FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 14, 2004

WHAT: Center Series presents: The Ysaÿe Quartet
       Beethoven Quartet Cycle Finale

WHEN: Saturday, February 12, 2005 at 8pm

WHERE: Bowker Auditorium, Stockbridge Hall
       University of Massachusetts Amherst

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The Ysaÿe Quartet Performs Finale of Three-Year Beethoven Quartet Cycle

The Ysaÿe Quartet will perform the final installment of the three-year Beethoven Cycle
on Saturday, February 12 at 8pm in Bowker Auditorium. For the cycle’s finale, the Ysaÿe will
perform Beethoven’s Quartet in B-flat Major, Op. 18, No. 6, Quartet in E-flat Major, Op. 127,
and Quartet in C Major, Op. 59, No. 3. There will be a pre-concert talk at 7:15pm and
Viennese coffee and desserts will be available for purchase. The quartet includes Guillaume
Sutre, violin, Luc-Marie Aguera, violin, Miguel Da Silva, viola and Yovan Markovitch, cello.

Formed in 1984, the Ysaÿe Quartet is named after the violinist and composer Eugene
Ysaÿe (1858-1931), who was a powerful influence on the musical world of his day. The Ysaÿe
captured international attention when it became the first French quartet ever to win the Grand
Prize at the Evian (now Bordeaux) International String Quartet Competition in 1988. An
extraordinary 1989 debut at the Salzburg Festival resulted in immediate re-engagement for the
following summer, and in January 1992, the ensemble established itself as one of Europe’s
pre-eminent ensembles with highly acclaimed cycles of the six Mozart quartets dedicated to
Haydn in both Salzburg and Vienna.

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Since then, the Quartet has been invited to perform throughout the world. It has appeared in Japan (including Suntory Hall in Tokyo), the United States (including Carnegie Hall), Hong Kong, China, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Central America, Israel and throughout Europe, including the Théâtre de la Ville and Théâtre des Champs Elysées in Paris, Wigmore Hall in London, the Musikverein in Vienna, the Philharmonie in Berlin, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam and at the Salzburg, Korsholm, Stresa, Cheltenham, Luberon and Lockenhaus Festivals and the Folles Journées in St. Petersburg, Nantes, and Bilbao.

The Ysaÿe Quartet's schedule has recently included appearances at the Amadeus Festival in Geneva, at Wigmore Hall in London, at the Cité de la Musique and Théâtre de la Ville in Paris and concerts in Istanbul, St. Petersburg, Bilbao and Lisbon. The Quartet also continues its Haydn quartet cycle in Besançon.

On its debut tour of North America in 1990, the Ysaÿe Quartet won accolades from audiences and critics in 15 cities across the continent, including New York, Chicago, St. Louis, Vancouver and Los Angeles. Ten subsequent American tours have taken the Quartet to more than forty different cities, recently including Boston, Washington, San Diego, Memphis, New Orleans, Pittsburgh and Los Angeles, where it has embarked on a traversal of the complete Haydn quartets for the Maestro Foundation.

The Ysaÿe Quartet has recorded on the Harmonia Mundi, Philips and Decca labels, including, for Decca, the complete works for string quartet by Félix Mendelssohn and the piano quartets and quintets of Gabriel Fauré with their compatriot Pascal Rogé. Most recently, the Quartet has released the Haydn Opus 54 quartets on its own label, Ysaÿe Records. The members of the Quartet are on the faculty of the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris, where they have established a special class for string quartets.

The Ysaÿe Quartet performs at Bowker Auditorium on the UMass Campus, February 12 at 8pm. Tickets are $25 and $15; 17 and under are $10 and Five College student tickets are $10 and $7. For tickets and information, call the Fine Arts Center Box office at 413-545-2511 or 1-800-999-UMAS, or go online to www.fineartscenter.com/centerseries

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