

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Shawn Farley or Carolyn Kilmer at 545-3671



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 2, 2006

WHAT: Center Series presents: The St. Lawrence String Quartet

WHEN: Tuesday, February 7 at 7:30pm

WHERE: Bowker Auditorium

University of Massachusetts Amherst

Call 1-800-999-UMAS or 545-2511 for tickets or

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“A sound that has precision, warmth and an electricity that conveys the excitement of playing.” – The New York Times

(The Critically Acclaimed St. Lawrence String Quartet to Perform at UMass)

Having walked on stage together over 1500 times in the past 15 years, the St. Lawrence String Quartet has established itself among the world-class chamber ensembles of its generation. They bring their sterling performance style to Bowker Auditorium on Tuesday, February 7 at 7:30pm. There will be a pre-concert talk with one of the members of the quartet at 6:45pm. The quartet includes Geoff Nuttall, violin, Barry Shiffman, violin, Lesley Robertson, viola and Christopher Costanza, cello. The program for the evening includes Mozart's Quartet K. 575, Schumann's Quartet No. 1, and Osvaldo Golijov's Yiddishbbuk.

In 1992, the quartet 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

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initial recording of the St. Lawrence String Quartet, Schumann's First and Third Quartets, was released in May 1999 to great critical acclaim. The CD, first in a series with EMI Classics, received the coveted German critics award, the Preis der Deutschen Schallplattenkriek, as well as Canada's annual Juno Award, granted by the Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences for "Best Classical Album: Solo or Chamber Ensemble." BBC Music Magazine gave the recording its "highest rating," calling it the benchmark recording of the works. In October of 2001, their recording Yiddishbbuk, featuring the chamber music of the celebrated Argentinean-American composer Osvaldo Golijov received two Grammy nominations.

The foursome regularly delivers traditional quartet repertoire, but is also passionately committed to performing and expanding the works of living composers. Among those with whom the St. Lawrence String Quartet currently has active working relationships are R. Murray Schafer, Osvaldo Golijovm Christos Hatzsis, Jonathan Berger, Melissa Hui, and Mark Applebaum.

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."

Tickets for the St. Lawrence Quartet are \$30 and \$15, \$10 for youth 17 and under, and \$10 and \$7 for Five College students.

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