



**Celebrity Series** of Boston

Engaging • Entertaining • Enriching

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**For Immediate Release**

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High-resolution photos:

[http://www.celebrityseries.org/Photo\\_Galleries/1008-EmersonStringQuartet\\_Gallery.htm](http://www.celebrityseries.org/Photo_Galleries/1008-EmersonStringQuartet_Gallery.htm)

**Celebrity Series of Boston**

Martha H. Jones, President and Executive Director

**Presents**

**Emerson String Quartet**

**on Friday, December 4 at 8 pm  
at NEC's Jordan Hall**

(Boston) Celebrity Series of Boston will present the **Emerson String Quartet on Friday, December 4 at 8:00 pm** at NEC's Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough Street, Boston. The program features early 20<sup>th</sup> century works by Ives, Janáček, Barber and Shostakovich. The Media partner is WGBH 89.7.

The **Celebrity Series of Boston** has presented the Emerson String Quartet on fourteen occasions since 1987. Their 2008 concert featured works by Dvorak.

In the three decades since its formation in 1976, the **Emerson String Quartet** has made thirty acclaimed recordings on Deutsche Grammophon, won eight *Grammy Awards* (including two for Best Classical Album), three *Gramophone Awards*, the coveted Avery Fisher Prize and performed cycles of the complete Beethoven, Bartók, and Shostakovich string quartets in the world's musical capitals, from New York to London to Vienna. The 2009-2010 season comprises more than ninety worldwide engagements, with a three-concert series at Queen Elizabeth Hall in London's South Bank Centre, two concerts at Wigmore Hall, and performances in Prague and at the Edinburgh International Festival. European tours feature multiple stops in Spain, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Austria and France.

The Emerson String Quartet took its name from the American poet and philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson. Violinists Eugene Drucker and Philip Setzer alternate in the first chair position and are joined by violist Lawrence Dutton and cellist David Finckel. During the 2001 US premiere performances of Wolfgang Rihm's *Dithyrambe for Quartet and Orchestra* with Christoph von Dohnanyi and the Cleveland Orchestra in Severance Hall, Boston's Symphony Hall and New York's Carnegie Hall, the Quartet began to experiment with the idea of standing in performance. The two violinists and the violist of the Emerson now stand for all performances; the cellist plays on a small podium.

Dedicated to the performance of classical repertoire, the Emerson String Quartet also has demonstrated a strong commitment to the commissioning and performance of 20<sup>th</sup>- and 21<sup>st</sup>-century music. Important commissions and premieres include compositions by Bright Sheng (2007), Kaija Saariaho (2007), Nicholas Maw (2006), Andre Prévin (2003), Joan Tower (2003), Ellen Taaffe Zwilich (1998), Edgar Meyer (1995), Ned Rorem (1995), Paul Epstein (1994), Wolfgang Rihm (1993), Richard Wernick (1991), Richard Danielpour (1988), John Harbison (1987), Gunther Schuller (1986), George Tsontakis (1984), Maurice Wright (1983), Ronald Caltabiano (1981) and Mario Davidovsky (1979). A commission from Lawrence Dillon is planned for the 2009-2010 season.

(more)

The Emerson String Quartet's most recent release, May 2009's *Intimate Letters*, features chamber works by Janáček and Martinu. A 3-CD set for Deutsche Grammophon of Dvorák's late quartets, *Cypresses* and the viola quintet will be released in 2010.

The program for the Emerson String Quartet performance on December 4 is as follows:

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Ives         | String Quartet No. 1 "A Revival Service" |
| Janáček      | String Quartet No. 1 "Kreutzer Sonata"   |
| Barber       | Adagio for Strings, Opus 11              |
| Shostakovich | String Quartet No. 9, Opus 117           |

#### **TICKETING INFORMATION**

Remaining tickets for the Emerson String Quartet are priced at \$53 and \$45 and are available by calling CelebrityCharge at (617) 482-6661, Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., online at [www.celebrityseries.org](http://www.celebrityseries.org), or at the Jordan Hall box office, 30 Gainsborough Street, Boston.

#### **About Celebrity Series of Boston**

The Celebrity Series of Boston is New England's leading presenter of music, dance, and the performing arts from around the world. Now in its 71<sup>st</sup> season, the Celebrity Series brings performances by instrumental and vocal soloists, orchestras and chamber ensembles, dance companies, jazz, folk and ethnic artists and ensembles to Boston's major concert halls, reaching an audience of some 100,000 each year. Through the Arts, Education and Community Program the Celebrity Series reaches thousands of youngsters annually with opportunities to experience and participate in the performing arts through concerts, workshops and the award-winning AileyCamp Boston, an intensive six-week summer dance program for Boston middle school students. For more information on Celebrity Series of Boston, call (617) 482-2595 or visit us online at [www.celebrityseries.org](http://www.celebrityseries.org).

The Celebrity Series receives generous support from; The Little Family Foundation; Tufts Health Plan; Foley & Lardner LLP; Charlesbank Capital Partners; Comcast; PTC; Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center; Massachusetts Cultural Council; New England Foundation for the Arts.