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Cypress String Quartet 15th Anniversary Celebration for 2011-2012

Salon Series (at 8pm):

November 11, 2011 | February 3, 2012 | April 20, 2012
Pearson Theater at Meyer Sound, Berkeley, CA

November 12, 2011 | February 4, 2012 | April 21, 2012
12 Gallagher Lane Gallery, San Francisco, CA

Annual Call & Response Concert:

Featuring new work by French composer Philipp Hersant
Friday, March 16, 2012 at 8pm
Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA

For ticket information,
visit www.cityboxoffice.com or call 415.585.9045

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

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

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” will celebrate its **15th anniversary season** in **2011-2011** by presenting a **Salon Series** showcasing their artistry and inspired music making in three of their favorite concert programs. Including pieces by Barber, Griffès, Dvořák, and Ravel as well as works by Jennifer Higdon and Elena Ruehr, these concerts will be performed both at **Pearson Theater at Meyer Sound in Berkeley, CA** on **November 11, February 3,** and **April 20,** and at **12 Gallagher Lane Gallery in San Francisco, CA** on **November 12, February 4,** and **April 21.** Also included in the anniversary celebration is the Cypress’ annual **Call & Response** concert at **Herbst Theatre** on **Friday, March 16, 2012** featuring a new work by French composer **Philipp Hersant.**

The Salon Series programs include: Barber’s Quartet Op.11, Griffes’ *Two Sketches Based on Indian Themes*, and Dvořák’s String Quartet No. 12, “American” (Nov. 11 & 12 concerts); Schulhoff’s Five Pieces for String Quartet, Ravel’s String Quartet in F Major, and Jennifer Higdon’s *Impressions* (Feb. 3 & 4 concerts); Glazunov’s *Novelettes*, Elena Ruehr’s *Bel Canto*, Dvořák’s Quartet in G Major Op.106 (April 20 & 21 concerts). This year’s *Call & Response* commissionee Philippe Hersant will compose a new piece inspired by Haydn’s String Quartet Op.20, No.1 and Beethoven’s String Quartet Op.127, No.12. (See schedule at the end of this release.)

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.

This season the Cypress String Quartet will be adding two new recordings to its ten-album discography. In November the Quartet releases *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.”

The Cypress 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.

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.

Salon Series Concerts

Salon #1

November 11, 2011, at 8pm: Pearson Theater at Meyer Sound, 2832 San Pablo Ave, Berkeley

November 12, 2011, at 8pm: 12 Gallagher Lane Gallery, San Francisco

Samuel Barber's Quartet Op.11

Charles Griffes' *Two Sketches Based on Indian Themes*

Antonin Dvořák's Quartet No. 12, "American"

Salon #2

February 3, 2012, at 8pm: Pearson Theater at Meyer Sound, 2832 San Pablo Ave, Berkeley

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

Erwin Schulhoff's Five Pieces for String Quartet

Maurice Ravel's String Quartet in F Major

Jennifer Higdon's *Impressions*

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 available after September 27; 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

New piece by Philipp Hersant

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

For more information, visit www.cypressquartet.com or call 415.585.9045