

**For immediate release:
For further information:**

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***FINE ARTS QUARTET JOINED BY GUEST GUILLERMO FIGUEROA
FOR CONCERT AND RECEPTION, NOV. 15***

The Fine Arts Quartet continues its four-concert season on Sunday, November 15, 2009 at 3:00 pm in the Helene Zelazo Center of the Performing Arts, 2419 East Kenwood Boulevard. Violinists Ralph Evans and Efim Boico, cellist Wolfgang Laufer, and newest member, violist Nicolò Eugelmi—artists in residence at UWM's Peck School of the Arts--will be joined by guest violist Guillermo Figueroa in a concert featuring Bruckner's String Quartet and two string quintets: Bruckner's Intermezzo for String Quintet and Mendelssohn's String Quintet No.2. Tickets are \$20 general admission and \$12 for students, seniors and UWM alumni, faculty and staff. For tickets, please call the Peck School of the Arts Box Office, 414-229-4308.

The concert is preceded by an informal talk by Dr. Timothy Noonan beginning at 2:15 pm in Room 280, across from the concert hall. The concert will be followed by a reception for Guillermo Figueroa. Carlos Santiago, chancellor of UWM, will announce a campaign to create a new scholarship for Latino music students.

The concert will open with *La Oración del Torero* ("The Bullfighter's Prayer"), Op. 34 (1925) by Joaquin Turina (1882-1949), in honor of the day's Latin theme. Turina was born in Seville and studied composition in Paris before becoming professor of composition at the Conservatory in Madrid in 1930. *La Oración del Torero* was originally scored for four lutes; Turina then arranged it for string orchestra and string quartet (the version we hear today).

Bruckner's *String Quartet in C Minor* (1862) is one of a small number of chamber works by the composer, and his only string quartet. Dr. Timothy Noonan, in his program notes, notes that the quartet was written as a compositional exercise and never intended for performance. The work dropped out of sight, resurfacing in the early 1950s. Guillermo Figueroa joins the Quartet for Bruckner's *Intermezzo in D Minor for String Quintet*. The Intermezzo was written in the late 1870s, during a period when Bruckner (1824-1896) was revising several of his earlier works--his symphonies and sacred music. It was at this time that he composed his only mature chamber work, a viola quintet in F (WAB 112). It was a belated response to an 1861 commission from Joseph Hellmesberger, concertmaster of the Vienna Philharmonic and leader of a string quartet. When the work finally arrived, the quartet found the scherzo too difficult. The replacement Bruckner provided was the *Intermezzo in D Minor*, completed at the end of 1879. It was not performed until after Bruckner's death, and never became a movement of the quintet.

The concert concludes with the *String Quintet No.2 in B-Flat Major*, Op. 87 (1845), one of the four major chamber works Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) composed in the last years of his life. His two string quintets, scored for string quartet with an added viola, were written twenty years apart, at opposite ends of his compositional career. According to Noonan, the composer's dissatisfaction with the finale of Op. 87 kept him from publishing the work during his lifetime.

Guillermo Figueroa is music director of both the New Mexico Symphony and the Music in the Mountains Festival in Colorado, as well as principal guest conductor of the Puerto Rico Symphony. He has appeared as a guest conductor with orchestras across the United States and in Iceland, Poland, Argentina, Spain and Chile. A Berlioz specialist, Mr. Figueroa created the most comprehensive Berlioz Festival in the US in 2003 for the composer's bicentennial. He has conducted the premieres of works by important composers, such as Roberto Sierra, Ernesto Cordero and Miguel del Aguila, and has been recognized as an advocate for new music.

A renowned violinist as well, Figueroa was concertmaster of the New York City Ballet, and a founding member and concertmaster of the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, making over fifty recordings for Deutsche Grammophon. He has recorded the Three Violin Sonatas by Bartok for the Eroica Classical label with pianist Robert Koenig, and an album of virtuoso violin music for the NMSO label with pianist Ivonne Figueroa. Mr. Figueroa has given the world premieres of four violin concertos written for him by Mario Davidovsky, Harold Farberman, Miguel del Aguila and Ernesto Cordero respectively. He is a regular performer at the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, Music in the Vineyards in California, and Music from Angel Fire.

Mr. Figueroa studied with his father and uncle at the Conservatory of Music of Puerto Rico. At the Juilliard School his teachers were Oscar Shumsky and Felix Galimir. His conducting studies were with Harold Farberman in New York.

