

The Thouvenel Quartet to perform at UCSD

November 18, 1985

THE THOUVENEL QUARTET TO PLAY AT UCSD ON DEC. 6

The Thouvenel Quartet, one of the first American classical music groups ever to be sponsored directly by the government of the People's Republic of China, will perform works of contemporary composers Ernst Krenek and Robert Erickson in concert at 8 p.m., Dec. 6, in the Mandeville Auditorium at the University of California, San Diego.

The concert is part of a three-day UCSD Department of Music festival honoring Krenek's 85th year. The Thouvenel Quartet is known for having performed all seven of the Krenek Quartets, and is responsible for enticing the composer to write Quartet No. 8, which he did in 1981, especially for the Thouvenel. The quartet is now in the process of recording all eight quartets for an Austrian recording company.

The program will include Krenek's quartets No. 8 and No. 5 and Erickson's "String Quartet," written in 1958. Erickson, a professor of music at UCSD, is a noted composer and a former student of Krenek.

The ensemble--violinists Eugene Purdue and Teresa Fream, violist Sally Chisholm and cellist Jeffrey Levenson--was formed in 1975 at the University of Indiana at Bloomington, where its members were all engaged in graduate study. The group is named after a nineteenth-century French cello maker, Henri Thouvenel. Levenson, who played a Thouvenel, was instrumental in naming the group.

The Thouvenel has been in residence in Midland, Texas, since 1977, where the members occupy the first chairs of the Midland-Odessa Symphony.

The ensemble made music history in 1979 at an eight-day Krenek Festival at the University of California, Santa Barbara when they presented, complete for the first time, a cycle of Krenek's seven string quartets. Every summer, the Thouvenel comes to San Diego where it conducts a week-long private workshop on quartet playing.

This year, the Thouvenel received an invitation from a Chinese cultural organization to conduct an unprecedented concert tour of China. This event was brought about by the signing of a cultural agreement by President Reagan in April 1984.

Music critic Charles Ward of the Houston Chronicle has said of the Thouvenel, "The Thouvenel players showed both a sophisticated comprehension of the difficult music and a first-rate ability to present the music with passion, conviction and technical assurance."

Tickets for the performance are \$5 for general admission and \$3 for students, and may be purchased from the UCSD Box Office and all TicketMaster outlets.

(November 18, 1985) Media contact: Irene Solomon, Dept. of Music, 452-3229 or Alixandra Williams, 452-3120