

# FRIENDS OF CHAMBER MUSIC

## **The Muir String Quartet**

Peter Zazofsky, Violin  
Wei-Pin Kuo, Violin  
Steven Ansell, Viola  
Michael Reynolds, Cello

Saturday, November 16, 1996, 8:00 p.m.  
Faye Spanos Concert Hall  
University of the Pacific  
Stockton, California

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### **Program**

Quartet in F Major, Opus 18, No. 1  
Allegro con brio  
Adagio Affettuoso ed appassionato  
Scherzo: Allegro molto  
Allegro

**Ludwig van Beethoven**

Quartet in F Major  
Moderato  
Assez vif  
Très lent  
Vif et agité

**Maurice Ravel**

*-Intermission-*

Quartet in E minor ("From My Life")  
Allegro vivo appassionato  
Allegro moderato alla Polka  
Largo sostenuto  
Vivace

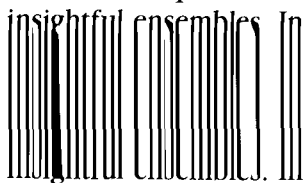
**Bedřich Smetana**

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The Muir Quartet is in Residence at Boston University  
Eco Classics, Angel/EMI, and ADDA/Qualiton  
Exclusive Management: Arts Management Group, Inc.,  
150 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011

## Muir String Quartet

The Muir String Quartet is acknowledged as one of the world's most powerful and



insightful ensembles. In keeping with the quartet's namesake, John Muir, the quartet donates proceeds from its EcoClassics CDs to a variety of environmental and conservation organizations. The members of the quartet are all graduates of Curtis Institute. They are in residence at Boston University's School for the Arts.

**Peter Zazofsky**, violinist, has had a distinguished career that took on a new direction in the fall of 1987 as he became the first violinist of the Muir String Quartet. He has established a reputation as one of America's outstanding solo artists, giving recitals and performances with orchestras throughout the United States, Canada and 21 countries in South America and Europe. He attended Juilliard and the Curtis Institute, and spent five summers at the Marlboro Music Festival.

**Wei-Pin Kuo**, violinist, came to the United States from his native Taiwan at the age of 12 when he was accepted as a student at the Cleveland Institute of Music's Young Artists Program. A recent graduate of the Curtis Institute, Mr. Kuo is making a name for himself as a violinist whose playing is characterized by a beautiful sound, impeccable intonation, and great musicality. Mr. Kuo has

performed as a concerto soloist with the Cleveland Orchestra.

**Steven Ansell**, violist, can be heard around the world each



year as one of the founding members of the world-renowned Muir String Quartet. A graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music, where he studied with Michael Tree and Karen Tuttle, he has held positions as Professor of Viola at the University of Houston, Yale University, and was Assistant Principal Violist of the Pittsburgh Symphony under André Previn.

**Michael Reynolds**, cellist, began his career as the founding cellist of the Muir String Quartet. In this capacity he tours the musical centers of North America and Europe annually, in addition to his activities as a professor at Boston University. A native of Montana, he received his professional training at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, where he was a student with David Soyer and Martita Casals.



## Program Notes

### Ludwig van Beethoven String Quartet No. 1 in F Major Op. 18, No. 1

The first movement of the First Quartet, *Allegro con brio*, is devoted principally to an intense development of its little opening motive, which is played no less than 102 times. There is a second

theme, but it is of comparatively minor importance. For contrast in the development section, Beethoven seizes on the scale passages that were



first heard as transitional material.

The second movement, *Adagio affettuoso ed appassionato*, is a rich, romantic *Lied* in the form of a sonata. Its long main theme has a beauty that he would rarely surpass in his later works.

Third is a Scherzo, *Allegro molto*, in which Beethoven, with great wit, manipulates uneven rhythms and phrases of odd lengths. The Quartet closes with a playful rondo finale, *Allegro*.

### Maurice Ravel String Quartet in F Major

Written by Ravel in 1904, and dedicated to Gabriel Faure, this quartet recalls the quartet written by Debussy ten years earlier, which served as its original model. However, its originality is preeminent. The three sections of the *Allegro* of the first movement remind us of traditional sonata form, but the technique used for the development is different. The second movement Scherzo (*Assez vif*) shows some traits of a caprice and develops an exceptional tonal coloring. The third movement Andante (*Très lent*) has a subdued nocturne-like expressiveness typical of Ravel, its rhythm hovering indefinitely. The rhythmic pattern of the Finale

(*Vif et agité*) crowns this composition.

**Bedřich Smetana**

**String Quartet No. 1, in E Minor ("From My Life")**

In 1878, in a letter to a friend, Smetana gave an account of the Quartet that is here abridged:

"I did not set out to write a quartet according to recipe or custom in the usual forms...this quartet shaped its own form. The first movement (*Allegro vivo appassionato*) depicts my youthful inclination towards art, the romantic atmosphere, the inexpressible longing for something I could neither express nor define, and also the warning, as it were, of my future misfortune. The long note in the finale is the fateful ringing in my ears that announced the beginning of my deafness.

"The second movement, a quasi-polka (*Allegro moderato alla polka*), reminds me of my happy youth, when I composed dance tunes and was well known as a passionate dancer. In the trio I paint my memories of the aristocratic circles in which I lived for many years. The third movement (*Largo sostenuto*) recalls the happiness of my first love for the girl who later became my wife.

"The fourth movement (*Vivace*) describes the folk element in my music and my joy that was checked by the catastrophe of my deafness."

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## FORTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY SEASON FRIENDS OF CHAMBER MUSIC 1996-97 SEASON

*Presented in Cooperation with University of the Pacific and  
the UOP Conservatory of Music,  
Carl Nosse, Dean*

**Dunsmuir Piano Quartet**

Sunday, October 13, 1996  
3:00 p.m.

**The Tamarin Trio**

Sunday, January 19, 1997  
3:00 p.m.

**The Muir Quartet**

Saturday, November 16, 1996  
8:00 p.m.

**Beethoven Trio of Vienna**

Sunday, February 23, 1997  
3:00 p.m.

**Arlekin String Quartet**

Sunday, March 16, 1997  
3:00 p.m.

All 1996-97 concerts are presented in the Faye Spanos Concert Hall on the University of the Pacific Campus.



### TO OUR AUDIENCE

The use of cameras and recording devices of any kind is forbidden.

Smoking in the lobby and auditorium is prohibited.

Please disengage pagers and electronic watches.

UOP students are admitted free on a space availability basis.

Concert programs are subject to change without notice.

Seating is unreserved for the 1996-97 season.

Contributions, including memorials, are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

For more information about Friends of Chamber Music, write P.O. Box 4874, Stockton, CA 95204.

Tickets: Single \$15 (\$5 for children), available at the door.

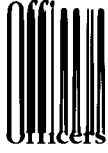
FOCM welcomes children to its concerts. We do ask, however, that children 10 years of age & under (no babes in arms, please) be accompanied by an adult. At the request of artists, children are not to sit in the first 4 rows.

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