FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 23, 2002

WHAT: Orpheus Quartet

WHEN: Tuesday, October 22 at 7:30pm

WHERE: Bowker Auditorium
University of Massachusetts Amherst
Call 1-800-999-UMAS or 545-2511 for tickets or go on-line to www.fineartscenter.com/tickets

(Orpheus Quartet to Launch Three-Year, Six-Performance Beethoven Quartet Cycle)

Orpheus Quartet opens the Fine Arts Center’s three-year, six-performance Beethoven Quartet cycle, which is presented twice each year, performing the complete quartets of Beethoven. The Orpheus Quartet has won every competition it has entered and is widely recognized as one of Europe’s most important young chamber ensembles. Members of the quartet include Charles-André Linale and Emilian Piedicuta on violin Emile Cantor, viola, and Laurentiu Sbarcea, cello. The program they bring to Bowker Auditorium on Tuesday, October 22 at 7:30pm includes Beethoven’s Quartet in D, Op 18, No. 6, Quartet in f minor, Op. 95, “Serioso,” and Quartet in a minor, Op. 132, No. 2.

Since winning first prize in the Valentino Bucchi International Chamber Music Contest in Rome (1988), in the Karl Klinger Competition in Munich (1990), and in the International Chamber Music Competition in Osaka (1993), Orpheus Quartet has responded to an outpouring of concert invitations in Germany, France, Austria, Switzerland, England, Denmark, Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, Japan, and across the U.S. from Maine to California. Orpheus Quartet has given concerts at the – more –
Concertgebouw, Wigmore Hall, Salle Gaveau, Suntory Hall, and on Europe and Japan’s major radio networks.

Orpheus is a truly international quartet with its members hailing from France, Romania, and the Netherlands. All four men currently live in Dusseldorf, Germany with their respective families. Their marriage to the quartet celebrated its tenth anniversary in the 1997-1998 season with several new commissions and a European concert tour with the renowned pianist Menahem Pressler.

The Beethoven cycle continues this spring when the American Quartet performs Quartet in A Major Op. 18, No. 5, Quartet (No. 7) in F Major, Op. 59, No. 1, “Razumovsky,” and Grosse Fugue for String Quartet in B-Flat Major, Op. 133. Over the next two years, the Talich Quartet, Pacifica Quartet, Ysaye Quartet and the Ying Quartet, each adding its own musical point of view, presents the remaining Beethoven String Quartets. Beethoven’s music is frequently described as the epitome of the Viennese classical style, and the essential link between Bach and Brahms. The power and drama of his work brought music to a new level of expressiveness. This development is clearly evident in his music written for the string quartet.

The audience is invited to engage with the artists at a pre-performance talk at 6:30pm, and Viennese coffee and desserts are available for purchase before the performance and at intermission. The Quartet’s namesake Orpheus, the son of Apollo, played upon his lyre with such perfection that nothing could withstand the charm of his music. The FAC is delighted to open its Beethoven cycle with the charms of the Orpheus Quartet.

Tickets for Orpheus Quartet are $25 and $15; 17 and under are $10; Five College students are $10 and $7. For tickets and information, call the Fine Arts Center Box Office at 545-2511 or 1-800-999-UMAS, or check out our website at www.fineartscenter.com/centerseries. Up-to-date information is available on the Orpheus Quartet home page, which may be found at www.orpheus-quartet.com.

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