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2009-01-23

# Muir String Quartet, January 23, 2009

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

**Menahem Pressler, piano**

**Muir String Quartet**

in residence at Boston University

Peter Zazofsky, violin

Lucia Lin, violin

Steven Ansell, viola

Michael Reynolds, cello

**Friday**

**January 23, 2009**

7:30pm

Wai Performance Center

Here, a desired life in music is grounded in great teaching, demanding performance, solid scholarship and devoted love of the art. We are a community wholly in love with the study of, creation of, performance of, MUSIC!

- Phyllis Curtin, Dean *Emerita*  
Boston University College of Fine Arts



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

January 23, 2009

Tsai Performance Center

Menahem Pressler, piano

Muir String Quartet

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String Quartet No. 4 (1998)

Lukas Foss  
(b. 1922)

- I. Contrasts
- II. Chaconne
- III. Chaotic Interlude
- IV. Fugue
- V. Chorale

String Quartet in F major

Maurice Ravel  
(1875-1937)

- Allegro Moderato. Tres Doux
- Assez Vif. Tres Rythme
- Tres Lent
- Vif Et Agite

-Intermission-

Piano Quintet in A major, op. 81

Antonin Dvorák  
(1841-1904)

- Allegro ma non tanto
- Dumka, Andante con moto
- Un pochettino piu mosso
- Scherzo (Furiant), Molto vivace
- Finale, Allegro

## MENAHM PRESSLER

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Menahem Pressler, founding member and pianist of the Beaux Arts Trio, has established himself among the world's most distinguished and honored musicians, with a career that spans over five decades.

Professor Pressler's world renowned career was launched after he was awarded first prize at the Debussy International Piano Competition in San Francisco in 1946. This was followed by his successful American debut with the Philadelphia Orchestra under the baton of Maestro Eugene Ormandy. Since then, Pressler's extensive tours of North America and Europe have included performances with the orchestras of New York, Chicago, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Dallas, San Francisco, London, Paris, Brussels, Oslo, Helsinki and many others.

In 2007 Menahem Pressler was appointed as an Honorary Fellow of the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance in recognition of a lifetime of performance and leadership in music. In 2005 Pressler received two additional awards of International merit: the German President's Deutsche Bundesverdienstkreuz (Cross of Merit) First Class, Germany's highest honor, and France's highest cultural honor, the Commandeur in the Order of Arts and Letters award.

Pressler has received honorary doctorates from the University of Nebraska and the North Carolina School of the Arts, five Grammy nominations (including one in 2006) a lifetime achievement award from Gramophone magazine, Chamber Music America's Distinguished Service Award, the Gold Medal of Merit from the National Society of Arts and Letters. He has also been awarded the German Critics "Ehrenurkunde" award, and was elected into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Internationally active as soloist and chamber musician, additional honors include England's Record of the Year Award and Ensemble of the Year from Musical America in 1997. In addition to his busy schedule as a performer, he has given master classes in Germany, France, Canada, and Argentina, and continues to serve on the jury of the Van Cliburn, Queen Elisabeth, and Artur Schnabel competitions.

The 1955 Berkshire Music Festival saw Menahem Pressler's debut as a chamber musician, where he appeared as pianist with the Beaux Arts Trio. This collaboration quickly established Pressler's reputation as one of the world's most revered chamber musicians. His other chamber music collaborations have included multiple performances with the Juilliard, Emerson, Guarneri and Cleveland Quartets.

In addition to over fifty recordings with the Beaux Arts Trio, Menahem Pressler has compiled over thirty solo recordings, ranging from the works of Bach to Ben Haim.

The 83-year old pianist fled the Nazis from his hometown of Magdeburg, Germany, in 1938, emigrating to Israel. His life has always been completely devoted to his music. When not on tour with the Beaux Arts Trio, giving solo performances, or teaching master classes, Pressler can be found teaching at Indiana University, where he holds the rank of Distinguished Professor. Pressler lives in Bloomington, Indiana with his wife Sara.

## 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 (*Snow Dances and Psalms of Sorrow* - featured on CBS Sunday Morning), Richard Wagnon (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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Tuesday, January 27, 7:30pm

**Faculty Recital Series**  
JAMES DEMLER baritone  
SHIELA KIBBE piano  
*Tsai Performance Center*

Wednesday, February 4, 7:30pm

**ALEA III: When the Piano Acts**  
KONSTANTINOS PAPADAKISK piano  
LORENDAM RAMOU piano  
*Tsai Performance Center*

Friday, February 6, 7:30pm

**Faculty Recital Series**  
BAYLA KEYES violin  
ROBERT MERFELD piano  
*CFA Concert Hall*

Monday, February 10, 7:30pm

**Boston University Symphony Orchestra**  
DAVID HOOSE conductor  
*Tsai Performance Center*

Friday, February 13, 7:30pm

**Boston University Choral Ensembles**  
*Marsh Chapel*

Wednesday, February, 18, 7:30pm

**Boston University Tanglewood  
Institute Benefit Concert**  
*Tsai Performance Center*

February 19-22

**Boston University Mainstage Opera**  
*Thérèse Raquin*  
TOBIAS PICKER music  
GENE SCHEER libretto  
WILLIAM LUMPKIN conductor  
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For more information on our events, please contact the School of Music office at (617) 353-3341.

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*For more information on how you can support the Boston University College of Fine Arts and School of Music, please contact Chris Santos, Director of Development and Alumni Relations, Boston University College of Fine Arts, 855 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02215, at 617-353-2048 or [ccsantos@bu.edu](mailto:ccsantos@bu.edu).*



## **BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC**

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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.

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