

## PRESS RELEASE

### NEWBURGH CHAMBER MUSIC

**Newburgh Chamber Music** opens its 2011-12 season with a performance by the **Ensō String Quartet**, on Sunday, November 13, 2011 at 3 p.m. at St. George's Church in Newburgh.

The Ensō String Quartet is a young, prize-winning ensemble based in New York City. It was nominated for a Grammy in 2010 for "Best Chamber Music Performance." The group was formed at Yale University in 1999, and has had success at the Banff International String Quartet Competition and won the Concert Artists Guild International Competition. Their recording of Ginastera was Grammy-nominated and selected as one of *MusicWeb's* Recordings of the Year for 2009," as "playing of jaw-dropping prowess. . . they are clearly bound for greatness."

In addition to the success of their recordings, Ensō's String Quartet concerts have been acclaimed by both audiences and critics. The group is equally at home in many styles, and is committed to the classics of the string quartet repertoire, as well as being advocates of new music. The quartet has given many premiere performances, including Joan Tower's Piano Quintet with the composer at the piano. Tower is a well-known composer in residence at Bard College, and recently performed with her students for Newburgh Chamber Music.

Members of the Ensō String Quartet are Maureen Nelson, violin; John Marcus, violin; Melissa Reardon, viola; and Richard Belcher, cello. They hold music degrees from Yale University, The Juilliard School, Curtis Institute of Music, New England Conservatory, Guildhall School of Music (UK), and the University of Canterbury (New Zealand). For the NCM concert, the ensemble will play Bartok's String Quartet #2, Op. 17, Haydn's String Quartet #3, Op. 20, and Dvorak's String Quartet #12, Op. 96, the "American."

*The ensemble's name, enso, is derived from the Japanese zen painting of the circle which represents many things: perfection and imperfection, the moment of chaos that is creation, the emptiness of the void, the endless circle of life, and the fullness of the spirit.*

Dr Joël Evans, oboist, will give a brief talk before the concert, at 2:45 pm.

This concert will take place on Sunday, November 13, 3 p.m., at St. George's Episcopal Church, 105 Grand St., Newburgh. Tickets are \$20-adult; \$5-student. For information, call 845-562-1861, or check the NCM website: [www.newburghchambermusic.org](http://www.newburghchambermusic.org).