FACULTY CHAMBER
MUSIC RECITAL

THE ENSŌ
STRING QUARTET

Maureen Nelson, violin
John Marcus, violin
Robert Brophy, viola
Richard Belcher, cello

with

James Dunham, viola
Norman Fischer, cello

Friday, April 15, 2005
8:00 p.m.
Lillian H. Duncan Recital Hall

RICE UNIVERSITY
**PROGRAM**

**Quintet No. 2 in G Major for Two Violins, Two Violas, and Cello, Op. 111** (1890)  
Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

*Allegro non troppo, ma con brio*
*Adagio*
*Un poco Allegretto*
*Vivace, ma non troppo presto*

**INTERMISSION**

**Quintet in C Major for Two Violins, Viola, and Two Cellos, D. 956** (1828)  
Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

*Allegro ma non troppo*
*Adagio*
*Scherzo. Presto*
*Allegretto*

*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.*
Applauded by The Strad for “its totally committed, imaginative interpretation that emphasized contrasts of mood, dynamics and articulation,” and The Ann Arbor News for “crisp, incisive playing – with just the right quotient of sass,” the ENSŌ STRING QUARTET is quickly becoming one of America’s leading young ensembles. The group was recently awarded Second Prize in the 2004 International Banff String Quartet Competition, where they also received the prize for the best performance of the Pièce de Concert, Stewart Grant’s String Quartet No. 2, “Banff Variations.” In spring 2003, the quartet was a winner of the 2003 Concert Artists Guild International Competition, and they also earned top prizes at the Fischoff National Chamber Music Competition and Chamber Music Yellow Springs (Ohio) Competition. In April 2004, the Enso Quartet made its New York debut with guest pianist Gilbert Kalish. In addition, the quartet recorded a CD for the NAXOS label. Future engagements include concerts at Brooklyn Friends of Chamber Music, Market Square Concerts, the Newtown (Connecticut) Friends of Chamber Music, Ramapo College in New Jersey, Music for Youth Residency in Bridgeport, Connecticut, and the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts on the José Iturbi Gold Medal Series.

The Enso String Quartet has performed throughout the United States and abroad since its inception in 1999, including featured appearances at such music festivals as La Jolla SummerFest and the Great Lakes Music Festival. Other highlights from previous seasons include appearances on NPR’s “St. Paul Sunday,” the Mostly Music and the Dame Myra Hess Series of Chicago, the SYZYGY: New Music at Rice series, and a concerto with the Rockford Symphony Orchestra and with the Champaign Urbana Symphony at the Krannert Center for Performing Arts. Past engagements also include New York’s Merkin Concert Hall, the Pittsburgh Chamber Music Society, Chicago’s Music in the Loft series, the Chautauqua Institution, and the Bedford (New York) Chamber Music Series with pianist Anthony Newman. Internationally, the quartet has toured Costa Rica as guest artists in the Twelfth International Costa Rica Music Festival, and they have also performed in England and Canada, where the group was a Finalist in the Banff Seventh International Quartet Competition.

Currently Lecturers in String Quartet at the Shepherd School of Music, the Enso Quartet has also held a graduate residency at Northern Illinois University, where the group was mentored by the Vermeer Quartet. Recently the ensemble held a winter residency at the Britten-Pears Young Artists Program 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 the quartet. Most recently, the group brought their educational programs to Mark O’Connor’s Fiddle Camp in California and to thousands of children and teachers in schools throughout Illinois under the auspices of the Chicago-based International Music
The Ensō String Quartet draws together four young musicians from around the world. Its members hold degrees from the Juilliard School, the Curtis Institute of Music, the Royal Northern College of Music (United Kingdom), and the University of Canterbury (New Zealand). In addition, the group has worked with Joseph Silverstein, composer Joan Tower, and members of the Cleveland, Alban Berg, and Takács Quartets. The group has been featured in Chamber Music Magazine’s “American Ensembles” column, and their performances have been broadcast on PBS, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation-ABC Classical FM, WGBH Boston Public Radio, Chicago’s WFMT, and Canada’s CBC radio.

