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Mostly Music at
Northeastern Illinois University
presents

The Avalon Quartet

December 3, 2006
Hosted by The Refetoffs
5490 South Shore Drive
Chicago, Illinois

AVALON STRING QUARTET

Blaise Magnière, Violin
Marie Wang, Violin
Anthony Devroye, Viola
Cheng Hou Lee, Cello

Quartet in D major, Op. 64, no. 5 "Lark" Franz Joseph Haydn
Allegro moderato (1732–1809)
Adagio cantabile
Menuetto: Allegretto
Finale: Vivace

Quartet in C Sharp Minor, Op. 131 Ludwig van Beethoven
Adagio, ma non troppo e molto espressivo (1770–1827)
Allegro molto vivace
Allegro moderato
Andante, ma non troppo e molto cantabile
Presto
Adagio quasi un poco andante
Allegro

Exclusive Management:
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AVALON STRING QUARTET

First Prize, 1999 Concert Artists Guild Competition
Top Prize, 2000 ARD Munich Competition
2002-2003 Resident Quartet, The Juilliard School
2002 Chamber Music America/WQXR Record Award

Hailed as "one of the most exciting young string quartets in America," (The Washington Post) the Avalon String Quartet has established itself as one of the country's leading chamber ensembles and has earned international acclaim for the bold musicality and passionate intensity of its performances.

Formed in 1995 at the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, the Avalon Quartet came to the fore after participating in Isaac Stern's Chamber Music Workshop at Carnegie Hall in 1997. Mr. Stern subsequently invited the quartet to perform in the Isaac Stern Chamber Music Encounters in Jerusalem and later presented the ensemble's Carnegie Hall debut at Weill Recital Hall. The quartet won the Grand Prize at the 1998 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition, First Prize at the 1999 Concert Artists Guild Competition, and the highest prize awarded at the 2000 ARD Competition in Munich.

From 2001-2003 the quartet held the Lisa Arnhold Residency at the Juilliard School, where they studied under and assisted the Juilliard String Quartet. They were subsequently engaged as artists-in-residence at Indiana University at South Bend, where they currently serve as full-time string and chamber music faculty.

The Avalon Quartet has performed in many major chamber music venues including New York's Alice Tully Hall, 92nd St Y, and Carnegie Hall; the Library of Congress in Washington DC; and in Europe at the Wigmore Hall, Auditorium du Louvre and Herceulesaal. Other performances include appearances at the Ravinia Festival, Dame Myra Hess series, Caramoor Festival, La Jolla Chamber Music Society, Mostly Mozart Festival at Lincoln Center, Isabella Gardner Museum, and the Music Alp Festival in Seoul, Korea.

Dedicated educators, the Avalon Quartet has taught at the Interlochen Advanced String Quartet Program, Icicle Creek Music Center, the Britten-Pears School in England and the Juilliard School. The quartet is also dedicated to outreach in various communities, having worked with the Center for Abused Children in Hartford, young composers on Hopi and Navajo reservations in Arizona, and elementary school students in East LA.

The Quartet's live performances and conversation have been featured on Chicago's WFMT, New York's WQXR and WNYC, NPR's Performance Today and St Paul Sunday Radio, and the national broadcasting companies of Canada, Australia, France and Germany. Their first recording, "From Dawn to Dusk," was named a 2002 Record of the Year by Chamber Music America and WQXR.

Blaise Magnière

A founding member of the Avalon String Quartet, first violinist Blaise Magnière has won much praise for his interpretations. Critics have described his playing as "[having] a warm, silken tone, with a special gift for lyrical playing." A native of France, he studied at the Yehudi Menuhin School in England, McGill University in Montreal (BMus93), and the Cleveland Institute of Music (MMus95) where he worked with Donald Weilerstein.

Blaise Magnière has performed in numerous chamber music festivals throughout Europe, such as the Gstaad Festival in Switzerland and the Rencontres de Musique de Chambre at the Cité de la Musique in Paris. As a soloist, he has appeared with the Cleveland Institute Orchestra, the McGill and Hartt Symphony Orchestras. He was named a Caramoor Rising Star in 1997. He is the recipient of the Jerome Gross Prize and the Bennet Levine Memorial Award, and is a prizewinner of the Leopold Shopmaker Violin Competition.

