

# St. Lawrence String Quartet

## 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commissions

The St. Lawrence String Quartet (SLSQ) invites proposals for commissions to commemorate its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season (2008-2009).

### I. Project Description:

To celebrate this milestone, the SLSQ is planning a Canadian tour and as part of the festivities they wish to premiere several new works – representing **British Columbia**, the **Prairies**, **Ontario**, **Quebec** and the **Atlantic Provinces**. The individual works will first be performed in their region of origin and then as part of a special event marking the end of the tour.

**While the SLSQ is seeking to premiere at least 5 new works, this number could increase to 10 (one per province) based on the quantity and quality of the proposals.**

The SLSQ is also looking to cap the tour off with a symposium of all participating composers at Stanford University, where it is Ensemble in Residence.

The SLSQ is looking for works that are:

1. For string quartet alone (ie. without electronics or extra instruments)
2. No more than 8 minutes in duration
3. Reflective of the project's theme – which is a celebration and recognition of the SLSQ's Canadian roots.

### II. Eligibility:

The "Call" is open to all **Associate Composers** of the **Canadian Music Centre**. At a minimum, one proposal will be selected from each the CMC's five regions. Based on the proposal's submitted this could increase to 10 (one work per province).

### III. Proposal Deadline:

All proposals must be received by **5:00 pm on Friday, January 11, 2008**.

### IV. Entry procedures:

Send entries to: SLSQ Call for Proposals  
c/o Canadian Music Centre  
20 St. Joseph Street  
Toronto, ON M4Y 1J9

Please submit the following:

- A detailed resume.
- Description of the proposed work (no more than 1 page)
- 3 representative recordings (and related score material). Please select works that most closely reflect the nature of your proposal.

*If you would like your recordings returned to you, please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope large enough and with enough postage to return them.*

### V. Notification:

Selection will be made by the members of the SLSQ based on proposals submitted. Final selection may require individual conversations with a shortlist of composers. Finalists will be notified by June 2008.

### VI. Terms:

The SLSQ will issue individual contracts to the finalists upon notification. The commissioning rate will be based on the Canadian League of Composers suggested fee structure.

### VI. Information:

For further information, contact Steven W. Foster – CMC Development & Communications Administrator at (416) 961-6601 x 303 or by e-mail at [sfoster@musiccentre.ca](mailto:sfoster@musiccentre.ca)

## THE ST. LAWRENCE QUARTET

**Geoff Nuttall, violin      Scott St. John, violin      Lesley Robertson, viola      Christopher Costanza, cello**

Now in its 19th season, the St. Lawrence String Quartet (SLSQ) has established itself among the world-class chamber ensembles of its generation. The group continues to build on its reputation for imaginative, spontaneous music making that the Washington Post calls "emotionally high charged but never out of control." In 1992, they won both the Banff International String Quartet Competition and Young Concert Artists International Auditions, launching them on a performing career that has brought them across North and South America, Europe and Asia.

The long awaited initial recording of the St. Lawrence Quartet, Schumann's First and Third Quartets, was released in May 1999 to great critical acclaim. The CD received the coveted German critics award, the Preis der Deutschen Schallplattenkritik, as well as Canada's annual Juno Award. BBC Music Magazine gave the recording its "highest rating," calling it the benchmark recording of the works. In October of 2001, EMI released their recording of string quartets of Tchaikovsky. In 2002 their recording Yiddishbbuk featuring the chamber music of the celebrated Argentinean-American composer Osvaldo Golijov received two Grammy nominations. Their most recent recording of Shostakovich Quartets was released in July, 2006.

The Quartet performs over 100 concerts worldwide. Highlights of the 2007/08 season include their popular series Sunday's with the St. Lawrence for Stanford Lively Arts, concerts in New York (Lincoln Center), Boston, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Chicago, Dallas, Toronto, Vancouver, Montreal, Tucson, Phoenix, Cincinnati, Salt Lake City, Denver, Buffalo, New Orleans, and Albuquerque. They will also make two tours to Europe.

Their summer calendar features their 13th year as Resident Quartet to the Spoleto USA Festival in Charleston, SC. Other recent summer festival appearances include Mostly Mozart in New York, Maverick Concerts, Bay Chamber Concerts (Maine), and the Ottawa Chamber Music Festival.

The SLSQ has been involved in numerous inventive collaborations, including projects with the renowned Pilobolus Dance Theatre, and the Emerson Quartet. In 2007 they joined with Soprano Heidi Grant Murphy and pianist Kevin Murphy to premiere Roberto Sierra's "Songs from the Diaspora" – a commission through the Music Accord consortium. They have also performed R. Murray Shafer's concerto for quartet and orchestra "4-40" with Peter Oundjian and the Toronto Symphony, Emmanuel Villaume and the Spoleto Festival Orchestra, and Yuli Turovsky with I Musici de Montreal.

The foursome regularly delivers traditional quartet repertoire, but is also fervently committed to performing and expanding the works of living composers. Among those with whom the St. Lawrence Quartet currently has active working relationships are R. Murray Schafer, Osvaldo Golijov, Christos Hatzis, Jonathan Berger, Ka Nin Chan, Roberto Sierra, and Mark Applebaum.

Having been privileged to study with the Emerson, Tokyo and Juilliard String Quartets the St. Lawrence, are themselves passionate educators. Since 1998 they have held the position of Ensemble in Residence at Stanford University. This residency includes working with students of music as well as extensive collaborations with other faculty and departments using music to explore a myriad of topics. Recent collaborations have involved the School of Medicine, School of Education, and Jewish Studies. In addition to their appointment at Stanford, the SLSQ continues to serve as visiting artists to the University of Toronto. The foursome's passion for opening up musical arenas to players and listeners alike is evident in their annual summer chamber music seminar at Stanford and their many forays into the depths of musical meaning with preeminent music educator Robert Kapilow.

The SLSQ is deeply committed to bringing music to less traditional venues outside the classroom or concert hall. Whether at Lincoln Center or an elementary school classroom, the St. Lawrence players maintain a strong desire to share the wonders of chamber music with their listeners, a characteristic of the foursome that has led them to a more informal performance style than one might expect from chamber musicians. Alex Ross of The New Yorker Magazine writes, "the St. Lawrence are remarkable not simply for the quality of their music making, exalted as it is, but for the joy they take in the act of connection."

The St. Lawrence String Quartet records exclusively for EMI/ANGEL.