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Muir String Quartet, January 17, 2006

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A black and white photograph of the Boston skyline, featuring several skyscrapers, with their reflections clearly visible in the water in the foreground. The sky is bright, and the water shows ripples and reflections of the buildings and a bright light source.

BOSTON UNIVERSITY

College of Fine Arts School of Music

MUIR STRING QUARTET *in residence at Boston University*

PETER ZAZOFSKY violin
LUCIA LIN violin
STEVEN ANSELL viola
MICHAEL REYNOLDS cello
with ERIC RUSKE horn

noon

Friday, January 27, 2006

College of Fine Arts Concert Hall
855 Commonwealth Avenue

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Boston University College of Fine Arts



Friday, January 27, 2006 at noon
College of Fine Arts Concert Hall

Muir String Quartet
in residence at Boston University

PETER ZAZOFSKY violin
LUCIA LIN violin
STEVEN ANSELL viola
MICHAEL REYNOLDS cello
with ERIC RUSKE horn

WOLFGANG AMADÉ
MOZART
(1756-1791)

B flat Duo, K. 424

Adagio, Allegro
Andante cantabile
Andante grazioso

LUCIA LIN violin
STEVEN ANSELL viola

INTERMISSION

MOZART

Horn Quintet, K. 407

Allegro
Andante
Rondo (Allegro)

LUCIA LIN violin
STEVEN ANSELL viola
PETER ZAZOFSKY viola
MICHAEL REYNOLDS cello
ERIC RUSKE horn

The **Muir String Quartet**, in Residence at Boston University, begins its 27th anniversary this season. It has long been acknowledged as one of the world's most powerful and insightful ensembles, distinguishing itself among audiences and critics with its "exhilarating involvement" (Boston Globe), "impeccable voicing and intonation" (San Francisco Examiner) and "unbridled musicality" (American Record Guide).

Winner of the 1981 Naumburg Chamber Music Award and 1980 Evian International String Quartet Competition, the Muir first appeared on the scene in 1980, and was greeted with rave reviews and an extensive feature in the New Yorker. The quartet was also featured on the internationally acclaimed PBS broadcast, *In Performance at the White House* for President and Mrs. Reagan. Formed in 1979 following graduation from the Curtis Institute of Music, the Muir String Quartet's principal chamber music teachers were Felix Galimir and members of the Guarneri Quartet.

In its commitment to advancing contemporary American music, the Muir Quartet has had commissioned works written for them by such distinguished composers as Joan Tower (Night Fields), Sheila Silver (From Darkness Emerging), Richard Danielpour (Shadow Dances and Psalms of Sorrow – featured on CBS Sunday Morning), Richard Wilson (Third String Quartet), and Charles Fussell (Being Music –based on poetry of Walt Whitman). The quartet also gave the World Premiere performance of the Native American collaborative work, Circle of Faith, featured on National Public Radio. Recently-premiered works include those by esteemed American composers Richard Danielpour (Feast of Fools – for bassoon and string quartet), Lukas Foss (String Quartet #4), Ezra Laderman (String Quartets #9 and #10), and Joelle Wallach (String Quartet #3).

The Muir Quartet has been in residence at Boston University's School of Music since 1983, and gives annual summer workshops at the Boston University Tanglewood Institute (BUTI). The Muir has also given master classes at schools nationwide, including the Eastman School of Music, the Curtis Institute, and the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University in Houston, Texas. For over a decade, the quartet has taught, coached, and administered the Advanced Quartet Program at the Summit Institute for the Arts and Humanities in Utah, formerly the Snowbird Institute now in Park City, Utah, where the Muir works in tandem with composer Joan Tower.

In keeping with the quartet's namesake, the great naturalist, explorer and Sierra Club Founder, John Muir, the quartet donates proceeds from its much-touted EcoClassics CDs to a variety of environmental and conservation organizations. Its recording of the Beethoven Quartets (Op. 132 and the Grosse Fugue) on this label received a 1995 Grammy nomination. The most recent EcoClassics release is a mixed repertoire CD with flutist Carol Wincenc and baritone Douglas Webster. The Muir can also be heard on recording for ADDA/Qualiton and EMI, for which it received two Grand Prix du Disque.

Highlights of recent and upcoming appearances include cities such as New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Philadelphia, Detroit, Vancouver, Montreal, Seattle, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Phoenix, Toronto, Houston, and Minneapolis. The quartet's busy European concert schedule also takes them frequently throughout Germany, France, Austria, Switzerland, Belgium, and the Netherlands.

