frolicsome Rondo went well, however.

Machiko Koblalka was more evenly matched with three strings (Beluska, Carter and Goldblatt) in the Mozart quartet. The Rondo benefited from her lively energy and Beluska was distinguished in the lovely Andante.

There were no problems at all in the Mendelssohn trio, with Gottlieb, Reuss and pianist Howard Aibel. With first class musicians, this is music that almost plays itself, providing a glorious ride on the swift-flowing river of melody. Aibel was a pace-setter for this exuberant work.