

 Herberger College
of Fine Arts

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

School of Music

MOZART 250@ASU

ST. LAWRENCE STRING QUARTET

Visiting Quartet in Residence

GEOFF NUTTALL, VIOLIN

BARRY SHIFFMAN, VIOLIN

LESLEY ROBERTSON, VIOLA

CHRISTOPHER COSTANZA, CELLO

WITH

NANCY BUCK, VIOLA

KATZIN CONCERT HALL

Thursday, January 26, 2006 • 7:30 p.m.

The St. Lawrence String Quartet

Having walked on stage together over 1600 times in the past sixteen years the St. Lawrence String Quartet (SLSQ) has established itself among the world-class chamber ensembles of its generation. In 1992, they won both the Banff International String Quartet Competition and Young Concert Artists Auditions, launching them on a performing career that has brought them across North and South America, Europe and Asia.

The long awaited initial recording of the St. Lawrence Quartet, Schumann's First and Third Quartets, was released in May 1999 to great critical acclaim. The CD received the coveted German critics award, the Preis der Deutschen Schallplattenkritik, as well as Canada's annual Juno Award. BBC Music Magazine gave the recording its "highest rating," calling it the benchmark recording of the works. In October of 2001, EMI released their recording of string quartets of Tchaikovsky. In 2002 their recording Yiddishbbuk featuring the chamber music of the celebrated Argentinean-American composer Osvaldo Golijov received two Grammy nominations. Their most recent recording, Awakening, celebrates the string quartets of Christos Hatzis.

The Quartet performs over 100 concerts worldwide. Highlights of the 2005/06 season include their popular series Sunday's with the St. Lawrence for Stanford Lively Arts, a performance of music by Golijov and Schubert at New York's Lincoln Center, performances in Boston and Palm Beach with pianist Menahem Pressler, and appearances in Detroit, Cleveland, Atlanta, Baltimore, Houston, New Orleans, Salt Lake City, La Jolla, Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, Ottawa, Urbana, IL, and Dartmouth College. The quartet will visit Europe in November with concerts in Holland, Germany and Switzerland, and will return in July for festivals in France and Germany with pianist Menahem Pressler. The season concludes with a 20 concert tour of Australia and New Zealand.

Their summer calendar features their 12th year as Resident Quartet to the Spoleto USA Festival in Charleston, SC. Other summer festival appearances include Green Music Festival in Sonoma CA, Albuquerque, Music@Menlo, CA, Ottawa, Parry Sound, ON, and Bay Chamber Concerts (Maine).

The SLSQ has been involved in numerous inventive collaborations, including a 2003 project with the renowned Pilobolus Dance Theatre, which premiered at Stanford University. The quartet appeared with the Emerson Quartet at Carnegie's Zankel Hall, and with the Ying Quartet in Washington DC. They presented R. Murray Shafer's 4-40 with Peter Oundjian and the Toronto Symphony, Emmanuel Villaume and the Spoleto Festival Orchestra, and Yuli Turovsky with I Musici de Montreal.

The foursome regularly delivers traditional quartet repertoire, but is also fervently committed to performing and expanding the works of living composers. Among those with whom the St. Lawrence Quartet currently has active working relationships are R. Murray Schafer, Osvaldo Golijov, Christos Hatzis, Jonathan Berger, Ka Nin Chan, and Mark Applebaum.

Having been privileged to study with the Emerson, Tokyo and Juilliard String Quartets the St. Lawrence, are themselves passionate educators. Since 1998 they have held the position of Ensemble in Residence at Stanford University. This residency includes working with students of music as well as extensive collaborations with other faculty and departments using music to explore a myriad of topics. Recent collaborations have involved the School of Medicine, School of Education, and Jewish Studies. In addition to their appointment at Stanford, the SLSQ has served as visiting artists to the University of Toronto since 1995 and this season will inaugurate a new visiting chamber music residency at Arizona State University.

[Biographies continue on back of program]

PROGRAM

String Quartet in D major, KV 575

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)

Allegretto
Andante
Menuetto (Allegretto)
Allegretto

String Quartet in C-Major,
KV 465 ("Dissonant")

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)

Adagio-Allegro
Andante cantabile
Menuetto (Allegretto)
Molto allegro

There will be a 10-minute intermission

String Quintet in G minor, K. 516

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)

Allegro
Menuetto (Allegretto)
Adagio ma non troppo
Adagio-Allegro

Nancy Buck, viola

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The St. Lawrence String Quartet appears by arrangement with
David Rowe Artists, Marblehead, MA.

EMI recordings

The St. Lawrence String Quartet is Ensemble in Residence at Stanford University.

In respect for the performers and those audience members around you, please turn all beepers, cell phones and watches to their silent mode. Thank you.

The foursome's passion for opening up musical arenas to players and listeners alike is evident in their annual summer chamber music seminar at Stanford and their many forays into the depths of musical meaning with preeminent music educator Robert Kapilow.

The SLSQ is deeply committed to bringing music to less traditional venues outside the classroom or concert hall. Whether at Lincoln Center or an elementary school classroom, the St. Lawrence players maintain a strong desire to share the wonders of chamber music with their listeners, a characteristic of the foursome that has led them to a more informal performance style than one might expect from chamber musicians. Alex Ross of *The New Yorker Magazine* writes, "the St. Lawrence are remarkable not simply for the quality of their music making, exalted as it is, but for the joy they take in the act of connection."

The St. Lawrence String Quartet records exclusively for EMI/ANGEL.

Nancy Buck, is Associate Professor of Viola in The Katherine K. Herberger College of Fine Arts School of Music at Arizona State University. She holds degrees in performance from the Oberlin Conservatory and the Cleveland Institute of Music. While at the Cleveland Institute of Music, she served as teaching assistant to internationally-renown viola pedagogue Heidi Castleman.

Much in demand as a chamber musician and artistic collaborator, Ms. Buck has presented recitals in leading concert venues throughout the United States and Europe. She has performed with such chamber music groups as the Felici Quartet and the Blakemore Trio (the resident trio of the Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt University). As a soloist, Ms. Buck has been an invited participant in the Tertis International Viola Competition. Additionally, she has appeared in concert with the Red Rocks Chamber Music Festival, the Aspen Music Festival, the Sarasota Music Festival, and the Schleswig Holstein Music Festival. As an orchestral musician, Ms. Buck has held positions with the Canton Symphony, the Michigan Chamber Symphony, and the Toledo Symphony. She has also performed with the Phoenix Symphony and Ballet Arizona. In various musical settings, she has shared the stage with many world-class conductors, including Christoph Eschenbach, Jahja Ling, Lorin Maazel, and Kurt Masur.

Prior to joining the faculty at Arizona State University, Ms. Buck was Associate Professor of Viola and Assistant Chair of the Department of Music Performance Studies in the College of Musical Arts at Bowling Green State University. During the summers, she holds an artist faculty position at the Rocky Mountain Summer Conservatory in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Previous summer appointments have included a five-year stint as Director of the SMI (Summer Music Institute) String Camp and a faculty position at the Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Arts.

Ms. Buck maintains a high profile in her field, presenting recitals and masterclasses throughout North America. Recent masterclasses have included appearances at the University of Iowa School of Music, the Hugh Hodgson School of Music at the University of Georgia, and the School of Music at the University of Michigan. Ms. Buck was a featured presenter at the 2005 American String Teachers Association National Convention in Reno, Nevada. In March 2006, she will present a session entitled "Enharmonic Ease: A Way to Improve Musical Reading" at the ASTA Conference in Kansas City. Ms. Buck also serves on the board of the American Viola Society.

