

Prazak String Quartet to give first performance of 1990-91 Chamber Series at UCSD

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THE PRAZAK STRING QUARTET TO KICK OFF UCSD 1990-91 CHAMBER SERIES

The Prazak Quartet from Czechoslovakia will give the first performance of the 1990-91 Chamber Music Series at the University of California, San Diego, at 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 20, in the Mandeville Auditorium. This is the series' 16th anniversary.

The members are: violinists Vaclav Remes and Vlastomil Holek, violist Josef Kluson and cellist Michael Kanka. The program: Mozart: Quartet in A Major, K. 464; Janacek: Quartet No. 2, and Beethoven: Quartet in A minor, Op. 132.

The ensemble was formed after its members met at the Prague Music Conservatory. The next year, 1973, the quartet made its debut in a series of concerts in Finland. The ensemble received national critical recognition in 1975 when it debuted at the world renowned International Prague Spring Festival.

Since then, the Prazak Quartet has earned its place among the finest international string quartets, with performances in major cities in Europe, Great Britain, Japan, Australia and North America.

The Prazak has collaborated with members of the Smetana and La Salle quartets in performances both onstage and on European radio. The group has recorded on the Supraphon, Panton and Orfeo labels, and has recently signed with an Italian company, Nuova Era, to record the quartets of Haydn, Mozart and the complete Beethoven cycle.

The quartet has received numerous awards, including first prize at the Chamber Music Competition, arranged by the Prague Conservatory, to celebrate the Year of Czech Music (1974); the Grand Prix at the Evian International String Quartet Competition (also capturing the Radio France special prize for the best recording during that competition); first prize at the National Competition of String Quartets in Czechoslovakia (1978); and grand prize at the String Quartet Competition of the International Prague Spring Festival, including the prize for the best performance of a contemporary composition, and the Lord Mayor of Prague Award for the most outstanding ensemble in the competition.

The Prazak (the name means "Prague residents") is also known for its outstanding interpretations of works by Czech composers Smetana and Janacek. For example, Robert Finn, a music critic with the Cleveland newspaper Plain Dealer, said in a review in January 1989, "...they performed Janacek's "incredibly personal and passionate 'Intimate Letters' quartet...one could hardly have asked for a more eloquent or committed performance than the Prazak Quartet gave to this piece."

Season tickets for the UCSD Chamber Music Series are \$85 for orchestra, and \$75 for the main floor. All performances are held at 8 p.m. in the UCSD Mandeville Auditorium. To subscribe, call the UCSD Events Office

at 534-4090. Parking directions and permits are available from the information pavilions at Gilman and Northview drives.

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