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over celebration of the

Series

Vermeer Quartet

Friday, February 16, 2001 Recital Hall at Northeastern Illinois University

ORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

In partnership with Mostly Music, Inc.

Shmuel Ashkenasi, violin Mathias Tacke, violin Richard Young, viola Marc Johnson, cello

with special guests Rami Solomonow, viola John Sharp, cello

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Program

Quartet in B-flat major, Opus 130 Beethoven (1770-1827)

Adagio, ma non troppo; Allegro Presto Andante con moto, ma non troppo Alla danza tedesca: Allegro assai Cavatina: Adagio molto espressivo Grosse Fuga, Opus 133: Overtura; Fuga

INTERMISSION

Verklaerte Nacht (Transfigured Night) for string sextet, Opus 4 Schoenberg (1874-1951)

Northeastern Illinois University and Mostly Music, Inc. are pleased to join together once again in the 2000-2001 Jewel Box Series. Tonight's concert of the Vermeer Quartet and the March concert of the Corigliano Quartet are presented in partnership.

We also thank the participants of tonight's pre-concert conversation, sponsored in conjunction with the **Goethe Institut**: Berthold Hoeckner, Professor, University of Chicago Music Department Ted Shen, music critic, *The Chicago Reader* Members of the Vermeer Quartet Moderator: Nelson Mandrell, Chair, NEIU's Department of Music and the Dance program

This concert is partially funded by the Illinois Arts Council, the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, Northeastern Illinois University, and Mostly Music patrons and friends. Tonight's concert is being broadcast live on 98.7 WFMT. As a courtesy to the audience members, listeners, and performers, we ask that you turn off all electronic devices, including pagers and cellular phones. Additionally, flash photography and recording devices are prohibited. Thank you.

Subscribers: Please join us for a reception with the artists immediately following the concert in the Golden Eagles Room, just past the Box Office. We look forward to seeing you!



Vermeer Quartet

With performances in practically every major city in North America, Europe, Japan, and Australia, the Vermeer Quartet has achieved an international stature as one of the world's finest ensembles. Formed in 1969 at Marlboro, the Vermeer has since performed at virtually all the most prestigious festivals, including Tanglewood, Aldeburgh, Norfolk, Aspen, Mostly Mozart, Bath, South Bank, Lucerne, Stresa, Flanders, Albuquerque, Berlin, Schleswig-Holstein, Orlando, Edinburgh, Great Woods, Spoleto, Santa Fe, Ravinia, and the Casals Festival.

The Vermeer's members have been on the Resident Artist Faculty of Northern Illinois University at DeKalb since 1970. They are also Fellows of the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, England, where they have presented annual master classes since 1978. For over two decades, they have spent part of each summer on the coast of Maine as the featured ensemble for Bay Chamber Concerts. They make their permanent home in Chicago, where they have been the resident quartet for Performing Arts Chicago since 1984. Their numerous recordings include the entire Beethoven cycle, plus works by Schubert, Dvorak, Mendelssohn, Verdi, Haydn, Brahms, and Tchaikovsky.

The Vermeer's members are originally from Israel, Germany, New York, and Nebraska, thus providing a unique blend of musical and cultural backgrounds. Switzerland's Suisse writes, "Out of this alchemy is born a thing of beauty which one can define, without hesitation, as perfection." The Chicago Tribune states, "Here was music-making of the most passionate kind, in which eloquent playing was brightened by brilliant technique and tempered by a heightened sense of taste." The Arizona Republic rates the Vermeer "in a class by itself," while Australia's The Age writes, "The performance was magnificent: majestic in style, technically without flaw, and utterly persuasive." About their Beethoven recordings, Stereo Review says, "What these peerless players give us is a heady blend of old-fashioned warmth and communicativeness, with exemplary demonstrations of modern standards of both taste and technique. More persuasive performances of any of these guartets are simply not to be found." Germany's Suddeutsche Zeitung reports, "This is music-making which reveals much of the inner self: music-making of untamed necessity that goes far beyond that which is merely pleasing to the ear. The American Record Guide describes their prodigious Grammy-nominated CD of Haydn's The Seven Last Words of Christ as "an experience unlike any other." Poland's Ruch Muzyczny sums up, "The Vermeer Quartet's interpretations seem so nearly ideal that one can more easily appreciate music as universal harmony."

Meet the Artists

SHMUEL ASHKENASI (1st violin)

was born in Israel where he was a student of Ilona Feber. He later studied with Efrem Zimbalist at the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia. He was the winner of the Merriweather Post Competition, was finalist in the Queen Elisabeth Competition, and was the second prize winner in the Tchaikovsky Competition. He has performed with many of the world's leading orchestras in the U.S., Europe, the former Soviet Union, and Japan, and has appeared in recital with Murray Perahia and Peter Serkin. He has recorded both Paganini violin concerti with the Vienna Symphony for Deutsche Grammophon, as well as the Mozart A major concerto and the two Beethoven romances for Tudor records.

