

*Review of the premiere of **Quartet 1.5** excerpted from The Atlantic Music Critic blog written by William Ford. That premiere was given by the Vega Quartet on November 22, 2014 on an Emory Chamber Music Society of Atlanta concert entitled "Creation Stories." Also performed on that program was **Regimen Sanitatis Salerni**.*

...This was followed by the world premiere of Paul Salerni's String quartet 1.5. ... This is a wonderful piece of music with not-too-overpowering dissonances of the first movement and its repeated bowed chords that were slightly reminiscent of "The Rite of Spring." The second movement, played without break from the first movement, was inspired by an Irish jig. It totally worked- it was a jig with a classical accent, but a jig none the less. The fourth movement titled "Intermezzo" is a gorgeous piece of latter-day romanticism. It really caught AMC's attention with its lush sounds. This is one of those short moments that could easily be rescored for a larger chamber orchestra (or even full orchestra) and a successful stand-alone piece. The final movement recapitulates the main themes of the previous five. This is a wonderful work that deserves to be heard again and again. It does not have the easy humor of some of Mr. Salerni's other works, but its seriousness is profound and its soulfulness was touching.

The next piece was Salerni's "Regimen Sanitatus Salerni" composed in 2002. It is a series of seven songs that were based on a book of similar title dating from 1066 AD. The lyrics are humorous and even banal, but always fun when put in a modern context. The soprano soloist was Stephanie Adrian, who was able to bring out the playfulness in the work. Salerni's music provided a suitable platform the lyrics. For example, when the soprano is reciting recommendations for treating seasickness, Salerni captured a rolling sea quite nicely. The work requires the soloist to sing lyrics quite quickly, and in some instances, quite loudly. It all worked quite nicely and the piece is a bon mot in spirit and thoroughly enjoyable.