

Cypress String Quartet 15th Anniversary Celebration for 2011-2012



Photo by Basil Childers. Available in high resolution at www.christinajensenpr.com.

Salon Series:

Friday, February 3, 2012 at 8pm
Pearson Theater at Meyer Sound, Berkeley, CA

Saturday, February 4, 2012 at 8pm
12 Gallagher Lane Gallery, San Francisco, CA

*For these intimate evenings,
Chatom Vineyards wine and Poco Dolce chocolate
will be served after the performances*

Single tickets: \$50 at 415.392.4400 or
visit www.cityboxoffice.com
Seating is limited to ensure a truly intimate experience

Cypress Quartet online: www.cypressquartet.com
www.youtube.com/cypressquartet

“beautifully proportioned and powerful” – *The Washington Post*

Chatom Vineyards wine: www.chatomvineyards.com | Poco Dolce chocolate: www.pocodolce.com

San Francisco, CA –The **Cypress String Quartet** (Cecily Ward, violin; Tom Stone, violin; Ethan Filner, viola; and Jennifer Kloetzel, cello) described by *Time Out New York* as the “lauded San Francisco foursome” continues its **15th Anniversary Celebration** in **February 2012** with the second of three **Salon Series** programs showcasing their artistry and inspired music making. Following up nearly sold-out opening concerts this past November, the Cypress Quartet will perform on **Friday, February 3, 2012 at 8pm** at **Pearson Theater** (Meyer Sound | Berkeley, CA) and on **Saturday, February 4, 2012 at 8pm** at **12 Gallagher Lane Gallery** (San Francisco, CA). The Salon Series is a unique opportunity to hear the Cypress perform in intimate venues and to experience chamber music in its purest form. Pearson Theater is a modern yet cozy venue, with incredible sounding acoustics. 12 Gallagher Lane Gallery, a high-ceilinged open space gallery with art filling the walls, is a hidden gem in the center of the city. Guests will be able to enjoy an informal Q&A and then join the artists in a reception featuring Chatom Vineyards wine and Poco Dolce chocolate following each concert.

The program for these concerts includes **Schulhoff’s Five Pieces for String Quartet** and **Ravel’s String Quartet in F Major**, which are both included on ***The 15th Anniversary Album***. (Review copies available upon request or visit cypressquartet.com/15thAnniversaryAlbum/ and enter password: 15years) Also on the program is Jennifer Higdon’s ***Impressions***, which was commissioned by the Cypress for its 2003 ***Call & Response*** program.

This season the Cypress String Quartet is adding two more new recordings to its ten-album discography. On November 8, 2011 the Quartet released ***The American Album***, which includes the Salon Series’ November 11 and 12 program: Barber’s Quartet Op. 11, Griffes’ *Two Sketches Based on Indian Themes*, and Dvořák’s String Quartet No. 12, “American.” In March, the Cypress completes its three-volume set of Beethoven’s Late Quartets. Volume three will include the groundbreaking Opus 132. Of volume one, released in 2009, the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* wrote, “The Cypress players converse with such rare sincerity as to make long-familiar music sound utterly fresh.”

More about the Cypress String Quartet: The Cypress String Quartet was formed in San Francisco in 1996, and during its initial rehearsals the group created a signature sound through intense readings of J.S. Bach’s Chorales. Built up from the bottom register of the quartet and layered like a pyramid, the resulting sound is clear and transparent, allowing the texture of the music to be discerned immediately.

The Cypress continues to maintain a busy national and international tour schedule, making appearances on concert series and in venues including Cal Performances, Kennedy Center, Library of Congress, Stanford Lively Arts, Krannert Center and Ravinia Festival. Their collaborators include artists such as Leon Fleisher, Jon Nakamatsu, Awadagin Pratt, Gary Hoffman, Atar Arad, James Dunham, and Zuill Bailey. The ensemble is a vibrant member of the San Francisco arts community and dedicates itself to reflecting and enriching the city's cultural landscape through collaborations with the DeYoung Museum and San Francisco Girls Chorus.

Through its signature *Call & Response* program the Cypress Quartet commissions and premieres new string quartets from both emerging and celebrated composers, asking them to write in response to established chamber repertoire. *Call & Response* creates a dynamic dialogue between the past and present, between performers and composers, and among audiences of all ages. The Cypress Quartet's annual *Call & Response* concert at Herbst Theatre has earned a strong West Coast following; this major concert is preceded by performances throughout the Bay Area in community centers, unorthodox spaces, and schools. In addition, the Cypress frequently tours *Call & Response* repertoire, bringing these new works to cities across the country.

To date, the Cypress Quartet has commissioned and premiered over 30 pieces, four of which were chosen for Chamber Music America's list of "101 Great American Ensemble Works." Commissioned composers include Benjamin Lees, Jennifer Higdon, Kevin Puts, George Tsontakis, and Elena Ruehr.

The Cypress Quartet members received degrees from many of the world's finest conservatories before coming together as a quartet. These include The Juilliard School, Guildhall School of Music & Drama and the Royal College of Music (London), The Cleveland Institute of Music, and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. After a residency at the Banff Centre and a fellowship at the Center for Advanced Quartet Studies of the Aspen Music Festival, the Quartet coached intensively in London with the Amadeus Quartet. Cypress members count the Cleveland and Juilliard Quartets as some of their greatest influences.

The members of the Cypress Quartet play exceptional instruments including violins by Antonio Stradivarius (1681) and Carlos Bergonzi (1733), a viola by Vittorio Bellarosa (1947), and a cello by Hieronymus Amati II (1701). The Cypress Quartet takes its name from the set of twelve love songs for string quartet, *The Cypresses*, by Antonin Dvořák.

Next Salon Series Concert

Salon #3

April 20, 2012, at 8pm: Pearson Theater at Meyer Sound, 2832 San Pablo Ave, Berkeley

April 21, 2012, at 8pm: 12 Gallagher Lane Gallery, San Francisco

Alexander Glazunov's *Novelettes*

Elena Ruehr's *Bel Canto*

Antonin Dvořák's Quartet in G Major Op.106

Single Tickets: \$50; Subscription Tickets: \$120 at www.cityboxoffice.com

For more information, visit www.cypressquartet.com/15thAnniversarySalonSeries.html or call 415.585.9045

Call & Response Concert

Friday, March 16, 2012 at 8pm: Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco

World premiere piece by Philippe Hersant

Haydn's String Quartet Op. 20, No. 1

Beethoven's String Quartet in E-flat Major Op. 127

Tickets: \$40 at the door, \$35 in advance, \$20 students at www.cityboxoffice.com

For more information, visit www.cypressquartet.com/call&response.html or call 415.585.9045

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