

GUEST ARTIST RECITAL

THE DEBUSSY STRING QUARTET

Christopher Collette, violin

Dominique Lonca, violin

Vincent Deprecq, viola

Yannick Callier, cello

Thursday, February 10, 2000

12:30 p.m.

Lillian H. Duncan Recital Hall

RICE UNIVERSITY

the
Shepherd
School
of Music

PROGRAM

String Quartet No. 1 "Sonata à Kreutzer"

Adagio (con moto)

Con moto

Con moto (Vivace andante)

Con moto (Adagio)

Leoš Janáček

(1854-1928)

String Quartet in G minor, Op. 10

Animé et très décidé

Assez vif et bien rythmé

Andantino doucement expressif

Très mouvementé et avec passion

Claude Debussy

(1862-1918)

*The Debussy String Quartet will give a
master class today at 4:00 p.m. in Room 1133.*

Everyone is invited to attend.

BIOGRAPHY

Based in France, THE DEBUSSY STRING QUARTET has created an international sensation unifying audiences as far apart as Washington, D.C., Paris, Roumania, and Germany. Through international touring and recording, this young ensemble has already established a great following for their exciting performances, illuminated by an exceptional sensitivity combined with a deep understanding of the scores.

The Debussy String Quartet was founded in 1990 by top-drawer instrumentalists in France who have since gone on to become highly acclaimed recording artists. Their Brahms/Debussy compact disc on the Mécénat Musical label was awarded the Victoire de la Musique in 1998, and their complete works of Webern on the Harmonia Mundi label received the coveted "Choc" award of Le Monde de la Musique. A champion of French music, the quartet has also released an award winning compact disc titled **Musique Française**, which includes works of Onslow, Dancia, and Rode (also on the Mécénat Musical label). In the U.S., the group's live recordings have been broadcast by National Public Radio's Performance Today, including its performance of Beethoven's Quartet, Opus 95, from the Round Top Festival.

The ensemble performs with distinguished artists such as pianists Noel Lee, James Dick, and Jean-Efflam Bavouzet; cellist Martin Lovett; harpists Marielle Nordman and Frédérique Cambreling; clarinetists Michel Lethiec and Guy Dangain; flutist Philippe Bernold; and guitarist Alexandre Lagoya; among others.

Sponsored by Société Générale, the quartet entered the 1993 Evian Competition where members of The Emerson String Quartet were included on the jury that subsequently awarded The Debussy String Quartet the First Grand Prize. They were then heard all over Europe in concert and on live radio broadcasts. Their regular appearances at the Orland, Luberon, and Montpellier Festivals were followed by the honor of being selected as the "Best Chamber Music Ensemble" of the 1996 Victoires de la Musique France. With this distinction, the group made their first U.S. tour. In repertoire of Haydn, Beethoven, Schubert, Debussy, Brahms, Shostakovich, Gilbert Amy, Anton Webern, and others, this superb ensemble has distinguished itself among the best quartets performing today.

Following their successful U.S. concert tour in the spring of 1999, which included Palm Beach, Washington, D.C., Round Top, and College Station, among other locales, The Debussy String Quartet enjoyed the inaugural summer season of the Académie de Musique de Chambre. This festival, founded by The Debussy String Quartet, is located in picturesque Bourg Saint Andéol,

south of Lyon, France. The Academy of Chamber Music, which is structured as a teaching festival, played host to twenty-eight students who formed seven quartets. In addition to their own concerts in the historic Abbatale church in nearby Cruas, The Debussy String Quartet coached the student quartets, who then performed during a ten-day period in July.

The quartet's busy summer and fall continued with performances for festivals in Briançon near Grenoble, Aubusson, Conques, Aix en Cerdagne, Le Touquet, Prague, St. Jean de Luz near Bordeaux, Amsterdam (in the Concertgebouw), Toulon, Montbrison, Munich, Paris (in the Chatelet), Saint Maur, Lyon, Charbonnières, Rome, Valène, and Privas. Their fascinating programs included a semi-staged concert of the "Shostakovich Letters" with an actor/reader. This project was the product of The Debussy String Quartet's collaboration with Théâtre de Valence and Théâtre de Privas. In addition, there were performances of works by Bartók, Kurtág, and others, all eastern influenced, with four dancers of Teatri del Vento, the Italian dance company. In May 2000 at the Péniche Opéra in Paris, the quartet will give three concerts of English and French music with tenor Christophe Crapez. Later that month in Montbrison, the quartet will perform works of Jean-Pierre Sciau and Jean-Marie Morel with a professional children's choir.

The Debussy String Quartet is currently on their third trip to the U.S. for concerts during February 2000. The tour includes appearances in the mid-west, south, and mid-Atlantic states, and follows the success of their 1999 tour during which the group drew unified praise from audiences and the press. Engagements on this tour include appearances in New York at the 92nd Street "Y," in San Diego at The Atheneum, in St. Louis at The Ethical Society, as well as several cities in Texas, Michigan, Florida, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Included on this tour are performances featuring the group's ongoing collaborations with pianist Jean-Efflam Bavouzet in New York and with pianist James Dick in Galveston and Round Top, Texas. In each case, the performance will include Franck's Piano Quintet with their distinguished guest artist.

In September 1999, the Conservatoire de Lyon announced that they engaged The Debussy String Quartet to become members of their chamber music faculty.