MATHIAS TACKE (2nd violin)

is originally from Bremen, Germany. He studied with Ernst Mayer-Schierning in Detmold, with Emanual Hurwitz and David Takeno in London, and with Sandor Vegh in Cornwall. He won first prize in the Jugend Musiziert national competition and graduated with honors from the Nordwestdeutsche Musikakademie, where he was later appointed to the faculty. From 1983-92 Mr. Tacke was a member of the Ensemble Modern, one of the most important professional groups specializing in 20th century music. In this capacity he gave countless premiers, including works by most of today's leading composers. He has made numerous recordings for such labels as Sony, ECM, and Harmonia Mundi.

RICHARD YOUNG (viola)

studied with Josef Gingold, Aaron Rosand, William Primrose, and Zoltan Szekely. At age thirteen he was invited to perform for Queen Elisabeth of Belgium. Since then he has been soloist with various orchestras and has given recitals throughout the U.S. A special award winner in the Rockefeller Foundation American Music Competition, he was a member of both the New Hungarian Quartet and the Rogeri Trio. He has taught at Northwestern University, the People's Music School, the University of Michigan, and was chairman of the string faculty at Oberlin Conservatory. Mr. Young has appeared at many festivals including the Library of Congress, Kapalua, and the Casals Festival.

MARC JOHNSON (cello)

studied in Lincoln, Nebraska with Carol Work, at the Eastman School of Music with Ronald Leonard, and at Indiana University with Janos Starker and Josef Gingold. While still a student, he was the youngest member of the Rochester Philharmonic and has subsequently performed as soloist with that orchestra. In addition to numerous other awards, he won first prize in the prestigious Washington International Competition. Before joining the Vermeer, Mr. Johnson was a member of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. He has recorded for CRI records and has received critical acclaim for his recitals and solo appearances with various orchestras in the United States and Europe.

Guest Artists

RAMI SOLOMONOW (viola)

is a graduate of the Rubin Academy of Music in Tel-Aviv, Israel where he studied with Oedoen Partos. He was a member of the Israel Chamber Orchestra until 1972 and received prizes in chamber music from the American-Israel Foundation. Mr. Solomonow moved to the U.S. in 1973 where he studied with Shmuel Ashkenasi and served as Principal Violist for the Lyric Opera of Chicago from 1974 until 1995. In 1995 Mr. Solomonow became the violist of the Chicago String Quartet, resident quartet of the Chicago Chamber Musicians. He has been a faculty member at DePaul University since 1981. He has performed as a soloist and chamber musician in numerous music festivals in the U.S. and abroad in Israel, Japan and South America. Mr. Solomonow has performed on live broadcasts on WFMT, WQXR and NPR and has been a guest violist with many string quartets. He has recorded with the Vermeer Quartet, Chicago Chamber Musicians and Chicago String Quartet, and was a performer at the 1993 International Viola Congress.

JOHN SHARP (cello)

Just four years out of the Julliard School of Music. John Sharp found himself in the enviable position of being selected principal cello of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra by Sir Georg Solti. When he began, in the 1986-1987 season, he was, at twenty-seven, among the youngest players ever in a CSO principal's chair. Yet his professional career did not begin in Chicago. He served as a member of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and, from 1983 to 1986, as principal cello of the Cincinnati Symphony. As principal cello of the New York String Orchestra under Alexander Schneider, he played in concerts at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. He also performed as soloist at Carnegie Hall with the Cincinnati Philharmonia. Mr. Sharp's work as a chamber musician has resulted in performances across the nation, including at the Marlboro Music Festival, with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, and at the summer chamber music festivals in Seattle, Santa Fe, and Vail, Colorado. He has performed with Pinchas Zukerman, Christoph Eschenbauch, Richard Stoltzman, Misha Dichter, and the Vermeer Quartet. He frequently appears as soloist with other orchestras in the Chicago area. Mr. Sharp plays a very nice rare cello made by Joseph Guarnerius in 1694.

scoming Derformances

March 16, 2001 - 8pm The Corigliano Quartet

Concert in partnership with Mostly Music, Inc.

Join us at 7:00 pm for a pre-concert conversation featuring award-winning composer John Corigliano, University of Chicago professor Berthold Hoeckner, and members of the Corigliano Quartet.

April 20, 2001 - 8pm An Evening of Classical Guitar

