

**St. Luke's Ensemble  
Plays 'Archaeopteryx'**

The St. Luke's Chamber Ensemble opened its Saturday night Abraham Goodman House concert with a polished, fluid performance of Mendelssohn's *Konzertstück* No. 2 in D minor, Opus 114. This charming caprice proved an apt showcase for the talents of William Blount, Gerhardt Koch and Aleck Karis, the three performers.

The evening's main event was a presentation of Charles Wuorinen's "Archaeopteryx," for bass trombone and 10 players. "Archaeopteryx," a fiendishly challenging work, was brilliantly executed by its dedicatee, the trombonist David Taylor. Mr. Wuorinen conducted with cool poise, serenely subdividing the work's rhythmic complexities. "Archaeopteryx" possesses a snarling beauty, and a near-theatrical sense of drama.

The evening closed with the Schubert Octet. Discarding some problems with instrumental balance — which at times threatened to divide the work into an autonomous string quintet and a woodwind trio — one admired the bright buoyancy of Naoko Tanaka's violin, while Myron Lutzke's steady cello ultimately helped reconcile the warring factions.

**Tim Page**