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Mostly Music Staff

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Sunday, October 2, 2005 4pm
1040 N. Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, Illinois

Mostly Music at NEIU

Presents

The Lincoln Trio

Desiree Ruhstrat, violin

David Cunliffe, cello

Marta Aznavoorian, piano

Program

Moon Jig

Augusta Read Thomas

Piano Trio in B-Flat Op.11

Ludwig van Beethoven

Allegro con brio

Adagio

Theme and Variations: "Pria ch'io l'impegno"

Intermission

Mozart-Adagio

Arvo Pärt

The Four Seasons Of Buenos Aires

Astor Piazzolla



Today's concert is sponsored in part by the
Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.

About the Performers

The violin artistry of **Desiree Ruhstrat** has captivated audiences throughout Europe and the Americas. A seasoned performer, Ms. Ruhstrat made her professional debut at the age of twelve with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra and at age 16, Ms. Ruhstrat performed Tchaikovsky's *Violin Concerto* in Chicago's Orchestra Hall by invitation of Sir George Solti. She has worked with many renowned conductors such as Lukas Foss, Eric Kunzel, William Smith and has appeared as soloist in cities throughout the US and abroad.

German audiences have heard Ms. Ruhstrat in Hamburg, Göttingen, Baden-Baden and Stuttgart, where she toured with the Philharmonia Da Camera Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Michael Holtzel, and in Berlin where she was featured on a live radio broadcast performing Sibelius' *Violin Concerto* with the Berlin Radio Symphony under the direction of Ricosaccani. Of this performance the Berlin Morning Post proclaimed, "Her wonderchild youth years already behind, she now stands with early maturity at the beginning of a likely brilliant career. At the same age once upon a time such violinists as Menuhin, Misha Elman and Schneiderhan excited the public in a similar sensation".

Ms. Ruhstrat has won numerous awards including first prize, as well as a special award for a young performer with extraordinary talent at the National Young Musicians Debut Competition in Los Angeles. She became the youngest prizewinner ever at Switzerland's Tibor Varga International Competition by capturing second prize and the award for best interpretation of the commissioned contemporary composition. She went on to earn top prizes at the Carl Flesch International Violin Competition, Julius Stulberg International String Competition and the Mozart Festival Violin Competition.

As an active recitalist, Ms. Ruhstrat has appeared in Europe as well as the United States including Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, Denver, and at the White House by invitation of President and Nancy Reagan.

Ms. Ruhstrat's distinguished career as a chamber musician includes appearances as guest artist of the Chamber Music Series of the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Apollo Chamber Ensemble, the Colorado Chambers Players, Pacifica Quartet, University of Oklahoma, University of Wisconsin

and the University of Tennessee. Festival appearances include the Aspen Music Festival, Peninsula Music Festival, Laurel Festival of the Arts, the Breckenridge Music Festival, and the 1997-2003 Utah Music Festivals where she has also served as faculty. She is currently a member of the Lincoln Trio and a founding member of Camerata Chicago, a 13 piece chamber ensemble.

Ms. Ruhstrat is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music and her teachers have included Joseph Gingold, Dorothy Delay, Harold Wippler and Aaron Rosand.

This season Ms. Ruhstrat will record the Stamitz *Duo for Violin and Viola* for Centaur Records.

Cellist **David Cunliffe** began studying at the age of nine in his native England. Three years later he was chosen to receive a scholarship to the Royal College of Music in London. In 1984 Mr. Cunliffe went on to study at the Royal Northern College of Music where he founded the Argyll String Quartet and was the recipient of the Terrance Weill and Leonard Hirsch Quartet prizes and the Lady Barbirolli Chamber Music Award. His teachers included Margaret Moncreiff, Moray Welsh, William Pleeth, Christopher Bunting and Ralph Kirshbaum. He completed his studies at the International Yehudi Menuhin Music Academy in Switzerland where he studied with Radu Aldulescu and toured throughout Europe with Yehudi Menuhin and the Camerata Lysy. In 1995 he was asked to join the Balanescu Quartet touring extensively to Australia, Europe and the United States appearing frequently on radio and TV, including featured performances on NPR and the BBC. He has served as Principal cello with the RNCM Chamber and Symphony Orchestras and performances with BBC Philharmonic, BBC Scottish and Royal Scottish Symphony Orchestras. Mr. Cunliffe can be heard on various recording labels including Enja and DMD.

He is currently on the faculty of the Music Institute of Chicago and a founding member of the Lincoln Trio, ensemble-in-residence at the Music Institute. He is also a founding member of the Camerata Chicago Orchestra.

Boston Globe music critic Richard Dyer has said of pianist **Marta Aznavoorian**, "[She is] a pianist of exceptionally finished technique and purity of musical impulse." Ms. Aznavoorian, a Chicago native, is an

accomplished performer, having been a soloist with the Chicago Symphony and the New World Symphony as well as appearing at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. and the Sydney Opera House in Australia. Richard Kirchoff of the Salt Lake City Spectrum commented, "Very rarely is one able to hear music that [seems] that it is being created anew and that the new creation is being heard for the first time. This experience was available to all who attended the recital of pianist Marta Aznavoorian" Marta Aznavoorian has won numerous competitions, including the Seventeen Magazine/General Motors National Competition, the Aspen Music Festival Piano Competition, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Competition and the Union League Civic and Arts Foundation Music Scholarship. Ms. Aznavoorian's awards include a Level 1 scholarship from the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts and being named Presidential Scholar in the Arts. She has performed for the Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert Series broadcast live on WFMT radio, the Music in the Loft concert series and Steinway Hall in New York. Her recordings include music for violin and piano by composer Dan Coleman and sonatas for violin and piano by Stravinsky and Ravel under the ARTEC label.

Ms. Aznavoorian holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Indiana University, where she studied with Menachem Pressler and Lev Vlassenko and was awarded the coveted School of Music Performer's Certificate. Ms. Aznavoorian completed her studies at New England Conservatory, where she earned a Master's degree under Patricia Zandor. She is a member of the Lincoln Trio in residence at the Music Institute of Chicago.