The ensemble’s name, ensō, is derived from the Japanese zen painting of the circle, which represents several things – perfection and imperfection, the moment of chaos that is creation, the endless circle of life, and the fullness of the spirit. More information on the Ensō String Quartet is available on the group’s website – www.ensoquartet.com.

Soloist, chamber musician, and teacher, JAMES DUNHAM is active internationally as a recitalist and guest artist. Formerly violist of the Grammy Award winning Cleveland Quartet and Naumburg Award winning Sequoia Quartet, he has collaborated with such renowned artists as Richard Goode, Emanuel Ax, Joshua Bell, Sabine Meyer, Bernard Greenhouse, and members of the Guarneri, Juilliard, and Tokyo Quartets. An advocate of new music, he has worked with many prominent composers, and in July 2001, gave the premiere of a new sonata for viola and piano written for him by Libby Larsen. In addition to his solo and chamber music activities, Mr. Dunham has served as guest principal viola with the Boston Symphony under Seiji Ozawa and the Dallas Symphony under Andrew Litton. From 1987 through its final recordings and concerts in December 1995, Mr. Dunham was violist of the renowned Cleveland Quartet. The Quartet won the 1996 Grammy for “Best Chamber Music Performance” for their Telarc recording of John Corigliano’s String Quartet written for their final tour.

Prior to becoming Professor of Viola at the Shepherd School of Music, Mr. Dunham served as Professor of Viola at the New England Conservatory and the Eastman School of Music. Mr. Dunham is much sought after as a jurist for events such as the Fischoff Chamber Music and William Primrose Competitions, and has also been a featured soloist at the International Viola Congress. His summer activities include teaching and performing at many festivals, including those of Marlboro, Aspen, Sarasota, Yale at Norfolk, Bowdoin, and Musicorda. He has served as principal violist of the San Diego Mainly Mozart Festival for ten seasons, and last summer celebrated his ninth year as violist of the Festival der Zukunft in Ernen, Switzerland. He is featured on a compact disc of recent music for viola and winds on the Crystal Records label, and has recorded with the Sequoia Quartet for Nonesuch and Delos and with the Cleveland Quartet for Telarc.
NORMAN FISCHER is one of America’s most versatile cellists. After completing instrumental study with Richard Kapuscinski, Claus Adam, and Bernard Greenhouse, he first graced the international concert stage as cellist with the Concord String Quartet, a group that won the Naumburg Chamber Music Award, an Emmy and several Grammy nominations, and recorded over forty works on RCA Red Seal, Vox, Nonesuch, Turnabout, and CRI.

In addition to performing the major concertos, Mr. Fischer has premiered and recorded many new scores for cello and orchestra. His chamber music expertise has led to guest appearances with the Juilliard, Cleveland, Emerson, Chiara, Chester, Blair, Schoenberg, Ciompi, Mendelssohn, and Audubon string quartets, the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, Chamber Music Ann Arbor, Chamber Music International, CONTEXT, and Da Camera of Houston.

Norman Fischer and pianist Jeanne Kierman perform together as the Fischer Duo, and in 2001 they celebrated the 30th anniversary of their founding. The Fischer Duo has been widely praised by music critics for its choice of repertoire. Thoroughly versed in the classical repertoire of Beethoven, Brahms, and Schumann, the Fischer Duo has acquired an equally impressive reputation for rediscovering neglected works of the past (Busoni, Foote, Boulanger, and Liszt). They have commissioned many new scores by contemporary composers such as George Rochberg, David Stock, Robert Sirota, Augusta Read Thomas, Richard Lavenda, Pierre Jalbert, Anthony Brandt, Shih-Hui Chen, and Richard Wilson. In October 2002 they launched a new chamber music festival in Vermont with violinist Curtis Macomber.