FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 3, 2003

WHAT: Talich String Quartet: Beethoven Quartet Cycle

WHEN: Saturday, November 8, 2003 at 8pm

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

(Talich Quartet Opens Second Season of the Beethoven Quartet Cycle)

On Saturday, November 8th at 8pm, the Fine Arts Center presents the Talich String Quartet in the third of six concerts of the Beethoven String Quartets. The quartet will perform Beethoven’s Quartet in c minor, Op. 18, No. 4, Quartet in e minor, Op. 59, No. 2, and Quartet in F Major, Op. 135.

Consisting of Jan Talich, Jr. and Petr Macecek, violin, Vladimir Bukac, viola and Petr Prause, cello, the Talich Quartet is one of the world’s finest string quartets and is “recognized as one of the preeminent ensembles in the quartet world.” In addition to being world renown for their interpretation of Czech music, they have a very wide-ranging repertoire including works of traditional classical composers up through the 20th century.

At the request of Steven Spielberg and the Shoah Foundation, the Talich Quartet recorded the music for the film documentary Hell on the Earth, about Czech holocaust survivors. The award-winning Talich Quartet performs to great acclaim in Europe, Japan, North and South America and prestigious chamber music festivals and venues such as Carnegie hall, Paris Champs-Elysses, Salle Gaveau, Lyon, London’s Wigmore hall, the

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Pablo Casals Festival in Prades, Europalia Festival, Printemps des Arts in Monte Carlo, Tibor Varga in Sion, Prague Spring Festival, International String Quartet festival in Ottawa and others.

The original Talich Quartet was founded in 1964 by Jan Talich, Sr., himself a descendant of chief conductor of the Czech Philharmonic. In the mid-1990’s a gradual change of all quartet members resulted in the present more youthful sitting of J.Talich, P.Macecek, V. Bukac and P.Prause who, continuing in the tradition of their predecessors, are consumed in the wide spectrum of concerts and recording activities. After a performance in 2002 at Carnegie Hall in New York, one critic raved, “The original Talich Quartet was one of the world's best; in it's second generation, it still is.”

Jan Talich Jr. is one of the newer members of the quartet, having joined in 1997. He is currently the founder and artistic director of the Talich chamber orchestra, having studied at the Prague Conservatory and the Academy of the Performing Arts, Prague. After graduating he continued his studies in the United States, England and Switzerland. Talich is the winner of the international violin competition in Zagreb and has been honored throughout Europe as both a soloist and chamber musician, winning numerous distinctions and prizes. Between 1988-1983 he was concertmaster with the Slovak Chamber Orchestra and 1994 - 1997 concertmaster and artistic leader / soloist of the Suk chamber Orchestra.

Tickets are $25, $15; 17 and under $10. Five College Students $10, $7. There will be a pre-concert talk at 6:45 pm and Viennese coffee and desserts will be available for purchase.

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