

October 20, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Cathy Sweitzer
Director of Communications
773-834-7965

Tickets: 773-702-8068

THE PACIFICA STRING QUARTET PLAYS THREE CENTURIES OF QUARTETS

The Pacifica Quartet brings quartets by Haydn, Dvorak and Ptaszynska to Mandel Hall on **Friday, November 21 at 8 p.m.** when they continue the Artists-in-Residence series of the University of Chicago Presents new season. They will play Haydn's "The Lark," with its soaring, avian violin melody, Dvorak's romantic Quartet No. 9 in D Minor, written 100 years later and current faculty member Marta Ptaszynska's MOSAICS. In one evening, the ensemble will display the evolution of the form from "Papa Haydn" to the present.

THE PROGRAM

Haydn	Quartet Op. 64, No. 5 ("The Lark")
Marta Ptaszynska	MOSAICS for String Quartet
Dvorak	Quartet in D Minor, Op.34

THE PACIFICA QUARTET

Now nine years old, the Pacifica Quartet continues to cause the world to take notice of its adventurous and impassioned music-making. The group, composed of Simin Ganatra and Sibbi Bernhardsson on violin, Masumi Per Rostad on viola and Brandon Vamos on cello, has an almost uninterrupted history of prize-winning. In 1996, just two years after four friends first raised their bows together on the West Coast, the ensemble took Grand Prize at the Coleman Chamber

Music Competition, to be followed by a steady stream of awards. Most recently, the group was honored with Chamber Music America's prestigious Cleveland Quartet Award for 2002 and appointed Resident Quartet of Lincoln Center's Chamber Music Society Two. This August, the Pacifica made its debut at the Edinburgh International Festival, where it performed the five quartets of Elliott Carter, a feat that had already inspired the admiration of audiences in New York, Los Angeles and Chicago's own Mandel Hall last season.

The Pacifica records for Cedille Records. Its recordings of Dvorak (including the quintet with violist Michael Tree) and the complete quartets of Easley Blackwood have been enthusiastically received. The group's next release will be the complete string quartets of Felix Mendelssohn.

The award-winning performers are also innovative educators, instrumental in creating and implementing the Music Integration Project, which brings performance and teacher training to inner-city schools. The Pacifica is the first ever Quartet-in-Residence at the University of Chicago and for the University's Contemporary Chamber Players, for which it presents a series of new music concerts each year. As of fall 2003, the Pacifica is also Faculty Quartet-in-Residence at the University of Illinois, Champaign/Urbana. More information about the quartet can be found at www.pacificaquartet.com.

FACTS AND FIGURES

- TICKETS:** By phone with credit card at (773) 702-8068 or in person with cash, check or credit card at Office of Professional Concerts, 5720 S. Woodlawn, or at Box Office after 6:45 p.m. on concert night, or by e-mail at concert-office@uchicago.edu
- PRICE:** \$10 general public/ \$5 students with valid ID
- DATE/TIME:** Friday, November 21 at 8 p.m.
- PLACE:** Mandel Hall, 1131 East 57th Street, University of Chicago campus
- PARKING:** On the street or free after 5 p.m. in the lot at 55th and Ellis
- SPECIAL HELP:** Persons with disabilities or who are otherwise in need of assistance may call the concert office at (773) 702-8068 prior to the concert, but no later than 3 p.m. on concert day.
- ONLINE:** At <http://chicagopresents.uchicago.edu> or by sending an e-mail to the concert-office@uchicago.edu

####