

BRENTANO STRING QUARTET RETURNS TO UMS WITH PIANIST PETER SERKIN AND BARITONE THOMAS MEGLIORANZA

ANN ARBOR, MI (February 9, 2009) — The **University Musical Society** (UMS) presents the **Brentano String Quartet** with pianist **Peter Serkin** and baritone **Thomas Meglioranza** on **Wednesday, March 11, at 8 p.m.** in Ann Arbor's **Rackham Auditorium** (915 East Washington Street). Named for Antonie Brentano, whom many scholars consider Beethoven's "Immortal Beloved," the intended recipient of his famous love confession, the Brentano Quartet transcends Beethoven to explore music both very old and very new. The ensemble is joined by both Peter Serkin, whose first UMS appearance was as a teenager at a 1963 May Festival concert, where he performed with his father (Rudolf), and the baritone Thomas Meglioranza for a program that balances quartet standards with contemporary masterpieces. The program includes classic works of Haydn, Schoenberg, and Beethoven, as well as a new work by Charles Wuorinen commissioned by the artists and premiered in June 2008.

Please note artist lineup change: *This concert was previously announced with baritone Richard Lalli. Mr. Lalli has been replaced by baritone Thomas Meglioranza for this concert. Please update listings accordingly.*

For tickets or additional information, contact the University Musical Society at **734-764-2538** or online at www.ums.org. Tickets may also be purchased in person at the League Ticket Office (911 North University Avenue). UMS Ticket Office hours: Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., closed Sunday.

Since its inception in 1992, the **Brentano String Quartet** has been singled out for its technical brilliance, musical insight and stylistic elegance. Shortly after its founding, the Quartet garnered immediate acclaim, winning three major awards: the Cleveland Quartet Award, the Naumburg Chamber Music Award, and the 10th Annual Martin E. Segal Award. In 1996, the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center invited the Quartet to be the inaugural members of Chamber Music Society Two, a program which has since become a coveted distinction for chamber musicians.

The Quartet had its first European tour in 1997, and was honored in the UK with the Royal Philharmonic Award for Most Outstanding Debut. That debut recital was at London's Wigmore Hall, and the Quartet has continued

its relationship with Wigmore, appearing there regularly and serving as the hall's Quartet-in-residence in the 00/01 season. In recent seasons, the Brentano String Quartet has traveled widely, performing in the world's most prestigious venues, including Carnegie Hall, the Concertgebouw (Amsterdam), Suntory Hall (Tokyo), and the Sydney Opera House.

In addition to performing the entire two-century range of the standard quartet repertoire, the Brentano Quartet has a strong interest in both very old and very new music. It has performed many musical works pre-dating the string quartet as a medium, among them Madrigals of Gesualdo, Fantasias of Purcell, and secular vocal works of Josquin. Conversely, the quartet has also worked closely with some of the most important composers of our time, among them Elliott Carter, Charles Wuorinen, Chou Wen-chung, Steven Mackey, Bruce Adolphe, and György Kurtág. The Quartet has commissioned works from Wuorinen, Adolphe, Mackey, David Horne, and Gabriela Frank. In 2002, the Brentano celebrated its 10th anniversary by commissioning ten composers to write companion pieces for selections from Bach's *Art of Fugue*, the result of which was an electrifying and wide-ranging single concert program.

American pianist **Peter Serkin** has worked with many of the world's renowned symphony orchestras and chamber music ensembles. The grandson of violinist Adolf Busch and son of pianist Rudolf Serkin, his rich musical heritage extends several generations. At age 11, Serkin entered the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. One year later, he appeared at the Marlboro Music Festival and was subsequently invited to perform with the Cleveland and Philadelphia Orchestras. He has since performed with the world's major symphony orchestras with such eminent conductors as Seiji Ozawa, Pierre Boulez, Claudio Abbado, James Levine, Herbert Blomstedt, and Christoph Eschenbach. Also a dedicated chamber musician, Serkin has collaborated with Alexander Schneider, Pamela Frank, Yo-Yo Ma, the Budapest, Guarneri, and Orion String Quartets as well as TASHI, of which he was a founding member. Today, Serkin continues to perform a repertoire rich in both classical and contemporary works. In September 2007, Serkin traveled to Japan to play recitals featuring the works of Toru Takemitsu and Bach in honor of the 10th anniversary of Takemitsu's death. Most recently, Serkin played the world premieres of Charles Wuorinen's Piano Concerto No. 4 with the Boston Symphony under the baton of James Levine, a solo work by Elliott Carter commissioned by Carnegie Hall and the Gilmore International Keyboard Festival, and another work by Charles Wuorinen for piano and orchestra with the Orchestra of St. Luke's. During the 08/09 season, he premieres a fifth piano concerto by Wuorinen with

