



THE ST. LAWRENCE STRING QUARTET

SCOTT ST. JOHN, VIOLIN

* MARK FEWER, VIOLIN

LESLEY ROBERTSON, VIOLA

CHRISTOPHER COSTANZA, CELLO

* Mark Fewer has graciously agreed to perform with the St. Lawrence String Quartet during Geoff Nuttall's paternity leave.

NOVEMBER 18, 2011



*This concert is presented in conjunction with MusicFest Vancouver,
as part of the Windsor Plywood Spectacular Music B.C.*

About the St. Lawrence String Quartet



Mark Fewer, violin
Scott St. John, violin
Lesley Robertson, viola
Christopher Costanza, cello

"A sound that has just about everything one wants from a quartet, most notably precision, warmth and an electricity that conveys the excitement of playing whatever is on their stands at the moment."

- The New York Times

The St. Lawrence String Quartet (SLSQ) has established itself among the world-class chamber ensembles of its generation. Its mission: bring every piece of music to the audience in vivid color, with pronounced communication and teamwork, and great respect to the composer. Since winning both the Banff International String Quartet Competition and Young Concert Artists International Auditions in 1992, the quartet has delighted audiences with its spontaneous, passionate, and dynamic performances. 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."

SLSQ maintains a busy touring schedule. Some 2011/12 season highlights include visits to Baltimore, Cincinnati, Ann Arbor Toronto, Philadelphia, Montreal, Durham, and New Orleans, as well as a return to Australia in spring, 2012. During the summer season, SLSQ is proud to continue its long association with the Spoleto Festival in Charleston, SC and Bay Chamber Concerts in Rockport, Maine.

Since 1998 the SLSQ has held the position of Ensemble in Residence at Stanford University. Violist Lesley Robertson is a founding member of the group, and hails from Edmonton Alberta. Cellist Christopher Costanza is from Utica, NY and joined the quartet in 2003. Violinists Scott St. John grew up in London Ontario; Newfoundland-born violinist, Mark Fewer who replaces founding member Geoff Nuttall on the current tour is well known on the West Coast, having served as Concertmaster of the Vancouver Symphony from 2004 to 2008.

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St. Lawrence String Quartet

Scott St. John, violin
Mark Feuer, violin
Lesley Robertson, viola
Christopher Costanza, cello

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770-1827)

String Quartet in C minor, Op. 18, No. 4
Allegro ma non tanto
Scherzo (Andante scherzoso quasi Allegretto)
Menuetto (Allegretto)
Allegro-Prestissimo

Oswaldo Golijov
(1960 -)

Kohelet (2011) [Hebrew for Ecclesiastes]

INTERMISSION

Franz Schubert
(1797-1828)

String Quartet in G major, Op. 161 (D. 887)
Allegro molto moderato
Andante un poco moto
Scherzo: Allegro vivace
Allegro assai

The St. Lawrence String Quartet appears by arrangement with
David Rowe Artists
www.davidroweartists.com

St. Lawrence String recordings can be heard on
EMI Classics and ArtistShare
(www.artistshare.com)

The St. Lawrence String Quartet is Ensemble-in-Residence
at Stanford University
www.slsq.com

Programme Notes

Ludwig Van Beethoven (1770-1827) Quartet in C minor, Op. 18 No. 4

Beethoven waited until 1800 to tackle the genre of the string quartet. Mozart and Haydn had already established Vienna as the world's String Quartet capital but when Beethoven published his first set of quartets the young man from Bonn was clearly established as a worthy successor.

C minor was the key of choice when Beethoven wished to convey something of particular urgency and drama. And C minor is the key of the String Quartet, Op. 18 No. 4, the only quartet of the set in a minor key. It's also the key of the Fifth Symphony, and the Pathétique sonata

Oswaldo Golijov: Kohelet

Kohelet is a work in progress. It was composed for the St. Lawrence String Quartet, and was co-commissioned by Carnegie Hall and Stanford Lively Arts with the generous support of Kathryn Gould. It was premiered in its initial version just last month at Stanford University. In it, Mr. Golijov talks about trying to capture elusive wind and air, using tremolos to create a breathless quality - anxious, yet in passionate awe. Since each new performance of the work is likely to undergo changes - as guided by the ever present spirit of the composer - tonight's White Rock performance represents further "composition in action"

Franz Schubert (1797-1828) String Quartet in G, D.887

This is Schubert's final quartet, written in just eleven days in 1826. While his earliest quartets were written for family entertainment, by 1824, Schubert's 27th year, he had already composed two much more substantial works [including the Death and the Maiden]. The G major quartet turned out to be the last of his 15 quartets, and many view it as the crowning glory of his quartet writing. The work never received a complete public performance in his lifetime. Its première came in 1850, 22 years after his death.



Our Next Concert

PENTAEDRE, the wind quintet

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Friday, Jan 20, 2012

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