

'Exhilarating' Muir String Quartet to perform Nov. 20 at UCSD

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'EXHILARATING' MUIR STRING QUARTET TO PERFORM NOV. 20 AT UCSD

Playing with what the Boston Globe calls "sumptuous tone, exhilarating involvement, and extraordinary unanimity of purpose," the Muir String Quartet will perform at 8 p.m. Nov. 20 in Mandeville Auditorium at the University of California, San Diego.

"The Muir, as everyone by now knows," the Globe continues, "is a first-class ensemble. Its players perform everything under the sun."

Ensemble members are Peter Zazofsky, violin; Lucia Lin, violin; Steven Ansell, viola, and Michael Reynolds, cello. The Nov. 20 program will include Haydn: Quartet in E-flat Major, Opus. 33, No. 2; Beethoven: Quartet in F minor, Opus 95, and Brahms: Quartet in C minor, Opus 51, No. 1.

The Muir String Quartet last performed at UCSD's Mandeville Auditorium in January of 1998. Since that performance, violinist Lin, who received her master's degree in music from Rice University, has joined the ensemble.

"With Lucia Lin taking seat at second, the ensemble has lost nothing of its homogeneity, and it remains, as ever, a very strong technical ensemble," writes the Globe. "Particularly to be admired is the range of color that the ensemble commands color that's not merely effect, but that adds value to whatever they're playing in ways that are always appropriate and often probing."

The quartet is celebrating its 19th season with concerts in cities throughout North America. Its European tour takes it throughout Germany, France, Austria, Switzerland, Belgium, and the Netherlands.

Its concerts, writes the Kansas City Star, are "as exhilarating as any you'll hear from a string quartet anywhere; boldly played, firmly focused, sure of both means and ends."

The Muir String Quartet was formed at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia where its original members received their music degrees. It made its presence known to the chamber music world in 1980 when it won the Evian International String Quartet Competition and followed that up with the 1981 Naumburg Chamber Music Award. The Muir has been in residence at Boston University's School for the Arts since 1983, gives annual summer workshops at the Boston University Tanglewood Institute, and teaches at the Summit Institute for the Arts and Humanities in Utah.

The Muir has been lauded for performances of complete Beethoven string quartet cycles, and in addition to the performances of such revered quartet literature, it is committed to advancing contemporary American music. Over

this and the next season, it will premier four new works by American composers Richard Danielpour, Lucas Foss, Ezra Laderman and Joelle Wallach.

The quartet took its name from naturalist, explorer and Sierra Club founder John Muir and donates proceeds from its EcoClassics CDs to environmental and conservation organizations. It also records for ADDA/Qualiton and EMI.

Playing in concert "an amazingly huge sound but without any impression of forcing," writes the Kansas City Star, "the Muir's performance (is) as riveting as the music, like sunlight focused through a magnifying glass."

Tickets for the Muir String Quartet are \$22 general admission reserved seating and \$10 for students for advanced reserved seating, \$5 for students at the door. Tickets are available at the UCSD Box Office, 534-8497, and at Ticketmaster outlets at 220-8497. Parking is free on weekends. The concert is sponsored by the UCSD University Events Office. For information on the entire season of events sponsored by the University Events Office, visit the website, <http://ueo.ucsd.edu>, or call the UCSD University Events Office at 534-4090.

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