



For Immediate Release
February 6, 2012

ROCO and University of St. Thomas Present the ROCO String Quartet in Concert February 23, 2012

ROCO ("River Oaks Chamber Orchestra") and University of St. Thomas are pleased to announce the second in a series of chamber concerts featuring the ROCO String Quartet in Cullen Hall at University of St. Thomas. This new 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 Series at University of St. Thomas Cullen Hall

Performance Dates: Sep 29, 2011, **Feb 23, 2012**, Apr 12, 2012 |

All performances are 7pm in Cullen Hall at University of St. Thomas, 4001 Mt. Vernon, Houston 77006.

Tickets are \$20 general admission, \$10 for students.

Tickets may be purchased at www.rocohouston.org or 713-665-2700.

Program for the February 23rd Performance

Elena Ruehr, *Deschutes Driftwood*

Felix Mendelssohn, *Four Pieces for String Quartet, Op. 81*

John Corigliano, *Snapshot Circa 1909*

Zoltan Kodaly, *String quartet No. 2, Op. 10*

This concert features violinists, **Deb Tien Price** and **Evan Price**, group organizer and violist, **Suzanne LeFevre**, and cellist, **Eric Gaenslen**. Each is an accomplished artist-performer: Deb lives in Marin County, California, and performs with many local ensembles including the New Century Chamber Orchestra, Santa Rosa Symphony, SF Chamber Orchestra, SF Lyric Opera, Alexander String Quartet, California Symphony, Composer's, Inc., and The Left Coast Chamber Ensemble. Evan is a native of Detroit who now lives in California. He pursued violin and music theory studies at The Cleveland Institute of Music, and jazz violin at the Berklee College of Music, and is a two-time Grammy-award winner for his work with Turtle Island String Quartet. Suzanne is a violist with ROCO, Houston Grand Opera, and Mercury Baroque, and affiliate artist at University of Houston. Eric Gaenslen is an educator and cellist who has performed as a chamber musician, recitalist and guest soloist in venues across North America and Europe.

The performance includes an exciting, multimedia presentation of **Elena Ruehr's** *Deschutes Driftwood* in which the music provides the narrative voice for the 1916 silent film by the same name. Dr. Ruehr will be in attendance and will host a Q&A during the concert.

About the ROCO String Quartet

With the launch of 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. This 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.

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