The **Fine Arts Quartet** is one of the most distinguished ensembles in chamber music today, with an illustrious history of performing success and an extensive recording legacy. Founded in Chicago in 1946, and based at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee since 1963, the Quartet is one of the elite few to have recorded and toured internationally for over half a century. Three of the Quartet's current artists, violinists Ralph Evans, Efim Boico, and cellist Wolfgang Laufer, have now been performing together for over 25 years. Violist Nicolò Eugelmi joined the Quartet in 2009. Each season, the Fine Arts Quartet tours worldwide, with concerts in such musical centers as New York, London, Paris, Berlin, Rome, Madrid, Moscow, Tokyo, Beijing, Istanbul, Jerusalem, Mexico City, and Toronto.

The Quartet also continues to record actively, with over 70 works recorded since 1985. The latest releases on Naxos include: three Beethoven String Quintets, the Franck String Quartet and Piano Quintet; the Fauré Piano Quintets; the complete Bruckner chamber music; the complete Mendelssohn String Quintets, named a "Recording of the Year 2008" by *Musicweb International* and selected for the 2009 Grammy Awards Entry list in the "Best Classical Album" category; Four American Quartets by Antheil, Herrmann, Glass, Evans - selected for the 2009 Grammy Awards Entry list; the complete Schumann Quartets, selected for the 2008 Grammy list and called "one of the very finest chamber music recordings of the year" by the *American Record Guide* in 2007; and chamber music by Glazunov, named a "Recording of the Year 2007" by *Musicweb International*. Aulos Musikado released the complete Dohnányi Quartets and Quintets, and Lyrinx released both the complete early Beethoven Quartets and the complete Mozart String Quintets in SACD format. The latter was selected for the 2003 Grammy Entry List and designated a "Critic's Choice 2003" by the *American Record Guide*.

Releases planned for 2010 include the two Saint-Saëns Quartets on Naxos, and three Shostakovich quartets on Lyrinx. Special recognition was given for the Quartet's commitment to contemporary music: a 2003-2004 national CMA/ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming, given jointly by Chamber Music America and the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers.

The Quartet members have helped form and nurture many of today's top international young ensembles. They have been guest professors at the national music conservatories of Paris and Lyon, as well as at the summer music schools of Yale University and Indiana University. They also appear regularly as jury members of major competitions such as Evian, Shostakovich, and Bordeaux. Documentaries on the Fine Arts Quartet have appeared on both French and American Public Television. For more information on the Quartet, please visit: www.fineartsquartet.org

The Fine Arts Quartet's concert series is supported in part by the Lubar Family Foundation, The Brico Fund, Katharine and Sandy Mallin and other generous individuals. The Quartet's concert attire is provided courtesy of Mark Berman & Son.

**FINE ARTS QUARTET
2009-2010 SEASON FACT SHEET**

All concerts take place at 3:00 p.m. in the Helen Bader Concert Hall in the Helene Zelazo Center for the Performing Arts, 2419 East Kenwood Boulevard.

Tickets: Four-concert subscription: \$68
Single tickets: \$20 general/\$12 students, seniors and UWM alumni, faculty and staff with ID.

Please call (414) 229-4308 or stop by the Box Office in the Zelazo Center. Box Office hours: Tuesday through Friday, 10 am-5 pm and one hour prior to performances. Short-term parking spaces are available for those purchasing tickets.

Parking: Ample parking is available in the Zelazo Center lot (to the south of the building) and in the UWM Union Parking Garage, 2200 East Kenwood Boulevard. ***Parking is free on Sundays only.***

Pre-concert talks

Each concert will be preceded by an informal talk by Dr. Timothy Noonan of the UWM Department of Music. These talks begin at 2:15 pm in Zelazo 250, across from the concert hall.

Programs

Sunday, October 4, 2009 at 3 pm

Saint-Saëns	Quartet No.1
Shostakovich	Quartet No.7
Saint-Saëns	Quartet No.2

Sunday, November 15, 2009 at 3 pm

Bruckner	String Quartet
Bruckner	Intermezzo for String Quintet
Mendelssohn	String Quintet No.2

(with guest violist Guillermo Figueroa)

Sunday, February 7, 2010 at 3 pm

Haydn	Quartet, Op.77, No.1
Rachmaninoff	Quartet No.1
Fritz Kreisler	Quartet

Sunday, April 11, 2010 at 3 pm

Philip Glass	Quartet No.2
Efrem Zimbalist	Quartet
César Franck	Quartet

PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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