

THE ENSŌ
STRING QUARTET

Maureen Nelson, violin

Tereza Stanislav, violin

Robert Brophy, viola

Richard Belcher, cello

Tuesday, April 1, 2003

8:00 p.m.

Lillian H. Duncan Recital Hall

RICE UNIVERSITY

the
Shepherd
School
of Music

PROGRAM

**String Quartet in D Major,
Op. 18 No. 3 (1798)**

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770-1827)

Allegro

Andante con moto

Allegro

Presto

Night Fields (1994)

Joan Tower
(b. 1938)

INTERMISSION

**String Quartet in C-sharp Minor,
Op. 131 (1826)**

Ludwig van Beethoven

Adagio, ma non troppo e molto espressivo

Allegro molto vivace

Allegro moderato – Adagio

Andante, ma non troppo e molto cantabile

Presto

Adagio quasi un poco andante

Allegro

The reverberative acoustics of Duncan Recital Hall magnify the slightest sound made by the audience. Your care and courtesy will be appreciated. The taking of photographs and use of recording equipment are prohibited.

THE ENSŌ STRING QUARTET

Applauded by Costa Rica's La Nación 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 was recently named a Winner of the 2003 Concert Artists Guild International Competition. As a result, the ensemble also won several performance engagements from presenters around the United States. Next season, the Ensō String Quartet will make its New York debut on the Concert Artists Guild series at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall.

*Since the quartet's inception in 1999, the group has performed throughout the United States, England, and Costa Rica, has been featured in music festivals such as La Jolla SummerFest and the Great Lakes Music Festival, and was a finalist in the Banff Seventh International Quartet Competition. Concerts this season include performances on Chicago's Music in the Loft, where the Quartet will give the world premiere of a new string quartet by Cerena Chou, and the SYZYGY, New Music at Rice series, where the ensemble gives the world premiere on April 4 of Anthony Newman's **String Quartet No. 2**. They will also perform at SummerFest La Jolla and have been invited to participate in the Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition in Australia. Highlights from last season include appearances on the Mostly Music and Dame Myra Hess Series and the Rockford Chamber Series, as well as with the Champaign Urbana Symphony at the Kranert Center for Performing Arts. In addition, the group toured Costa Rica as guest artists in the Twelfth International Costa Rica Music Festival. The ensemble's performances have been broadcast on PBS and Chicago's WFMT.*

The Ensō String Quartet is currently the graduate quartet-in-residence at the Shepherd School of Music, studying with James Dunham and Norman Fischer, as well as with other faculty members. The group has held a graduate residency at Northern Illinois University, where they were mentored by the Vermeer Quartet. As a result of participating in the International Academy of String Quartets at the renowned Aldeburgh Festival in the United Kingdom, the quartet recently held a winter residency at the Britten-Pears Young Artist Programme in Aldeburgh, England. In addition to extensive residency work at the university level, the ensemble is committed to bringing classical music to the community and offers numerous programs geared for children that emphasize interaction between audience and quartet. The group recently brought their educational programs to

thousands of children and teachers in schools throughout Illinois under the auspices of the Chicago-based International Music Foundation. In addition, the group performs extensively in Texas schools with the sponsorship of the Houston Friends of Music.

The quartet draws together four young musicians from around the world. Its members hold degrees from Juilliard, the Curtis Institute, the Royal Northern College of Music (England), the University of Canterbury (New Zealand), and the University of Indiana. The ensemble formed at Yale University while pursuing graduate degrees, and while there, worked with the Tokyo Quartet. Other musicians with whom the group has worked include members of the Cleveland, Alban Berg, and Takacs String Quartets, Joseph Silverstein, and Joan Tower.

The ensemble's name, ensō, is derived from the Japanese Zen painting of the circle which represents, among 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 spirit.



RICE