

Cecily Ward  
violin



Tom Stone  
violin



Ethan Filner  
viola



Jennifer Kloetzel  
cello



The Cypress String Quartet represents the voice of a new generation in American culture. As comfortable playing Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven in recital halls as it is being the foundation of multi-media collaborations and commissioning new works, the Quartet brings passion, honesty, and energy to every performance.

Since 1996, **Cecily Ward, Tom Stone, Ethan Filner** and **Jennifer Kloetzel** have worked tirelessly to create and hone the unique and refreshingly open sound that is the hallmark of this Quartet. Of the Cypress Quartet's *Beethoven Late Quartets, Vol. 1* album, Gramophone wrote, "*What wondrous artistry to behold.*" Fanfare raved: "*The technical resources of this ensemble are awesome*" and The Denver Post named the recording *one of the Top 10 Classical Releases of 2009.*

Critics have likewise praised the Quartet's uncompromising performances of contemporary music: in its review of the Cypress' *Benjamin Lees Quartets 1, 5 and 6* CD (2009, Naxos), Strings Magazine observed "Brilliant individual and ensemble technique. They handle the music's sound effects, changing tempi and dynamics, rugged rhythm and singing lines with ease and authority."

On top of a busy schedule of over 90 concerts each year at prominent national and international venues including the Kennedy Center, Library of Congress, Stanford Lively Arts, Cal Performances, Krannert Center and the Ravinia Festival, the Cypress String Quartet is a vibrant member of the San Francisco arts community, dedicated to reflecting and enriching the city's cultural landscape.

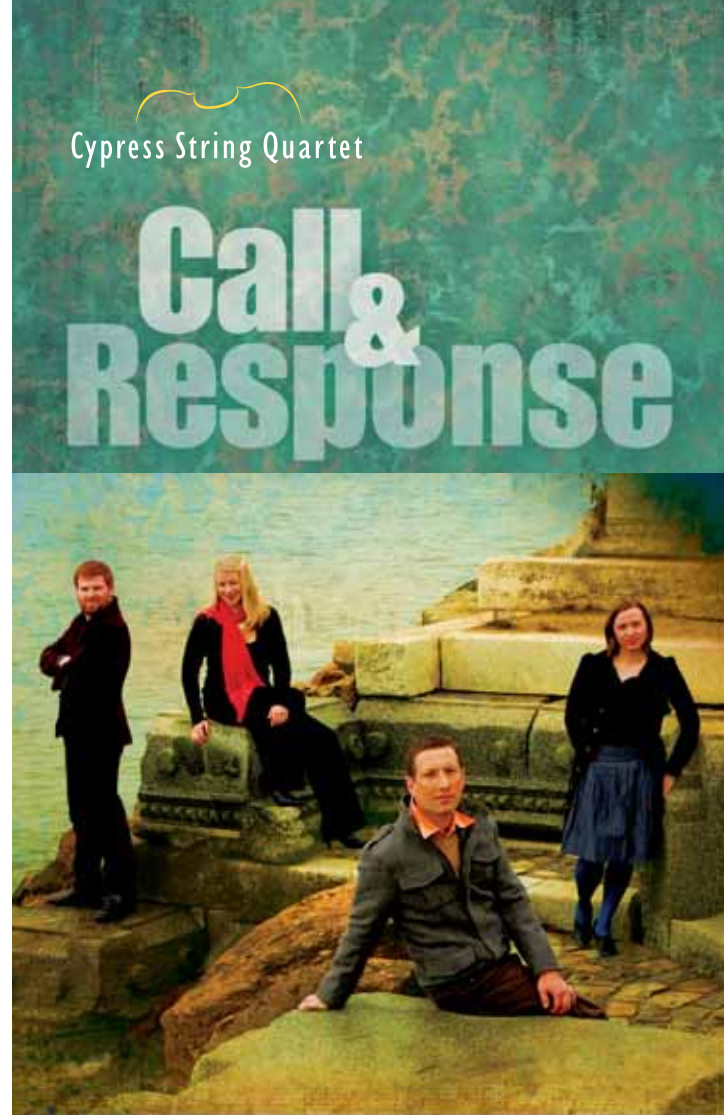
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Cypress String Quartet

