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**ST. LAWRENCE STRING QUARTET TO PREMIERE JOHN ADAMS'
SECOND QUARTET ON JANUARY 18 AT BING CONCERT HALL**

Performance is one of three new works commissioned to celebrate SLSQ's 25th anniversary

Stanford, CA, December 10, 2014—Stanford audiences will be the first to hear the latest fruits of the ongoing collaboration between the **St. Lawrence String Quartet** and one of America's foremost contemporary composers, **John Adams**. As part of its 25th-anniversary celebration, Stanford's Grammy-nominated ensemble—violinists Geoff Nuttall and Mark Fewer, violist Lesley Robertson and cellist Christopher Costanza—will give the world premiere of Adams' *Second Quartet* on **Sunday, January 18 at 7:00 p.m. in Bing Concert Hall**.

This new quartet marks the third work he has composed for the St. Lawrence. Adams' original *String Quartet* was written in 2008 and premiered January of 2009 at the Juilliard School. The SLSQ gave the West Coast premiere at Stanford later that year and went on make the first recording of it for Nonesuch Records.

John Adams followed several years later with an even grander idea: *Absolute Jest*, a 25-minute work for solo quartet and orchestra commissioned by the San Francisco Symphony to celebrate its centennial season. The work was given its first performance in March of that year under that orchestra's music director, Michael Tilson Thomas with the St. Lawrence performing the solo parts. Adams and the SLSQ have subsequently performed the work together in London, Toronto and with the New World Symphony in Florida.

Speaking of their working relationship, Adams says, "String quartet writing is one of the most difficult challenges a composer can take on. Unless one is an accomplished string player and writes in that medium all the time—and I don't know many these days who do—the demands of handling this extremely volatile and transparent instrumental medium can easily be humbling, if not downright

humiliating. What I appreciate about my friends in the St. Lawrence is their willingness to let me literally ‘improvise’ on them as if they were a piano or a drum and I a crazy man beating away with only the roughest outlines of what I want. They will go the distance with me, allow me to try and fail, and they will indulge my seizures of doubt, frustration and indecision, all the while providing intuitions and frequently brilliant suggestions of their own.”

Earlier this season, the SLSQ launched its 25th-anniversary celebration at Stanford with the debut of Jonathan Berger’s *The Swallow*, and still to come is a third world premiere on **April 12** by Stanford composer Jaroslaw Kapuscinski. In between, the SLSQ will give a free Good Friday performance of Haydn’s *Seven Last Words of Christ on the Cross* on April 3 and they’ll participate in Stanford’s *Haydn—Patronage and Enlightenment* project in February, which includes a collaborative series of concerts, classes and symposia.

The *Sundays with the St. Lawrence* series is presented in partnership with Music at Stanford.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for the **St. Lawrence String Quartet on January 18** range from \$30-\$75 for adults and \$15 for all Stanford students. Tickets can be purchased by phone at **650-724-2464 (BING)** or online at <http://live.stanford.edu>.

VENUE INFORMATION

Bing Concert Hall is located on the Stanford University campus at 327 Lasuen Street on the corner of Lasuen and Campus Dr. Parking on campus is free of charge after 4:00 PM and on weekends at all times, and may be found in the Galvez Lot across Campus Drive from Bing Concert Hall.

ABOUT STANFORD LIVE

Stanford Live is Stanford University’s performing arts presenter and producer, committed to sharing, celebrating and advancing the art of live music, dance, theater, and opera. Stanford Live unites celebrated and emerging artists with the Stanford campus and greater Bay Area communities in a broad range of experiences that engage the senses and emotions, stimulate minds, and enrich lives. The organization values artistic vitality, learning and an inclusive community. In addition to its home in Bing Concert Hall, Stanford Live also presents performances at other campus venues including Memorial Auditorium, Memorial Church and Frost Amphitheater.

CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

What: **St. Lawrence String Quartet**

Program: Haydn: String Quartet op. 20, no. 5
John Adams: Second Quartet (World premiere)
Beethoven: String Quartet, op. 131

When: Sunday, January 18, 7:00 p.m.

Where: Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen Street, Stanford University

Tickets: \$30-\$75 | live.stanford.edu or 650-724-BING (2464)

Description: Stanford's prized St. Lawrence String Quartet celebrates its 25th anniversary with a sensational series of concerts, including the world premiere of a newly commissioned work written for the quartet by America's foremost contemporary composer, John Adams.

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