



Sketches

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ALEXANDER STRING QUARTET ENDS CHAMBER MUSIC WINTER SERIES Sunday May 21 at 4 p.m.

Gualala Arts welcomes the world-renowned Alexander String Quartet for a performance that will include Mozart's *Divertimento in D major*, Shostakovich's *String Quartet No. 3 in F major*, and Beethoven's *String Quartet No. 9 in C major*. Members of the Quartet include violinists Zakarias Grafilo and Frederick Lifstiz, violist Paul Yarbrough, and cellist Sandy Wilson.

Celebrating its 25th Anniversary in 2006, The Alexander String Quartet has performed in the major music capitals of four continents, securing its standing among the world's premier ensembles. Widely admired for its interpretations of Beethoven, Mozart, and Shostakovich, the quartet has also established itself as an important advocate of new music through over 25 commissions and numerous premiere performances.

Among the quartet's projects in the 2005-2006 season is an April 2006 performance of the Shostakovich cycle in New York City presented by Baruch College. The quartet will also commence a two-season Beethoven cycle for San Francisco Performances, as well as a series of Brahms concerts presented by that organization in Berkeley. Mondavi Center will present the first of two seasons of programs built around Mozart's "Haydn" quartets, while the University of California at Riverside will continue its six-year Beethoven cycle. The quartet will collaborate with Robert Kapilow in the "What Makes It Great" series presented by Great Performances at Lincoln Center, and will participate in a Shostakovich festival presented by the State Theatre New Brunswick and Rutgers University. Other performances include recitals presented by Purdue Convocations, Bryn Mawr College, the Buffalo Chamber Music Society, and a tour of Hawaii, as well as continuing residencies at Baruch College, Allegheny College, and St. Lawrence University.

At home in San Francisco, the members of the Alexander String Quartet are a major artistic presence, serving as Ensemble in Residence of San Francisco Performances and as directors of the Morrison Chamber Music Center at the School of Music and Dance in the College of Creative Arts at San Francisco State University.

The Alexander String Quartet was formed in New York City in 1981, and the following year became the first string quartet to win the Concert Artists Guild Competition. In 1985, the Quartet captured international attention as the first and

only American Quartet to win the London International String Quartet Competition, receiving both the jury's highest award and the Audience Prize. In May of 1995, Allegheny College awarded Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degrees to the members of the Quartet in recognition of their unique contribution to the arts.



Tickets for the concert are \$20. Children and young people, ages 7 through 17, are admitted free. Advance tickets are available at the Gualala Art Center or at the Dolphin Gallery in Gualala. Tickets may also be purchased at the door prior to the performance. For further information, call the Gualala Arts Center at (707) 884-1138, or visit the website gualalaarts.org. Those unable to furnish their own transportation may call the Arts Center to request rides to the concert.

With the closing of the Chamber Music Series winter season, it is a good time to take a peek backstage to give credit to this active group of less than twenty members that makes sure each event comes off smoothly. Aply led by chairperson Joan Jordan and co-chair Judy Hardy, who also serves as recording secretary, the Chamber Music Committee meets the third Wednesday of every month at 1p.m. Marion Patterson, former chairperson, heads a sub-committee that selects outstanding performers for the concerts. Rosemarie Cadwell serves as treasurer, Dave Hamilton writes publicity, Bill Davy and Dave Bess write the program notes for the concerts. The three Daves also move the piano and set up chairs for the performances. Barbara Smith finds housing for the performers, and with others, distributes concert posters throughout the community. The entire committee provides hospitality, welcoming the musicians, and providing cookies and coffee for intermissions. Will Reed tunes and "voices" the piano. Barbara Pratt, of the Gualala Arts office staff, coordinates publicity and designs the posters. She and Nancy Spencer, also of the office staff, print the programs and tickets, and perform countless other tasks to facilitate the concerts.

The next event planned by this group will be the Fourth Annual Summer Chamber Music Weekend, with concerts on Saturday and Sunday, July 8 & 9, featuring the ever-popular ensemble **Roy Bogas and Friends**. Bogas has been called Gualala's favorite pianist, and his friends are four fabulous string players from the Bay Area.