

***THE ENSŌ
STRING QUARTET***

Maureen Nelson, violin

Tereza Stanislav, violin

Robert Brophy, viola

Richard Belcher, cello

Sunday, November 10, 2002

8:00 p.m.

Lillian H. Duncan Recital Hall

RICE UNIVERSITY

the
Shepherd
School
of Music

PROGRAM

**String Quartet in D Major,
Op. 76 No. 5 (1796)**

Franz Joseph Haydn
(1732-1809)

Allegretto; Allegro

Largo ma non troppo – cantabile e mesto

Menuet. Allegro ma non troppo

Finale. Presto

String Quartet No. 6 (1939)

Béla Bartók
(1881-1945)

Mesto – Più mosso, pesante – Vivace

Mesto – Marcia

Mesto – Burletta

Mesto

INTERMISSION

**String Quartet in D Major,
K. 575 (1789)**

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)

Allegretto

Andante

Menuetto. Allegretto

Allegretto

*This performance is given in partial fulfillment of
the requirements for the degree Master of Music.*

THE ENSŌ STRING QUARTET

Applauded by Costa Rica's Nacion as "lucid and penetrating, combining lyricism and rigor" and The Ann Arbor News for their "crisp, incisive playing with just the right quotient of sass" the Ensō String Quartet brings dynamic and innovative programs to a wide range of audiences. The San Diego Reader described their performance as "dramatic, rising to exciting intensity... intelligently and sensitively played..." Since the quartet's inception in 1999, they have performed throughout the United States, England, and Costa Rica, and have been featured in music festivals such as La Jolla SummerFest and the Great Lakes Music Festival. In addition, the group was a finalist in the Banff 7th International Quartet Competition.

The quartet draws together four young musicians from around the world. Its members hold degrees from the Juilliard School, the Curtis Institute, the Royal Northern College of Music, the University of Canterbury (New Zealand), and the University of Indiana. They formed at Yale University while pursuing graduate degrees and worked with the Tokyo Quartet. Other musicians with whom they have worked include members of the Cleveland, Alban Berg, LaSalle, Takacs, American, and Ysaye Quartets, Michael Tree, Steve Mackey, and Joseph Silverstein.

Their name, ensō, is derived from the Japanese zen painting of the circle, which represents many things – perfection and imperfection, the moment of chaos that is creation, the emptiness of the void, the endless circle of life, and the fullness of the spirit.

The ensemble is committed to bringing classical music to the community. They introduce friendly and open music programs to children and encourage them to interact with the quartet. They believe that such positive interaction is essential in breaking down barriers often found surrounding classical music. Sponsored by the International Music Foundation, a non-profit organization based in Chicago, they brought their educational programs to thousands of children and teachers in schools throughout Illinois.

Highlights from last season include appearances on the Mostly Music and Rockford Chamber Series, the Dame Myra Hess Series in Chicago, which was broadcast live on television, radio, and the internet, a concerto with the Rockford Symphony Orchestra and the Champaign Urbana Symphony at the Krannert Center for Performing Arts, and a tour of Costa Rica

as guest artists in the 12th International Costa Rica Music Festival. Concerts for this season include performances on Chicago's Music in the Loft and Rock Valley Chamber series in Rockford, Illinois. As a result of participating in the International Academy of String Quartets, part of the Aldeburgh Festival, they have been invited to hold a winter residency at the historic Britten-Pears School in Snape, England. Members of the quartet will also be appearing in the 19th annual St. Bart's Music Festival held on the island of St. Barthelemy in the French West Indies.

The Ensō String Quartet has completed a graduate residency at Northern Illinois University, where they were mentored by the Vermeer Quartet. They are currently in the graduate string quartet program at the Shepherd School of Music studying with James Dunham and Norman Fischer, as well as with other faculty members.



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