the Met Opera Orchestra, as well as Wuorinen's New Piano Quintet (commissioned by the Rockport, MA, Music Festival) with the Brentano String Quartet.

Hailed for his "vocal distinction and expressive warmth" (*The Boston Globe*), American baritone **Thomas Meglioranza** is one of the country's most sought-after young singers. Meglioranza displays a compelling artistry and a remarkably versatile voice that is equally at home in repertoire ranging from Monteverdi to Schubert to Gershwin. A passionate performer of both Baroque music and contemporary works, he spends each season performing alongside period instrument ensembles, major symphony orchestras, modern dance companies, and on the operatic stage. Recent engagements include the title role in *Mackay: The Black-Bearded Bible Man* (the first western-style opera in the Taiwanese dialect), the world premiere of Wuorinen's *Romulus* at the Guggenheim Museum, and the leading role of Prior Walter in the North American premiere of Peter Eötvös' *Angels in America* (based on the Tony Kushner play) with Opera Boston. He was a winner of the 2005 Walter W. Naumburg International Competition, the 2002 Concert Artists Guild International Competition, the 2002 Joy in Singing Award, and the 2003 Franz Schubert and Music of Modernity International Competition in Graz, Austria. A graduate of Grinnell College and the Eastman School of Music, Meglioranza continues to establish himself as one of the rising stars of vocal performance.

Quick Facts

Funded in part by the **National Endowment for the Arts as part of American Masterpieces: Three Centuries of Artistic Genius.**

Media Sponsors **WGTE 91.3 FM** and **Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.**

Brentano String Quartet previous UMS appearances: This performance marks the third UMS appearance by the Brentano String Quartet. The Brentano String Quartet made its UMS debut in 2001, and last appeared in January 2002.

Peter Serkin previous UMS appearances: This performance marks the fourth UMS appearance of Peter Serkin. Peter Serkin made his UMS debut during the 1963 May Festival, and last appeared in March 1982.

Thomas Meglioranza previous UMS appearances: This performance marks the UMS debut of Thomas Meglioranza.

Additional information: www.brentanoquartet.com

BRENTANO STRING QUARTET

Peter Serkin, piano

Thomas Meglioranza, baritone

Wednesday, March 11, 8 p.m.

Rackham Auditorium (915 East Washington Street, Ann Arbor)

Tickets: \$20-\$42

PROGRAM

Haydn String Quartet in d minor, Op. 76, No. 2 ("Quinten") (Hob. III:76) (1796-97)

Wuorinen New Piano Quintet (commissioned by the artists)

Schoenberg Ode to Napoleon, Op. 41 (for quartet, piano, and baritone) (1942)

Beethoven Grosse Fuge, Op. 133 (1825-26)

*This is a **Classical Kids Club** concert. Designed to nurture and create the next generation of musicians and music lovers, the Classical Kids Club allows parents to purchase up to two tickets for \$10 each for students in grades 1-9 with the purchase of a \$20 adult ticket. Seating is subject to availability. UMS will reserve a limited number of Classical Kids Club tickets for each eligible performance. Tickets will be available two weeks before the concert at the League Ticket Office or by phone. Children must be present when picking up tickets.*

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UMS Ticket Office

734-764-2538

Outside the 734 area code, call toll-free **800-221-1229**.

(These numbers should be published.)

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Fax: 734-647-1171

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Press information/Photos: Contact Jim Leija, 734-647-4020 [DO NOT PUBLISH]

Television crews and still-photographers are welcome to cover UMS events; however, please provide 48 hours notice so that we may secure permission from the artists and alert the production staff. Please contact Jim Leija at 734-647-4020 to arrange media coverage.

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