

Manhattan String Quartet to perform March 29 at UCSD

March 6, 1998

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"Time to open the dictionary and use up the superlatives," writes the Des Moines Register. "The Manhattan String Quartet deserves every one, and probably some that haven't been thought up yet."

The Manhattan String Quartet will perform at 8 p.m. March 29 in Mandeville Auditorium at the University of California, San Diego. The performance is sponsored by the UCSD University Events Office.

Ensemble members are Eric Lewis, violin; Kenneth Freed, violin; John Dexter, viola, and Chris Finckel, cello. The March 29 program will include Beethoven: Quartet in G Major, Opus 18, No. 2; Berg: Lyric Suite, and Brahms: Quartet in A minor, No. 2.

Described by the Albany Times Union as a dramatic and intense quartet that "can send listeners on a roller-coaster ride that leaves them nearly as emotionally drained as the performers," the Manhattan String Quartet performed a series of concerts in Moscow and Leningrad (now St. Petersburg) in 1985 and was the first American classical ensemble to give a full tour of the Soviet Union in 1986. Its sold-out performances that year were followed by an equally successful tour in 1989.

In addition to this groundbreaking work in Russia, the quartet has appeared throughout the United States, Europe, Canada, South America and Mexico. It performs regularly at such festivals as the Rockport Chamber Music Festival in Massachusetts, the Maverick Festival in Woodstock, N.Y., the Festival of the Sound in Parry Sound, Canada, and the Festival de Musica de Camera in Mexico.

The Manhattan String Quartet has established an international reputation as today's preeminent interpreter of the 15 string quartets of Dmitri Shostakovich. Its six-CD set of the complete Shostakovich cycle on the ESS.A.Y label was the only chamber music recording to make TIME magazine's "Best of 1991" classical list. Parade magazine writes: "The Manhattan String Quartet blends understanding, cohesion and sharpness to convey the breadth and brilliance of these involving works," and the Washington Times calls the work "passionate and ultimately exhilarating."

The ensemble is quartet-in-residence at Colgate University. It has held similar posts at Connecticut's Music Mountain Festival, the Manhattan School of Music, Cornell University, Grinnell College, Western Connecticut State University, the Corfu Festival in Greece, the Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes in Mexico, the Chamber Music Institute in Racine, Wis., and Michigan's Interlochen National Music Camp.

The Boston Globe calls the Manhattan String Quartet "a national treasure."

Tickets for the March 29 performance at UCSD are \$20 general admission and \$10 for students. Tickets are available at the UCSD Box Office, 534-8497, and at Ticketmaster outlets. For further information, call the UCSD University Events Office at 534-4090.

(March 6, 1998)