912 Cole St #137, San Francisco CA 94117

**"What wondrous artistry to behold"**  
— Gramophone

*This series made possible through the support of*



Cypress String Quartet

# Call & Response

**Friday,  
February 26, 2010  
8 pm** **Herbst Theatre  
San Francisco**

Pre-concert talk with Elena Ruehr at 7:15 pm

[www.cypressquartet.com](http://www.cypressquartet.com)

# Call & Response

Cypress String Quartet

## Lyrical Music Inspired by Literature

**Mozart** String Quartet in D Major, K.575  
"The Violet"

**Schubert** String Quartet in D Minor, D.810  
"Death and the Maiden"

**Elena Ruehr** **Bel Canto** (World Premiere)  
Based on the novel by Ann Patchett

**Friday, February 26, 2010 at 8 pm**  
**Herbst Theatre, War Memorial Building**  
401 Van Ness Avenue at McAllister Street

Pre-concert talk with Elena Ruehr at 7:15 pm

Tickets: \$40/\$25 at the door, \$30/\$20 in advance.

Students/Seniors: \$10

Box Office: (415) 392-4400 or [www.cityboxoffice.com](http://www.cityboxoffice.com)

For more information and discounts for groups of 10 or more:

Call (415) 585-9045 or visit [www.cypressquartet.com](http://www.cypressquartet.com)

## FREE Public Preview Events

### How She Danced – A New Cypress Recording

Join the celebration as the Cypress String Quartet prepares to release its newest album, *How She Danced: String Quartets of Elena Ruehr*. Meet the composer & enjoy a drink with live music performed by the Quartet. Autographed copies of the new CD will be available for purchase at this event, with general release slated for February 23rd.

Tuesday, January 26th, 6:00 pm

Le Colonial

20 Cosmo Place, San Francisco

<http://www.lecolonialsf.com>

### Behind the Music

Immerse yourself in the creative process at this public outreach event hosted by the Community Music Center. The Cypress discusses and deconstructs works by Mozart & Schubert, and introduces excerpts from Elena Ruehr's new composition, *Bel Canto*. An excellent introduction for the novice or the connoisseur to gain insight into the concert program being performed at Herbst Theatre on February 26th.

Saturday, February 6th, 11:00 am – Noon

Community Music Center

544 Capp Street, San Francisco

### The Evolution of Bel Canto: A Cycle of Inspiration

Engage with the Cypress Quartet and composer Elena Ruehr in a conversation about the process of inspiration and the creative synergy between literature & music. Led by Robert Cole, conductor and former director of Cal Performances, this interview-style event will include live performances by the Quartet as well as the opportunity for questions directly from audience members.

Thursday, February 25th, 6:15 – 7:30 pm

Koret Auditorium

San Francisco Public Library

100 Larkin Street, San Francisco



**Elena Ruehr** grew up in Michigan's isolated and beautiful Upper Peninsula. Her musical training began at home where she learned folk songs from her mother, who sang and played guitar. Her father, a mathematician, played jazz piano and listened to the Beethoven and Bartok string quartets while solving equations. Her older brothers brought home recordings of Morton Sobotnik and Led Zeppelin, Janis Joplin and Paul Simon. Elena started playing the piano and composing at age four. With her mother as teacher, she quickly learned to read music and to improvise. She also studied ballet and modern dance for nine years, and later learned various forms of folk dance. As a teenager, Ruehr worked as a church organist, rock-band keyboardist/singer and musical director of the local university's theater troupe. Her town of 4,000 was also home to Finnish kantele player and classically trained composer Melvin Kangas, who became Ruehr's mentor during high school and passed on to her his dedication to beauty, individualism, and the avant-garde. In addition to her classical training with William Bolcom at the University of Michigan and Vincent Persichetti at The Juilliard School, Dr. Ruehr played in the University of Michigan Gamelan and studied West African drumming.

A faculty member at M.I.T. since 1991, Elena's music has been described as "a score of vivid aural colors," "complex, full-blown and florid," and as having "a naturalness and beauty that's both purposeful and immediately appealing."