

French chamber ensemble, the Ysaye Quartet, to perform Feb. 9 in Mandeville Auditorium at UCSD

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Media Contact: Ruth Baily at University Events, 534-0497, or Jan Jennings, 534-0361

FRENCH CHAMBER ENSEMBLE, THE YSAYE QUARTET, TO PERFORM FEB. 9 IN MANDEVILLE AUDITORIUM AT UCSD

The Ysaye Quartet from France, praised by Paris's *Le Monde* for "delicacy of tone and a faultless style," will perform at 8 p.m. Feb. 9 in Mandeville Auditorium at the University of California, San Diego.

Ensemble members include Guillaume Sutre, violin; Luc-Marie Aguera, violin; Miguel Da Silva, viola, and Marc Coppey, cello. All are professors of chamber music at the Conservatoire National de la Region de Paris.

The Feb. 9 program will include Haydn: Quartet in C Major, Op. 54, No. 2; Wolf: Italian Serenade; Turina: La Oracion del Torero, and Brahms: Quartet in C minor, Op. 51, No. 1. The performance is sponsored by the UCSD University Events Office.

Formed in 1984 by four student musicians at the Paris Conservatoire, the Ysaye Quartet named itself after the premier Belgian violinist of the late 19th century, Eugene Ysaye (pronounced Yeesigh). The group achieved international acclaim in 1988 when it became the first French quartet to win the Grand Prize at the Evian Festival. Since then it has performed regularly in Europe's major cities and at its summer festivals, including Lockenhaus, Stresa, and Salzburg, and has toured Japan, Israel, Australia, and South America.

A London reviewer for the *Financial Times* wrote: "One was lost in admiration for the players' ability to maintain near-perfect ensemble, and gratified that their brilliant accuracy has nothing of scalpel-coldness about it, but serves a rich, warm communicative end."

The Ysaye Quartet is making its seventh North American tour. Subsequent tours have taken it to concert halls in cities including New York, Chicago, St. Louis, Vancouver, Los Angeles, Tucson, Boston, Washington, Montreal and Philadelphia, to name a few.

The *Washington Post* wrote: "The Ysaye is one of the finest examples of ensemble playing to be heard today. Individually, they are masters of technique but never sacrifice quality for sheer technical effect, always remaining within the bounds dictated by the composers."

And from the *Montreal Gazette*: "A most resourceful group of superb musicality and astounding ensemble spirit. These are intelligent musicians who not only play, but actually know how to interpret such difficult and virtuosic music."

The Ysaye Quartet records for London/Decca. Releases include the Ravel and Debussy quartets (1991), all the Mendelssohn quartets (1992 and 1994), and Mozart's "Haydn" quartets (1995). The Ysaye has also recorded Mozart works on the Harmonia Mundi label.

The Ysaye Quartet's international tours are made possible by financial assistance from the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

Tickets for the Feb. 9 performance of the Ysaye Quartet are \$20 general admission and \$10 for students. Tickets are available at the University Box Office, 534-6467, and at Ticketmaster outlets. For further information call 534-4090.

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