Blaise Magnière has performed chamber music in many collaborations with other artists, including Sydney Harth, Donald McInnes, Peter Wiley, Gil Kalish and Philip Setzer of the Emerson String Quartet.

Marie Wang

Marie Wang, second violinist, is also a founding member of the Avalon String Quartet. A native of Vancouver, Canada, she is a highly regarded performer and chamber musician. La Presse (Montreal) has described one of her solo performances as: "impeccable...an interpretation filled with lyricism and passion."

Marie Wang has studied with Mauricio Fuks at McGill University (BMus '96), Donald Weilerstein at the Cleveland Institute of Music, and Shmuel Ashkenasi at Northern Illinois University (MMus '98). She has appeared as a soloist with the McGill Symphony and the Vancouver Academy Symphony. Her concerto performances have been

broadcast nationwide on Canada's CBC Radio and Television, as well as on SRC Radio. She was named the Berol Rising Star at the Caramoor International Music Festival in 1997. She is a first prize winner of the Montreal Chamber Music Competition and a laureate of the CIBC National Music Competition. Marie has been a participant at the Ravinia and Aspen Music Festivals and has collaborated with Eugene Drucker, James Campbell, Phillip Setzer and the Juilliard Quartet.

Anthony Devroye

Violist Anthony Devroye, a graduate of Philadelphia's Curtis Institute of Music, has most recently been a member of the New World Symphony in Miami Beach. Having frequently led the viola section under music director Michael Tilson Thomas, he also appeared as soloist with the orchestra in Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante.

An avid chamber musician, Mr. Devroye has performed at the Ravinia, Norfolk and Angel Fire festivals, and participated in the 2001 Isaac Stern Chamber Music Workshop as a member of the Esterhazy Quartet. In addition to recitals in New York and Philadelphia, he appeared as soloist at the "Music from St. Paul's Chapel" series in New York. He has also performed internationally at the Verbier Festival in Switzerland and the Rencontres Musicales in Enghien, Belgium.

Mr. Devroye was born in Belgium in 1978 and grew up in Summit, NJ. He graduated from the Juilliard School's Pre-College Division with honors before enrolling at Columbia University, where he completed a BA in Molecular Biology. While at Columbia he continued studies at the Juilliard School under Heidi Castleman and Toby Appel. He then spent two years at Curtis, studying with Michael Tree and Roberto Diaz. Mr. Devroye's viola was made by Gabrielle Kundert (Olney, MD 2001).

Cheng-Hou Lee

Cellist Cheng-Hou Lee, a native of Taiwan, received both his bachelor and master degrees from the Juilliard School. The winner of a number of distinguished awards, he has made solo and chamber music appearances throughout the United States and also toured in Germany, Italy, Hong-Kong, and throughout Taiwan. Mr. Lee was a founding member of the Gotham Quartet, which was the graduate quartet in residence at Rice University from 1999 to 2001, where he also served as a teaching assistant to Paul Katz.

As a chamber musician, Mr. Lee performed with pianist Ruth Laredo, the Borromeo String Quartet, the Miami String Quartet, and worked with American composer William Bolcom. In 2001 Mr. Lee received a full-scholarship for the Doctoral of Musical Art degree at the New England Conservatory of Music, again serving as an assistant to Paul Katz. Recent concerts include a solo recital in New York for the David G. Whitcomb Foundation, a concert for Jordan Hall's 100th anniversary, appearances with the Omega Ensemble in New York City, the 9th Street Chamber Project and the Auricolae Ensemble in Philadelphia, in the Charles Wadsworth and Friends Series, concert with Robert Kapilow's series at Lincoln Center, and with the Borromeo Quartet at the Cape Cod Chamber Music Festival.

Upcoming Concerts

Sunday, **February 4**, 2007 at 4 p.m.

The Jupiter Trio
Evanston Residence

Sunday, **February 25**, 2007 at 4 p.m.

Cavatina Duo (flute and guitar)
The Quadrangle Club

Mostly Music at NEIU

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