

## Hungary's Bartok Quartet to perform Feb. 27 at UCSD

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HUNGARY'S BARTOK QUARTET TO PERFORM FEB. 27 AT UCSD

The Bartok Quartet, praised by the New York Times as "clearly one of the great quartets of the world," will perform at 8 p.m. Feb. 27 in Mandeville Auditorium at the University of California, San Diego.

"The most immediately striking aspect of the playing," elaborates the Times, "is its technical perfection. Of the current quartets...only the Tokyo and the Guarneri can rival the Bartok."

Ensemble members are Peter Komlos, violin; Geza Hargitai, violin; Geza Nemeth, viola, and Laszlo Mezo, cello. The Feb. 27 program will include Mozart: String Quartet in G Major, KV 387; Bartok: String Quartet No. 5, and Beethoven: String Quartet in A minor, Opus 132.

"Where some quartets score their Bartok points through wiry counterpoint and savage rhythm," writes the Montreal Gazette, "this group prefer(s) to emphasize the poignancy of the composer's harmonic language."

The Bartok Quartet was formed in 1957 at the Franz List Academy of Music. The quartet received worldwide acclaim as prize winners at the International Haydn Competition in Budapest in 1959 and at the International Schumann Competition in Berlin the following year. Since then and a number of awards later, it has become recognized as Hungary's most distinguished chamber music ensemble and is the recipient of their country's highest award, the Kossuth Prize.

The Dallas Morning News compares the Bartok's unity in performance to the workings of a watch: "The decades-long collaboration of the Hungarian four has given them a remarkable unity of expression. They function as beautifully together as the parts of a fine Swiss watch."

The Bartok performs throughout the world including festivals at Tanglewood, Spoleto, Salzburg, Edinburgh, Aix-en-Provence and Lucerne. It has toured major music centers in North America, including those in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Boston, Dallas, Denver, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Baltimore, New Orleans, Quebec, Toronto and Montreal.

Though at home in repertory from the classical through the contemporary eras, the quartet is best known for performances of works by its namesake and fellow countryman, composer Bela Bartok (1881-1945).

Describing the Bartok foursome performing in Canada, the Toronto Star writes: "They are a suave musical assemblage, of decidedly romantic hue. Smooth string attacks and lots of vibrato. Even when they really dig in, the sound just grows warmer, not rugged. Plus they possess a sixth sense of unity that requires scarcely a glance one musician to another."

The group records on the Hungaroton label. They have recorded the complete Bartok quartet masterpieces, as well as works by Haydn, Mozart, Schubert, Beethoven, Brahms and contemporary composers.

The Feb. 27 performance at UCSD is sponsored by the UCSD University Events Office and as the Kalamazoo Gazette points out: "Those fortunate enough to hear the group live will cherish the occasion as one of the musical high points of a lifetime."

Tickets for the performance 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.

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