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Subject: SB SOUTHAMPTON: Escher String Quartet

PHOTO: Escher String Quartet. CREDIT: Tristan Cook.



NEW MUSIC SERIES AT STONY BROOK SOUTHAMPTON KICKS OFF WITH ESCHER STRING QUARTET

SOUTHAMPTON, N.Y., March 17, 2008 – Stony Brook Southampton kicks off its new, intimate Southampton Sunday Music Series in the Avram Gallery with the Escher String Quartet on Sunday, March 30.

The series continues on April 6 with Flying Forms and April 20 with the Stony Brook Chamber Music Cooperative. All shows are on Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$20/\$10 for seniors/students. For ticket information, call 631-632-8000.

“Presenting concerts by Stony Brook University music department students, faculty, alumni and special guests, the series contributes to Stony Brook Southampton’s goal of providing its students immersion in music and all the lively arts,” said event organizer, Stony Brook alumnus and Flying Forms member Marc Levine. “As part of the Southampton community, we are also excited to share this excellent series with the residents of Eastern Suffolk County.”

Formed in 2005, the Escher String Quartet has attracted the attention of several esteemed artists who immediately admired the young ensemble’s individual sound, inspired artistic decisions and unique cohesiveness. Within months of its inception, the Escher was invited by both Pinchas Zukerman and Itzhak Perlman to be the quartet-in-residence at each artist's summer festival: The Young Artists Programme at Canada’s National Arts Centre and The Perlman Chamber Music Program on Shelter Island, NY. The following winter, the Escher Quartet made its Washington, DC, debut, representing the Manhattan School of Music for the Kennedy Center’s Conservatory Project.

In only two years, the group has established a reputation as a world-class string quartet. September sees the Escher begin its Chamber Music Society Two Residency with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. The Escher will also be Caramoor's Ernst Stiefel String Quartet-in-Residence. The ensemble’s season began with performances at the Ravinia, Green, Great Lakes, Music @ Menlo and La Jolla Festivals. Additional 2007-2008 appearances include the 92nd Street Y, Symphony Space and the New

School in New York; Boston's Gardner Museum; Rhinebeck Chamber Music Society; Concordia College; University of Idaho; and the Ravinia Festival. The Quartet also joins the faculty of Stony Brook University as Visiting Artist-in-Residence in a unique relationship with the world-renowned Emerson String Quartet.

Recently the Escher joined guitar luminary Pepe Romero for a New Year's Eve performance at the 92nd Street Y and pianist Wu Han at the Greenwich Library Concert Series. Nightclub engagements at Tonic and Union Hall—an eclectic club in Brooklyn—saw the Escher in joint concerts with pop-folk singer-songwriter Luke Temple.

The Escher String Quartet takes its name from Dutch graphic artist M.C. Escher; inspired by Escher's method of interplay between individual components working together to form a whole.

“[The Escher's] sound is golden-ripe, and its performance was technically almost infallible, cool-edged, yet pulsing like the engine of a luxury car...the night's biggest pleasure.” -San Jose Mercury News

-30-

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Attachments:

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