



ROCO String Quartet Presents "*Czechs, Please!*" on April 4, 2013

Part of a series: *ROCO String Quartet Chamber Concerts presented by The University of St. Thomas and CultureMap*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 11, 2013, HOUSTON, TX. On Thursday, April 4, at 7:30, the ROCO String Quartet will perform "*Czechs, Please!*" featuring selections by Czechoslovakian composers. The program features beautiful and lyrical love songs for quartet from Dvořák as well as Erwin Schulhoff's first string quartet. The night will be filled with Czech dance music, jazz influenced tunes, folksongs, and a lively *movement "alla slovacca"*. The program will also include music from Kozeluch and Suk, plus a ROCO surprise or two!

ROCO ("River Oaks Chamber Orchestra") and University of St. Thomas are pleased to present the third in a series of chamber concerts featuring the ROCO String Quartet in Cullen Hall at University of St. Thomas. This series is another step in the University's multi-year plan to establish a major performing arts center on the St. Thomas campus.

ROCO String Quartet Chamber Concert *Czechs, Please!*

Thursday, April 4, 2013

Cullen Hall at University of St. Thomas

4001 Mt. Vernon Houston 77006

7:00pm Reception

7:30pm Performance

Tickets: \$20 general admission, \$10 for students

Additional information and tickets are available at www.rocohouston.org

Program:

- Antonín Dvořák *Cypresses*
- Leopold Kozeluch *String Quartet E Flat Major, Op. 32, Adiago*
- Erwin Schulhoff *String Quartet No. 1*
- Josef Suk *Barcarolle and Ballade*
- Plus a surprise or two!

About the ROCO String Quartet

Through this String Quartet series, ROCO is featuring chamber ensembles drawn from within the full 40-piece chamber orchestra. Chamber music has been called "music among friends" because of its intimate nature. The series allows ROCO to expand relationships among musicians, with composers, and with the audience by presenting musical conversations that include contemporary as well as classic repertoire.

Performing with the ROCO String Quartet will be violinists **Cecila Belcher** and **Pasha Sabouri**, violist **Suzanne LeFevre**, and cellist **Eric Gaenslen**. Each is an accomplished artist-performer.

New York-based violinist **Cecilia Belcher** has performed with the St. Louis Symphony, Pittsburg and Houston Symphony, The Knights, and ROCO. She has previously been a member of the New World Symphony, as concertmaster and principal second violin, Verbier Festival Orchestra, and Canton Symphony. Cece is ROCO's principal second violin.

Pasha Sabouri has soloed at the Edinburgh Festival, as well as with the Texas Chamber Orchestra, Las Vegas Philharmonic, Henderson Symphony, and others. He has also won first prize in the National Federation of Music Clubs Young Artist Competition, as well as being National Finalist for Music Teachers National Association Young Artists Division. This is Pasha's fourth season with ROCO.

Suzanne LeFevre is a **violist** and personnel manager for ROCO, as well as a violist for Houston Grand Opera and Mercury Baroque, and an affiliate artist at University of Houston. This is Suzanne's eighth season with ROCO.

Cellist Eric Gaenslen has performed as a chamber musician, recitalist and guest soloist in venues across North America and Europe. As cellist of the renowned Rossetti String Quartet, Eric has performed at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Berlin Konzerthaus, with such artists as Jean-Yves Thibaudet, Eugenia Zuckerman, Gautier Capuçon and Pepe Romero. This is Eric's second season with ROCO.

Contact: Terri Golas: terri@rocohouston.org or 713-665-2700

About ROCO

ROCO is a professional chamber orchestra of 40 all-star musicians, distinguished guest conductors and composers who come together from all over the world to present engaging performances of classical and original compositions. Founded in 2005 by oboist, Alecia Lawyer, ROCO is *the most fun you can have with serious music*. www.rocohouston.org

About University of St. Thomas

Founded in 1947 by the Basilian Fathers, the University of St. Thomas remains Houston's first and only Catholic university. St. Thomas, dedicated to educating leaders of faith and character, is committed to the religious, ethical, and intellectual traditions of Catholic higher education. www.stthom.edu