

STANFORD LIVELY ARTS

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ST. LAWRENCE STRING QUARTET LAUNCHES 2009–10 *SUNDAYS WITH THE ST. LAWRENCE* SERIES WITH HAYDN CELEBRATION ON NOVEMBER 1

Stanford, CA, October 8, 2009—In the opening performance of its *Sundays with the St. Lawrence* series, Stanford Lively Arts presents the **St. Lawrence String Quartet**—violinists **Geoff Nuttall** and **Scott St. John**, violist **Lesley Robertson**, and cellist **Christopher Costanza**—on Sunday, November 1, at 2:30 p.m. at Dinkelspiel Auditorium. The ensemble will commemorate the bicentenary year of Franz Joseph Haydn’s death (d. May 31, 1809) by performing a range of music across the composer’s output: Op. 2, no. 1 quartet; Op. 20, no. 4; Op. 54, no. 2; and Op. 77, no. 1 (one of his last large-scale quartets). Prior to the performance, Stanford composer and SLSQ collaborator Jonathan Berger will explore Haydn’s surprising influence upon the Beatles in a free pre-concert discussion at 1:30 p.m.

“One of the greatest thrills in the life of a string quartet is the opportunity to play the amazing quartets of Franz Joseph Haydn, the father of the string quartet,” says cellist Christopher Costanza. “It’s true—Haydn created the string quartet as a new art form and wrote a huge body of work for the ensemble, over 70 brilliantly innovative works. We hope that this glimpse into the great mind of Haydn inspires audiences to become devoted and passionate Haydn quartet fans.”

Lively Arts’ three-concert *Sundays with the St. Lawrence* series is in its sixth season and is presented in partnership with **Music at Stanford**. The foursome will also join forces with **Michael Tree**, violist of the esteemed Guarneri Quartet, in a program of viola quintets (including a new work from Argentinean composer **Ezequiel Viñao**, co-commissioned by Lively Arts and the Library of Congress) on January 31; and with two returning collaborators, **Pedja Muzijevic** (piano) and **Tony Manzo** (bass), to close the series on April 18 with Schubert’s “Trout Quintet,” Lanner Waltzes, and Britten’s String Quartet no. 2.

Sunday’s with the St. Lawrence is generously supported by **Paul and Iris Brest**.

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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

The St. Lawrence String Quartet won both the Banff International String Quartet Competition and Young Concert Artists Auditions in 1992, launching a career that has included performances throughout Europe, Asia, and North and South America. Throughout its 20-year history, the quartet has shown a commitment to both artistry and education. The artists have served on Stanford's music faculty and as the university's ensemble-in-residence since 1998. Beyond the hundred-plus concerts it performs each year, the quartet holds an annual chamber music institute for advanced students and adult amateurs at Stanford and engages in numerous community outreach activities.

First violinist and founding member Geoff Nuttall began playing the violin at the age of eight after moving to London, Ontario, from Texas. Violist and founding member Lesley Robertson met Nuttall in the late 1980s. Cellist Christopher Costanza joined the ensemble in 2003 after performing for many years with the Chicago String Quartet. The newest member of the quartet, violinist Scott St. John, from London, Ontario made his debut three season ago.

TICKETS

Tickets for the **St. Lawrence String Quartet, presented by Lively Arts on Sunday, November 1 at 2:30 p.m.** at Dinkelspiel Auditorium, are \$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 available for groups and non-Stanford students. Call 650-725-ARTS (2787) or visit <http://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 are available on the Lively Arts Web site at <http://livelyarts.stanford.edu>.

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.

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NOTE TO EDITORS

High-resolution images can be accessed at <http://livelyarts.stanford.edu/presscenter/>.

CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

What: **ST. LAWRENCE STRING QUARTET**
Program: *Haydn Celebration*
Quartet in A, op. 2, no. 1 (Hob. III:7) (1757–62)
Quartet in D, op. 20, no. 4 (Hob. III:34) (1772)
Quartet in C major for strings op. 54, no.2, Hob III/57 (1788)
Quartet in G major op. 77, no.1, Hob III/81 (1799)
Where: Dinkelspiel Auditorium, Stanford University
When: Sunday, November 1 at 2:30 p.m.
Tickets: \$40/\$46 (Adult); \$10 (Stanford student)

Description: Stanford's resident ensemble launches its three-concert *Sundays with the St. Lawrence* series with a program of Haydn quartets to commemorate bicentenary year of the composer's death. The St. Lawrence will present a range of music across Haydn's output and, as a special bonus, Stanford composer and SLSQ collaborator Jonathan Berger will explore Haydn's surprising influence upon the Beatles in a free pre-concert discussion.

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