

Rain Does Not Dampen The Greens Concert

BY MICHAEL KORVYAKOV

Joy, Togetherness, Family — these three words encapsulate the feeling at the Concert on the Greens on Wednesday, June 22nd, when the Evanescent Quartet came and performed in the tent outside of the Greens at Greenwich. The Greens at Greenwich is an assisted living facility specializing in care of Dementia and Alzheimer's patients. They focus on continued education, physical activity, spirituality, and curating their program to create the best possible living experience for those struggling with dementia. In doing this, they encourage their residents to get involved with activities that bring them joy. Maria Scaros, the Executive Director of the Greens at Greenwich, said, "we are a community that is invested . . . offering the arts to our residents." As part of that programming, the Greens invites the Evanescent Quartet to come perform classical music every year. This year marks the third time they've been invited. The quartet consists of two violins, one viola, and one cello, played by current and recently graduated Julliard students. Over the course of the hour and a half, they played three pieces: Vivaldi's Summer, Mozart's Divertimento, and Dvorak's American String Quartet. Rounding out the night, they played What a Wonderful World by Louis Armstrong. Whispers of "it's just wonderful" and "the music is so good" could be heard from the crowd during the performance. Devin Cowan, the violist of the quartet, said, "it's a pleasure to bring joy to all communities, especially homes like this." The residents certainly appreciated the performance as well. Norma, one of the attendees, said that the performance caught her by surprise, but that she "ab-

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solutely loved it." Another resident, Elaine, said that the concert was "very, very, pleasant."

In addition to providing music for the residents, the event serves as an opportunity for families to get together. Tony Capicotto, who came with his wife to visit his mother in law, said of the facility, "it's truly a wonderful place . . . and the icing on the cake is to be able to come spend time with family and listen to some beautiful music." Caroline Greco, a music therapist at the Greens, said she loves to experience the joy families get at having the opportunity to spend the evening together listening to music. "It's a great opportunity for our residents and our families to join together for a special event," she said. Of the 100 seats available, almost all were filled with residents and their families.

Along with the music and family gathering, the Greens at Greenwich served an assortment of food and drink. There was wine, fresh fruit punch, finger sandwiches, vegetables, macaroons, and pastries. What makes the occasion even more special was that this was the first year the Greens at Greenwich held the title of a Purple Flag organization, indicating that they're a vetted and accredited dementia care home. Before the performance, Scaros emphasized the pride they have in this achievement which took nine months. This concert marked the opening of the summer series of performances. In the next few months, they expect to have three more concerts which will be open to the public. And while these music performances are a treat for the residents of the Greens at Greenwich, according to Ms. Leibowitz, the Program Director, these concerts are "just a representation of the music that fills our halls "every day."