



For Immediate Release

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ROCO String Quartet November 1st, 2012

The Americas: Impressions, Reflections, and Exploration

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

ROCO ("River Oaks Chamber Orchestra") and University of St. Thomas are pleased to announce a series of chamber concerts featuring the ROCO String Quartet in Cullen Hall at University of St. Thomas. Three concerts will be presented this season, November 1st, February 21st, 2013 and April 4th, 2013. 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

Thursday, November 1, 2012

6:30pm in Cullen Hall at University of St. Thomas

4001 Mt. Vernon Houston 77006

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

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

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. 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.

Performing with the ROCO String Quartet will be violinists **Evan Price** and **Ertan Torgul**, cellist **Eric Gaenslen**, and violist **Rita Porfiris**.

Evan Price is steadily gaining recognition as one of the world's most confident voices in extra-classical string playing at age 24, Price joined the world-renowned Turtle Island String Quartet. For the next ten years, he played with, arranged music for, and toured the world with Turtle Island, and is the recipient of two GRAMMY® awards for his work with the group.

Ertan Torgul is the Associate Concertmaster with the San Antonio Symphony Orchestra. He has performed with numerous orchestras around the country, with a solo repertoire of over 20 concertos. Torgul is also a member of the SOLI Chamber Ensemble and is a founding member of both the SUONO Duo and Quinteto Quilombo, a Tango Quintet.

Violist, Rita Porfiris is assistant professor of viola at The Hartt School, is on the faculties at New York University, Texas Music Festival and ARIA Arts Academy. She has given master classes in the U.S., Japan, Argentina and Brazil. She is the artistic director and co-founder of Musica da Camara Festival Eterna Primavera in Mexico and was a founding member of the Plymouth Quartet.

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, and at the Spoleto

Italy, Maverick and Vail Bravo Music Festivals, with such artists as Jean-Yves Thibaudet, Eugenia Zuckerman, Gautier Capuçon and Pepe Romero.

Program for the November 1, 2012 Performance

- Gabriela Lena Frank *Leyendas, An Andean Walkabout*
- Astor Piazzolla, *Four for Tango*
- Antonin Dvorak, *Quartet no. 12 in F major, American*
- Plus a surprise or two!

ROCO String Quartet Chamber Series Schedule

- Thu, Nov 1, 2012
- Thu, Feb 21, 2013
- Thu, Apr 4, 2013

All performances are at 6:30pm in Cullen Hall at the University of St. Thomas, 4001 Mt. Vernon.

Tickets may be purchased at www.rocohouston.org or 713-665-2700. Ticket prices are \$20 general admission, \$10 for students.

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