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Cypress String Quartet presented by Newburgh Chamber Music

Sunday, March 21, 2010 at 3pm
St. George's Church
105 Grand Street | Newburgh, NY

Concert Program:
Haydn's String Quartet Op. 33 No. 3,
("The Bird")
Barber's String Quartet in B Minor, Op. 11
Schubert's String Quartet No. 14 in D Minor,
("Death and the Maiden")

Tickets: \$20 (\$5 Students) at 845.562.1861

more information: <http://www.newburghchambermusic.org>

"artistry of uncommon insight & cohesion" – *Gramophone*

Cypress Quartet online: www.cypressquartet.com

Newburgh, NY – At 3pm Sunday, March 21, the Cypress String Quartet (Cecily Ward, violin; Tom Stone, violin; Ethan Filner, viola; and Jennifer Kloetzel, cello) will perform at St. George's Church (105 Grand Street). Presented by Newburgh Chamber Music, the concert will include Haydn's String Quartet, Op. 33, No. 3 ("The Bird"); Barber's String Quartet in B Minor, Op. 11; and Schubert's String Quartet No. 14 in D Minor ("Death and the Maiden").

Known for their elegant performances, the Cypress's sound has been called "beautifully proportioned and powerful" by *The Washington Post*, and the ensemble has been singled out by *Chamber Music Magazine* as "a Generation X ensemble to watch." In February 2010, the Cypress Quartet will release *How She Danced: String Quartets of Elena Ruehr*, which includes Elena Ruehr's String Quartets No. 1 (1991), No. 3 (2001), and No. 4 (commissioned by the Cypress Quartet in 2005.) This disc follows the success of the ensemble's recent recording of Beethoven's Late Quartets Op. 131 and 135, which *Gramophone* magazine praised as "revealing artistry of uncommon insight and cohesion." (*Review copies of Vol. 1 and How She Danced: String Quartets of Elena Ruehr are available upon request.*)

In 1781, Haydn wrote Op. 33 for Grand Duke Paul of Russia – the third quartet has the nickname, "The Bird," due to the repetitive melody in the violin part in the first movement. Samuel Barber wrote String Quartet Op. 11 in 1936, the Adagio section of which he later re-wrote for orchestra. The resulting piece, *Adagio for Strings*, became one of his most celebrated works. Schubert's String Quartet No. 14 in D Minor, known as "Death and the Maiden," was written in 1826 and was inspired by the melody that Schubert composed for an art song in 1817 based on a poem by German poet, Matthias Claudius.

More about the Cypress String Quartet: The Cypress String Quartet formed in 1996 in San Francisco and during its first rehearsals together created a now-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 String Quartet's unusual approach to their career is informed by their fierce dedication to the ensemble. Violinists Cecily Ward and Tom Stone were studying in San Francisco when the quartet came together. Jennifer Kloetzel and Ethan Filner relocated to San Francisco to form the group, and the foursome made a commitment to each other to only perform as a quartet (meaning that they would not take on teaching or freelance jobs as orchestral members or with other chamber ensembles). They realized early on that they needed to create their own performance opportunities and organized as a non-profit – the Cypress

Performing Arts Association – rather than signing with a management agency. Eventually, they hired a small administrative staff.

This independent spirit is evident in their music as well. Cecily Ward explains, “We found our common ground in the music. Because we had not all gone to school together and had no common past or anyone shepherding us along, we were forced to find out who we are as an ensemble on our own – both in how we made a career and in how we create our sound.”

Now, on top of a busy schedule of over 90 concerts each year at venues across the US and internationally, including major concert halls and series such as the Kennedy Center, Library of Congress, Stanford Lively Arts, Krannert Center and Ravinia Festival, the Cypress String Quartet is a vibrant member of the San Francisco arts community and is dedicated to reflecting and enriching the city’s cultural landscape.

Through its Call & Response commissioning and outreach program, the Cypress String Quartet has created a dialogue between the old masters and living composers, performing known and loved repertoire in a fresh context and introducing groundbreaking new works to the chamber music genre. Over just a decade, the Cypress String Quartet has commissioned and premiered more than 30 new works, four of which are now included on Chamber Music America’s list of 101 Great American Ensemble Works.

The Cypress Quartet members trained individually at institutions including The Juilliard School, Interlochen Arts Academy, Cleveland Institute of Music, Guildhall School of Music & Drama and the Royal College of Music. They 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.

For more information and the Cypress Quartet’s most up to date concert schedule, visit www.cypressquartet.com.

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