



NEWS RELEASE

Contact:

Chance Farago, Director of Marketing
chance@baychamberconcerts.org
(207) 236-2823

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 24, 2009

Four and Two Makes Six

The St. Lawrence String Quartet celebrates 20 years with Bay Chamber Concerts.

The festivities continue with a second week of performances by the St. Lawrence String Quartet, Bay Chamber Concerts' quartet-in-residence. This week the Quartet becomes a Sextet as they are joined by two former members of the group: Barry Shiffman, violin, and Marina Hoover, cello. At 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday night, at the Strand Theatre in Rockland, former and current members of the Quartet will perform "20th Anniversary: Reunion," featuring works by Strauss, Haydn, Raum and Dvorak. The following night, at the Rockport Opera House, the six performers will provide a musical "20th Anniversary: Celebration," finale with Haydn, Schoenberg and Schubert at 8:00 p.m.

According to Thomas Wolf, artistic director of Bay Chamber Concerts, "This will be a week to remember. What a treat to have past and present members of one of the greatest string quartets in the world perform at our venues!"

The St. Lawrence String Quartet first performed at Bay Chamber Concerts on January 14, 1996. Now, thirteen years later, the St. Lawrence celebrates the 20th Anniversary of its founding. Members of the St. Lawrence String Quartet include violinists Geoff Nuttall and Scott St. John, violist Lesley Robertson and cellist Christopher Costanza. They will be joined by former founding members Barry Shiffman, violin, and Marina Hoover, cello.

Over the last twenty years, the St. Lawrence String Quartet has walked on stage together nearly 2,000 times. Grammy nominated, they have been the ensemble in residence at Stanford University since 1998. The Quartet is internationally known for its imaginative, spontaneous music making that the Washington Post calls "emotionally high charged but never out of control."

On Wednesday night, past and present members of the St. Lawrence will be reunited to perform four challenging works – including a piece by Elizabeth Raum, entitled "Table at the Bushwakker" commissioned by the St. Lawrence for their Anniversary. The piece was inspired by patrons at the landmark "Bushwakker Brewpub" in Regina's Old Warehouse District. They will also play Strauss' "String Sextet from Capriccio, Op. 85," Haydn's "String Quartet in F major, Op. 77, No. 2," and Dvořák's

- more -

Bay Chamber Concerts
58 Bay View St., Ste. 1 • Camden, ME • 04843

t: (207) 236-2823 • f: (207) 230-0454 • toll free

www.BayChamberConcerts.org

“Sextet in A major for two violins, two violas and two cellos, Op. 48.” The concert is sponsored by Maine Boats Homes & Harbors.

Thursday night, the St. Lawrence closes out its 20th Anniversary celebrations with three exciting compositions by Haydn, Schoenberg, and Schubert. Haydn’s “Quartet in A major, Op. 2, No. 1,” is one of the earliest classical string quartet compositions in existence – in fact Haydn’s early quartets can be said to answer the question “who ‘invented’ the first string quartet?” Schoenberg’s “Verklarte Nacht for string sextet, Op. 4,” was inspired by the poem “Transfigured Night” written by Richard Dehmel, which describes the transfiguring power of love. Finally, the St. Lawrence will close out the program with Schubert’s great cello quintet the “String Quintet in C major, D. 956,” reputed to be one of the supreme masterpieces of chamber music. The concert is sponsored by the Camden Harbor Inn.

Want more of the St. Lawrence String Quartet? Quartet members Geoff Nuttall, violin, and Christopher Costanza, cello, will perform next week with Andrew Wolf Award Winner Inon Barnaton in two extraordinary concerts. Wednesday, August 12 they will present “Soaring Melodies”, and on Thursday, August, 13 the trio will be joined by Geoff Nuttall’s wife, Livia Sohn, violin to perform “Crossing Borders.”

Bay Chamber Concerts will present a concert every Wednesday and Thursday throughout July and August. Wednesday night events will be at the Strand Theatre in Rockland and Thursday night events will be held at the Rockport Opera House. Before all Thursday night concerts there will be a pre-concert talk with Thomas Wolf, co-founder and artistic director of Bay Chamber, and visiting musicians. After all concerts there will be a free post-concert reception with the artists and complimentary refreshments.

Tickets to “20th Anniversary: Reunion” and “20th Anniversary: Celebration” are \$25 to \$35 for adults, \$8 for youth ages 18 and under. Discounts are available for subscribers and groups of 8 or more. Bay Chamber Concerts is a 501(c)(3) registered non-profit organization. The media sponsor is VillageSoup.com. For more information, or to purchase tickets, contact Bay Chamber Concerts at (207) 236-2823, toll free at (888) 707-2770 or online at www.baychamberconcerts.org.

###

Calendar Listings:

Date: Wednesday, August 5, 8:00 p.m.

Location: The Strand Theatre, 345 Main Street, Rockland, ME 04841

Title: 20th Anniversary: Reunion

Sponsors: Sponsor: Maine Boats, Homes and Harbors.

Performers: St. Lawrence String Quartet– Geoff Nuttall and Scott St. John, violins; Lesley Robertson, viola; and Christopher Costanza, cello with Barry Shiffman, violin; and Marina Hoover, cello.

Program: Strauss: Capriccio for String Sextet; Haydn: String Quartet in F major, Op.77, No.2; Raum: Table at the Bushwakker (commissioned by the St. Lawrence); and Dvořák: String Sextet in A major, Op.48.

Description: It’s a reunion twenty years in the making: the St. Lawrence String Quartet is joined by two of its founding members: Barry Shiffman and Marina Hoover. Join them as they come together to perform some of their favorite pieces!

Price: \$25-\$35 for adults, \$8 for ages 25 and under. Discounts available for subscribers and groups of 8 or more.

Date: Thursday, August 6, 8:00 p.m.

Location: Rockport Opera House, 6 Central Street, Rockport, ME 04856

Title: 20th Anniversary: Celebration

Sponsors: Sponsors: Camden Harbour Inn.

Performers: St. Lawrence String Quartet– Geoff Nuttall and Scott St. John, violins; Lesley Robertson, viola; and Christopher Costanza, cello with Barry Shiffman, violin; and Marina Hoover, cello.

Program: Haydn: String Quartet in E major, Op.2, No.2; Schoenberg: Verklarte Nacht, Op.4; and Schubert: String Quintet in C major, D.956, Op.163.

Description: The reunion celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the St. Lawrence Quartet continues with all six members (the four original members, plus the two newest members) performing together on the Rockport Opera House stage.

Price: \$25-\$35 for adults, \$8 for ages 25 and under. Discounts available for subscribers and groups of 8 or more.

###