

Alexander String Quartet to perform March 31 at UCSD's Mandeville Auditorium

March 13, 1990

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THE ALEXANDER STRING QUARTET TO PERFORM AT UCSD ON MARCH 31

The Alexander String Quartet, the first American string quartet to win first prize at the Portsmouth (England) International String Quartet Competition (and the Audience Prize, as well), will perform at 8 p.m. March 31 in the University of California, San Diego Mandeville Auditorium.

The members are: Eric Pritchard, violinist, Frederick Lifszitz, violinist, Paul Yarbrough, violist and Sandy Wilson, cellist.

The program: Beethoven: Quartet, Opus 18, No. 6; Bartok: Quartet No. 5 and Mendelssohn: Quartet in D Major, Opus 44, No. 1.

Since its formation in 1981, the ensemble has cut a swath in concert and festival circuits. The London Times has called them a "stunning ensemble." After their 1985 win in Portsmouth, they embarked on a highly successful British tour, followed by a European tour.

Pritchard, from New Hampshire, is a graduate of Indiana University and the Juilliard School. He has studied with Josef Gingold, Eric Rosenblith, Louise Wear and Ivan Galamian. He is a first prize winner in the Coleman Chamber Music Competition and won the 1981 Award in Violin from the National Federation of Music Clubs.

Lifszitz, from Boston, studied with Marylou Churchill, and with Paul Biss at Indiana University. He has performed with numerous chamber music ensembles, appearing in Boston's Jordan Hall, Harvard University, New York's Lincoln Center and at universities and festivals throughout the country.

Yarbrough, from Florida, studied at Pennsylvania State University and Hartt School of Music where he was awarded the Artists Diploma. His teachers include Elaine Lee Richey, Lillian Fuchs, Raymond Page and Sally Peck.

Wilson, from England, studied at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and at the Royal College of Music. He completed his post-graduate studies in music at the Danish Conservatory in Copenhagen and became a principal cellist of the Luzern Symphony and Opera Orchestra in Switzerland. He has lived in the United States since 1979.

The Alexander String Quartet is Ensemble-in-Residence at the Highlands Chamber Music Festival in North Carolina and at St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York.

Tickets for the Alexander String Quartet may be purchased from the UCSD Box Office (534-4559) or from TicketMaster outlets. This event is brought to San Diego by the UCSD University Events Office.

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