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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**TEN COMPOSERS TALK BACK TO BACH
WHEN THE BRENTANO STRING QUARTET
PRESENTS “BACH PERSPECTIVES”**

The Brentano String Quartet will present “Bach Perspectives: Ten Composers React to *The Art of the Fugue*” on Friday, January 23 at 8 p.m. in Mandel Hall in the second concert of the University of Chicago Presents Chamber Music Series.

On their 10th anniversary the Brentano gave themselves and their fans a present. They invited ten of their favorite composers to write “commentary” pieces as companions to selected contrapuncti from Bach’s *Art of the Fugue*. Many of the composers were treasured collaborators; others were individuals whom they admired but with whom they had not yet worked. The result provides the opportunity to listen to the music of Bach through the ears of some of the preeminent composers of the day. The Brentano selected Mandel Hall as one of the venues for the premiere of the work because of their happy association with the University of Chicago in the first decade of their history.

THE PROGRAM

Intrada	Nicholas Maw
Contrapunctus I	
Contrapunctus IV	
Double Fugue	Eric Zivian

ALAP Contrapunctus IX	Charles Wuorinen
Bach – Shards Contrapunctus X	Shulamit Ran
Contrapunctus XVIII (unfinished) Reflections on the Theme B-A-C-H	Sofia Gubaidulina
Contrapunctus XII Fugue	Wynton Marsalis
Contrapunctus II ContraDictions	Bruce Adolphe
Contrapunctus VI (in the French style) Subterfuge	David Horne
Contrapunctus VII Contrapunctus Variabilis I	Chou Wen-chung
Lude Interspersed with Contrapunctus XI	Steven Mackey

THE BRENTANO STRING QUARTET

Mark Steinberg, violin; **Serena Canin**, violin; **Misha Amory**, viola; **Nina Maria Lee**, cello

The Brentano String Quartet is almost twelve years old. It is named after Antonie Brentano, whom many scholars believe to have been Beethoven's mysterious "Immortal Beloved." From the start, the Quartet made its mark in the chamber music world. Within a year's time, it claimed the distinction of being named to three major awards, winning the first Cleveland Quartet Award, the 1995 Naumburg Chamber Music Award and the 10th Annual Martin E. Segal Award. The Brentano also received the Royal Philharmonic Society Music Award for the most outstanding debut in 1997 following their performance at Wigmore Hall.

The ensemble became the first quartet-in-residence at Princeton University in 1999 and served as quartet-in-residence at New York University from 1995 -2003. In 1995 the group was chosen by The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center to participate in the inaugural season of

Chamber Music Society Two, a program designed for outstanding emerging artists and chamber musicians. Additionally, the Brentano had the honor of being quartet-in-residence at London's Wigmore Hall for the 2000 -2001 season.

The Brentano String Quartet has appeared with pianist Mitsuko Uchida at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, at the Library of Congress, at Lincoln Center and in major cities in Germany, Italy and Japan. The quartet also collaborated with Jessye Norman in her 1998 Carnegie Hall recital as well as in the ancient amphitheater of Epidavros in Greece. In the fall of 1998, the Brentano String Quartet embarked on a major tour across Australia. The group has been featured on *Live From Lincoln Center*.

The ensemble maintains a strong interest in the music of our time and has commissioned and premiered works by Milton Babbitt, Chou Wen-chung, Charles Wuorinen, Bruce Adolphe, Steven Mackey and Jonathan Dawe. The quartet has collaborated with Pulitzer Prize winning poet Mark Strand, commissioning poetry for performances of Haydn's *Seven Last Words of Christ*. The Brentano is currently working with Strand on a program combining poetry with works by Mozart and Webern.

FACTS AND FIGURES

- TICKETS:** By phone with credit card at (773) 702-8068
In person with cash, check or credit card, weekdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Office of Professional Concerts, 5720 S. Woodlawn
At Mandel Box Office after 6:30 p.m. on concert night
By email at concert-office@uchicago.edu
- PRICE:** \$30 general public; \$11 students with valid ID
- DATE/TIME:** Friday, January 23, 8 p.m.
- PLACE:** Mandel Hall, 1131 East 57th Street, Chicago, IL 60637
- PARKING:** Street or free in lot at 55th and Ellis after 4:00 p.m.
- HANDICAP:** Persons with disabilities or who otherwise need assistance may call the Concert Office at (702) 773-8068 prior to the concert, but no later than 3 p.m. on concert day.
- ONLINE:** At <http://chicagopresents.uchicago.edu> or by e-mail to: concert-office@uchicago.edu