The Muir has been lauded for its stunning performances of complete Beethoven String Quartet cycles of Boston, Providence, Salt Lake City, Bozeman (Montana), the University of Maryland, and on the prestigious Slee Series in Buffalo.

ERIC RUSKE horn

Eric Ruske is an Associate Professor of horn at Boston University School of Music, and has established himself as an artist of international acclaim. Named Associate Principal horn of The Cleveland Orchestra at the age of 20, his impressive solo career began when he won the 1986 Young Concert Artists International Auditions, First Prize in the 1987 American Horn Competition, and in 1988, the highest prize in the Concours International d'Interprétation Musicale in Reims, France.

Of his recording of the complete Mozart Concerti with Sir Charles Mackerras and the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, the New York Times stated, "Mr. Ruske's approach, firmly positioned with the boundaries of balance, coherence and good taste that govern the Classical style, enchants by virtue of its confidence, imagination and ebullient virtuosity."

Performances as soloist include appearances with the Baltimore Symphony, the Indianapolis Symphony, the Shanghai Radio Broadcast Symphony, The Cleveland Orchestra, the European Camerata, the Boston Pops Orchestra, the Seoul Philharmonic and the Israel Chamber Orchestra. His recitals have been presented in venues such as the Louvre in Paris, the 92nd Street Y in New York, the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. and Dukes Hall in London.

An active chamber musician, he has appeared at the Newport Music Festival, the Spoleto Festival, the OK Mozart International Festival, the Evian Festival, La Musica in Sarasota, Bargemusic in Brooklyn, and the Festival Pablo Casals both in Puerto Rico and in France. Eric Ruske is in great demand as a teacher and clinician, and in addition to having worked at many universities in the United States, he has taught at the Royal Academy of Music in London, the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing, the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in Glasgow, and the College of Music at Seoul National University.

His discography includes solo recordings for Telarc, Musical Heritage Society, Fleur de Son, and Albany Records. His most recent recording, a second disc of horn and piano virtuoso transcriptions was released on Albany Records in October 2003. A native of LaGrange, Illinois and a graduate of Northwestern University, Eric Ruske also directs the Horn Workshop at the Boston University Tanglewood Institute.

**BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC
UPCOMING EVENTS AND PERFORMANCES**

Friday, January 27, 8pm

Mozart's 250th Birthday Concert
ROBERT MERFELD piano
BAYLA KEYES violin
MICHELLE LACOURSE viola
MICHAEL REYNOLDS cello
JAYNE WEST soprano
LIJIONG LIAO and MAIA TRAVERS violin
PETER CAMA-LEKX viola
CHARLSIE HANSON cello
Violin sonata in E flat Major, K. 481
Piano Concerto No. 12 in A Major, K. 414
Selections from Mozart Operas
Piano quartet in G minor, K. 477
CFA Concert Hall

Tuesday, January 31, 8pm

Boston University Symphony Orchestra
DAVID HOOSE conductor
READ *Night Flight*
MAHLER Symphony No. 1
Tsai Performance Center

Wednesday, February 1, 8pm

ALEA III
THEODORE ANTONIOU director
Now and Then
JONATHAN GIRARD
and YIANNIS HADJILOIZOU conductors
Tsai Performance Center

Tuesday, February 7, 8pm

**Honoring Roman Totenberg
on his 95th birthday**
Works by Saint-Saens
and Rakmaninov
Tsai Performance Center

Friday, February 3, 8:30pm

String Department Bach Winners' Concert
CFA Concert Hall

Tuesday, February 7, 8pm

**Honoring Roman Totenberg
on his 95th birthday**
Works by Saint-Saens
and Rakmanir
Tsai Performance Cen.

Saturday, February 11, 8pm

**Boston University Chamber Chorus,
Women's Chorale,
and Concert Choir**
ANN HOWARD JONES conductor
CFA Concert Hall

Thursday, February 16, 7:30pm

Friday, February 17, 8pm

Saturday, February 18, 8pm

Sunday, February 19, 2pm

DON GIOVANNI
WILLIAM LUMPKIN, music director
CHUCK HODSON guest stage director
In Italian with supertitles by Allison Voth
Mainstage, Boston University Theatre

Tuesday, February 21, 8pm

Musicology Lecture Series
JANET SCHMALFELDT, Tufts University
"Beethoven's 'Bridgetower' Sonata, Op. 47"
CFA Room 216

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