

STANFORD LIVELY ARTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STANFORD LIVELY ARTS PRESENTS GRAMMY-WINNING EMERSON STRING QUARTET ON OCTOBER 28

The quartet celebrates the work of Haydn and Mendelssohn in a twin bicentenary program

Stanford, CA, September 24, 2009—The multiple Grammy Award–winning **Emerson String Quartet** returns to Dinkelspiel Auditorium in a concert presented by Stanford Lively Arts on Wednesday, October 28, at 8:00 p.m. With a twin bicentenary program, the group commemorates the passing of Franz Joseph Haydn (d. May 31, 1809)—one of the titans of the Classical period—and the birth of the great Romantic composer Felix Mendelssohn (b. February 3, 1809).

From Haydn’s vast oeuvre, the Emerson performs *The Seven Last Words on the Cross*, one of the composer’s most meditative works, composed as an orchestral composition for a Lenten service at the Cathedral of Cádiz and later arranged for string quartet by Haydn. From Mendelssohn, the Emerson has selected what is generally considered the composer’s final major work, the String Quartet No. 6.

“Celebrating the 200th anniversary of Mendelssohn’s birth and commemorating the life of Joseph Haydn, who died the same year Mendelssohn was born, we focus on the serious, somber side of these composers for this program,” says the group. “The *Seven Last Words* is a meditation on the life and death of the Savior, offered by a devout Catholic. Mendelssohn’s Opus 80 is a brooding, obsessive work, composed in the wake of his beloved sister’s death and not long before his own.”

Stanford Lively Arts’ presentation of the Emerson String Quartet is generously supported by **John and Mary Felstiner**.

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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Formed in 1976, the **Emerson String Quartet** (**Eugene Drucker** and **Philip Setzer**, violin; **Lawrence Dutton**, viola; and **David Finckel**, cello) stands alone in the history of string quartets with an unparalleled list of achievements over three decades: thirty acclaimed recordings produced with Deutsche Grammophon since 1987, eight Grammy Awards (including two for Best Classical Album, an unprecedented honor for a chamber music group), three Gramophone Awards, the coveted Avery Fisher Prize and cycles of the complete Beethoven, Bartók, Mendelssohn, and Shostakovich string quartets in the world's musical capitals.

The 2009–10 season comprises more than ninety worldwide engagements, with a three-concert series at Queen Elizabeth Hall in South Bank Centre, two concerts at London's Wigmore Hall, and performances in Prague, Edinburgh, and multiple stops in Spain, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, and France. North American engagements are highlighted by a three-concert series entitled *Adventures in Bohemia* at Lincoln Center with a correlated 3-CD set for Deutsche Grammophon of Dvorák's late quartets, *Cypresses*, and the viola quintet. In 2010, the Quartet embarks on a rare tour of Asia, visiting Seoul, Tokyo, Hong Kong and Taipei. The Quartet continues its residency at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC, now in its 30th sold-out season, and is Quartet-in-Residence at Stony Brook University.

TICKETS

Tickets the **Emerson String Quartet**, presented by **Stanford Lively Arts on Wednesday, October 28 at 8:00 p.m.** at Dinkelspiel Auditorium, are priced at \$40 to \$46 for adults and \$10 for Stanford students. Half-price tickets are available for young people age 18 and under, and discounts are also available for groups and non-Stanford students. For tickets and more information, call 650-725-ARTS (2787), or visit livelyarts.stanford.edu.

VENUE INFORMATION

Dinkelspiel Auditorium is located on the Stanford University campus at 471 Lagunita Drive, adjacent to Tresidder Union. Parking on campus is free of charge after 4:00 p.m. and on weekends at all times and may be found in the lot off Lagunita Drive near Tresidder Memorial Union and on Abbott Way. Maps and directions maybe accessed at <http://livelyarts.stanford.edu>.

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ABOUT STANFORD LIVELY ARTS

Stanford Lively Arts curates experiences that engage artists' and audiences' imagination, creativity, and sense of adventure. Founded in 1969 at Stanford University, we produce and present music, theater, dance, spoken word, and multi-media events. We place a special focus on innovation and risk-taking, and through commissions and premieres are an incubator and destination for new work. Stanford Lively Arts plays a leading and collaborative role in the university's thriving vision of a sustained culture of creativity—one in which the arts integrate with the academic disciplines, flourish as a vital part of campus and community life, and inspire new perspectives on our lives and culture.

NOTE TO EDITORS

High-resolution images can be accessed at livelyarts.stanford.edu/presscenter.

CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

What: **EMERSON STRING QUARTET**

Program: Franz Joseph Haydn (1732–1809):
The Seven Last Words of Our Savior on the Cross, op. 51, Hob. III: 50–56 (1787)
Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847):
String Quartet in F Minor, op. 80 (1847)

Where: Dinkelspiel Auditorium, 471 Lagunita Drive, Stanford University

When: Wednesday, October 28 at 8:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$40/\$46 (adult); \$10 (Stanford student)

Description: The eight-time Grammy-winning Emerson String Quartet returns with a twin bicentenary commemoration, marking the passing of Joseph Haydn—one of the titans of the Classical period—and the birth of the great Romantic composer Felix Mendelssohn. From Haydn's vast oeuvre, the Emerson performs *The Seven Last Words on the Cross*, one of the composer's most meditative works, composed as an orchestral composition for a Lenten service at the Cathedral of Cádiz and later arranged for string quartet by Haydn. From Mendelssohn, the Emerson has selected what is generally considered the composer's final major work, the String Quartet No. 6, written shortly after the death of Mendelssohn's sister Fanny, and just two months before his own passing.

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