

A 'Russian Cultural Treasure' the St. Petersburg string Quartet will perform Nov. 6 in Mandeville Auditorium at UCSD

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"Among the Russian cultural treasurers" is how the New York Times leads its review of a performance on the East Coast by the St. Petersburg String Quartet. The Russian ensemble will perform on the West Coast at 8 p.m. Nov. 6 in Mandeville Auditorium at the University of California, San Diego.

"Its reputation rests on a solid foundation of collective musical savvy and interpretive vision," the Times continues. "What makes the group's performance so engaging is the well-defined character with which it stamps each composer."

Ensemble members are Alla Aranovskaya, first violin; Ilya Teplyakov, second violin; Konstantin Kats, viola, and Leonid Shukaev, cello. The Nov. 6 program will include Beethoven: Quartet in E flat Major, Opus 127; Nadarejshvili: Quartet No. 1, and Shostakovich: Quartet No. 2, Opus 68.

Newsday calls the group a "world-class ensemble" with "an athletic quality to their playing, a breathtaking combination of strenuousness and natural ease."

The St. Petersburg String Quartet was formed in 1985 by graduates of the Leningrad Conservatory and initially called itself the String Quartet of the Leningrad Conservatory. When its native city changed its name in 1991 to St. Petersburg, the ensemble did likewise.

The quartet has won numerous prizes including those at the All-Soviet Union String Quartet Competition and the First International Shostakovich Competition for String Quartets, both in Russia; the International Competition of Chamber Ensembles in Tokyo, Japan; the Vittorio Gui International Competition for Chamber Ensembles in Florence, Italy, and the International Competition for Chamber Ensembles in Melbourne, Australia.

The St. Petersburg String Quartet has toured throughout Russia, Germany, Italy, Spain, Estonia, Lithuania, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, the Netherlands and the United States. The members served as artists-in-residence at the Musicorda Festival and String Program in Massachusetts, and have performed at numerous music festivals in the United States, including Mainly Mozart in San Diego.

Sony Classical launched a project of recordings by the quartet in 1994. The 1995 recording of the two Borodin Quartets and the first installment of the complete Shostakovich Cycle was nominated for a Grammy Award.

Stereo Review writes: "The St. Petersburg performances are characterized by great lucidity, fine ensemble, and passionate insight a sense of being uncontrivedly inside the music."

Tickets for the St. Petersburg String Quartet performance are \$20 general admission and \$10 for students. Tickets are available at the UCSD Box Office, 534-8497, and at Ticketmaster outlets at 220-8497. The performance is sponsored by the 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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