



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ST. LAWRENCE STRING QUARTET WELCOMES VIOLINIST MARK FEWER IN HIS BING CONCERT HALL DEBUT ON APRIL 27

Program to include works by Haydn, Verdi and George Tsontakis, with soprano Jessica Rivera

Stanford, CA, April 2, 2014—Stanford University’s Grammy-nominated resident ensemble, the **St. Lawrence String Quartet** (SLSQ), concludes its annual Sunday series with Stanford Live on **April 27, at 2:30 p.m., in Bing Concert Hall**. The foursome will be joined by soprano **Jessica Rivera**, in a new work by George Tsontakis, and will also welcome second violinist **Mark Fewer** in his Bing Concert Hall debut.

Fewer succeeds Scott St. John, who departed the group after his final performance at Bing in January. As a fellow Canadian, Fewer and the SLSQ are already well acquainted, and in 2011, he substituted for both St. John and founding violinist Geoff Nuttall during their paternity leaves. He comes to Stanford from Montreal’s McGill University, where he been associate professor of violin since 2007.

“We are thrilled to welcome Mark Fewer to the SLSQ party,” says Nuttall. “I have been a huge fan of his as both a violinist and musician since hanging out in Canada in the old days. His imagination, inquisitive spirit, incredible command of the violin and dedication to quartet life are all important parts of who he is.”

Fewer wrote in a statement: “I have been a fan of the SLSQ since the first time I heard them live over 20 years ago. Their commitment to music making at the very highest level is combined with an unparalleled sensitivity to the musical moment. I am honored and thrilled to have the chance to contribute to their legacy for many years to come.”

Fewer is a highly-regarded soloist and chamber musician. He has appeared widely in North America and also abroad throughout Europe, Australia and the Far East. His recording of “Changing Seasons” – a jazz violin concerto composed for him by Phil Dwyer – won a 2012 Juno Award. He was artistic director of the Scotia Festival of Music from 2004-2009, and is the founding director of the SweetWater Music Festival in Ontario.

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The SLSQ's first Bing Concert Hall performance with Fewer will feature Haydn's Quartet in E-flat Major, op. 20, no. 1, Hob. III:31; Giuseppe Verdi's only chamber music composition, the String Quartet in E Minor, op. 68; and a new work by George Tsontakis, String Quartet No. 7, featuring guest soprano **Jessica Rivera**.

Stanford Live's Sundays with the St. Lawrence series is presented in partnership with **Music at Stanford** and is supported by **Paul and Iris Brest**.

ABOUT THE SLSQ

The **St. Lawrence String Quartet** (SLSQ) has established itself among the world-class chamber ensembles of its generation. Since winning both the Banff International String Quartet Competition and Young Concert Artists International Auditions in 1992, the quartet has delighted audiences with its spontaneous, passionate, and dynamic performances. Highlights of the 2013–14 season include visits to Vancouver, Princeton, Portland, Toronto, Philadelphia, Ann Arbor, Palm Beach, and Washington, D.C. The quartet also will premiere a new work by George Tsontakis in Carmel, California. They will perform *Absolute Jest* with the Toronto Symphony and on a European tour with the San Francisco Symphony. During the summer season, the SLSQ is proud to continue its long association with Spoleto Festival USA in Charleston, South Carolina.

Since 1998, the SLSQ has held the position of ensemble-in-residence at Stanford University. This residency includes working with music students as well as extensive collaborations with other faculty and departments using music to explore myriad topics. Recent collaborations have involved the School of Medicine, the School of Education, and the Law School.

Lesley Robertson and **Geoff Nuttall** are founding members of the group and hail from Edmonton, Alberta, and London, Ontario, respectively. **Christopher Costanza** is from Utica, NY, and joined the group in 2003. **Mark Fewer**, a native of Newfoundland, began his first season with the quartet this January, succeeding violinist Scott St. John. All four members of the quartet live in and teach at Stanford.

TICKETS

The performance is **currently at capacity**. A limited number of tickets may be released before the performance, to be sold on a first come, first served basis. To be notified if tickets become available, sign up on the Stanford Live website at <http://live.stanford.edu>.

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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. Maps and directions are available at <http://live.stanford.edu/Venues/parkingmapsdirections.php>.

ABOUT STANFORD LIVE

Stanford Live is multi-disciplinary performing arts on the campus of Stanford University. The organization is committed to sharing, celebrating, and advancing the art of live music, dance, theater and opera. It unites celebrated and emerging artists with the Stanford campus and greater Bay Area communities in a broad range of experiences to engage the senses and emotions, stimulate minds, and enrich lives. Stanford Live values artistic vitality, learning, and an inclusive community.

CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

What: **St. Lawrence String Quartet with Jessica Rivera, *soprano***

Program: Joseph Haydn: Quartet in E-flat Major, op. 20, no. 1, Hob. III:31 (1772)
George Tsontakis: String Quartet No. 7 for String Quartet and Soprano (2014)
Giuseppe Verdi: String Quartet in E Minor, op. 68 (1873)

When: Sunday, April 27, 2014 at 2:30 p.m.

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

Tickets: The performance is **currently at capacity**. To be notified if tickets become available, sign up on the Stanford Live website at <http://live.stanford.edu>.

Description: Stanford's Grammy-nominated resident ensemble, the St. Lawrence String Quartet, concludes its Sunday series with guest soprano Jessica Rivera in a new work by George Tsontakis.

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