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2010-01-20

# Muir String Quartet, January 20, 2010

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**Boston University College of Fine Arts**  
**School of Music**  
presents

## **Muir String Quartet**

in residence at Boston University

Peter Zazofsky, violin

Lucia Lin, violin

Steven Ansell, viola

Michael Reynolds, cello

**Wednesday**

**January 20, 2010**

7:30pm

Tsai Performance Center

Founded in 1873, the **School of Music** combines the intimacy and intensity of conservatory training with a broadly based, traditional liberal arts education at the undergraduate level and intense coursework at the graduate level. The school offers degrees in performance, composition and theory, musicology, music education, collaborative piano, historical performance, as well as a certificate program in its Opera Institute, and artist and performance diplomas.

In 1954, the **College of Fine Arts** was created to bring together the School of Music, along with two new entities: the School of Theatre and the School of Visual Arts. The University's vision was to create a community of artists in a conservatory-style school offering professional training in the arts to both undergraduate and graduate students, complemented by a liberal arts curriculum for undergraduate students. Since those early days, education at the College of Fine Arts has begun on the BU campus and extended into the city of Boston, a rich center of cultural, artistic and intellectual activity.

**Boston University**, founded in 1839, is an internationally recognized institution of higher education and research. With more than 30,000 students, it is the fourth largest independent university in the United States. BU contains 17 colleges and schools, along with a number of multi-disciplinary centers and institutes that are central to the school's research and teaching mission.

**Boston University** College of Fine Arts  
School of Music

Muir String Quartet  
The Beethoven Cycle: Part II  
The 113<sup>th</sup> event in the 2009–10 season

October 7, 2009  
Tsai Performance Center

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Ludwig van Beethoven    Quartet in E-Flat Major, op. 74  
(1770–1827)

Poco Adagio—Allegro  
Adagio ma non troppo  
Presto  
Allegretto con Variazioni

Quartet in G Major, op. 18, No. 2

Allegro  
Adagio cantabile  
Scherzo, Allegro  
Allegro molto, quasi Presto

~Intermission~

Quartet in C-sharp Minor, op. 131

Adagio ma non troppo e molto espressivo  
Allegro molto vivace  
Allegro moderato  
Andante ma non troppo e molto cantabile  
Presto  
Adagio quasi un poco andante  
Allegro

## MUIR STRING QUARTET

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The Muir String Quartet, in Residence at Boston University, begins its 30th 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 Naumberg 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 by 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 No. 4*), Ezra Laderman (*String Quartets Nos. 9 and 10*), and Joelle Wallach (*String Quartet No. 3*).

The Muir Quartet has been in residence at Boston University's School of Music since 1983, and coaches students of the String Quartet Workshop at the Boston University Tanglewood Institute. 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 a recording for DDA/Qualiton and EMI, for which it received two Grand Prix du Disque.

# BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND PERFORMANCES

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Monday, January 25, 7:30pm

**The Voice of the Violin:  
It's All About Strings**  
Bayla Keyes, violin  
*Tsai Performance Center*

Tuesday, January 26, 7:30pm

**Guest Artist Recital Series**  
Dai Uk Lee, piano  
*Concert Hall*

Wednesday, January 27, 7:30pm

**ALEA III:  
A Young Composers' Workshop**  
Iakovos Konitopoulos, conductor  
*Tsai Performance Center*

Thursday, January 28, 6:30pm

**Visiting Artist Residency:**  
Masterclass with Grace Bumbry, soprano  
*Concert Hall*

Tuesday, February 2, 7:30pm

**Bach Competition Winners' Concert**  
*Concert Hall*

Thursday, February 4, 7:30pm

**Faculty Recital Series**  
Boaz Sharon, piano  
*Tsai Performance Center*

Friday, February 5, 7:30pm

**Boston University Choral Ensembles**  
Ann Howard Jones, conductor  
*Concert Hall*

Tuesday, February 9, 7:30pm

**Boston University Symphony Orchestra**  
David Hoose, conductor  
*Tsai Performance Center*

For more information on our events, please contact our office at (617) 353-8790.

**Concert Hall, 855 Commonwealth Avenue**  
**Tsai Performance Center, 685 Commonwealth Avenue**

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# MUIR STRING QUARTET: THE BEETHOVEN CYCLE

March 3, 2010, 7:30pm

Quartets in A Major, op. 18, No. 5;  
B-flat Major, op. 130  
*Tsai Performance Center*

April 20, 2010, 7:00pm

Quartets in C Minor, op. 18 No. 4;  
F Major, op. 135; E Minor, op. 59 No. 2  
*Metcalf Trustee Center*

**Tsai Performance Center, 685 Commonwealth Avenue**  
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