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The Shanghai Quartet

Department of Music, University of Richmond

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UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC CONCERT SERIES

THE SHANGHAI QUARTET

Quartet-in-Residence

Weigang Li, *violin*
Honggang Li, *violin*
Zheng Wang, *viola*
James Wilson, *cello*

with

RUTH LAREDO, *piano*

September 17, 1993, 8:15 PM
Camp Theatre

Hailed as "America's first lady of the piano" (*N.Y. Daily News*), RUTH LAREDO has a distinguished worldwide reputation as a leading soloist, recitalist and recording artist. While she is particularly renowned for her pioneering recordings of the complete solo piano music of Rachmaninoff and the complete piano sonatas of Scriabin, her broad repertoire ranges from Beethoven to Barber.

She has appeared at the major concert halls across this country including Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, the Kennedy Center, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and has performed with prestigious orchestras including the New York Philharmonic, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Boston Symphony, and the Cleveland Orchestra.

Noted for her strong commitment to chamber music, Miss Laredo frequently collaborates with the Tokyo String Quartet and the Shanghai Quartet and was a founding member of the Music from Marlboro concerts. Each season she also devotes part of her schedule to performances with flutist Paula Robison.

During the past four years, she has created a large and enthusiastic following for her sold-out series at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Last year she explored the complete piano quartets of Brahms in three concerts with the Shanghai Quartet.

A three-time Grammy award nominee, Ruth Laredo has been widely lauded for her numerous recording projects. "Best Keyboard Artist" award from *Record World*, "Best of the Month" by *Stereo Review*, "The Year's Best Recordings" by the *Saturday Review* are among the awards she has earned with recordings of Rachmaninoff, Scriabin and Barber.

In great demand as an eloquent and authoritative commentator on the arts and piano literature, she is a regular columnist for *Keyboard Classics* magazine, a frequent guest critic on WQXR's "First Hearing" program and a Special Arts Correspondent for National Public Radio's "Morning Edition." She is editor of a new Rachmaninoff Urtext edition, and this year has published "The Ruth Laredo Becoming a Musician Book," a guide for aspiring pianists drawn from Ms. Laredo's own experiences.

Born in Detroit and now living in New York City, Ruth Laredo has played the piano since early childhood. She studied under Rudolf Serkin at the Curtis Institute and made her New York Philharmonic debut in 1974 under Pierre Boulez. She also has the honor of being one of only five pianists chosen by Carnegie Hall to perform in a concert as part of its 90th anniversary celebration.

PROGRAM

**Quartet in D minor,
op. 76, no. 2 (Quinten)**

**Allegro
Andante o più tosto Allegretto
Menuetto
Finale: Vivace assai**

**Joseph Haydn
(1732-1809)**

**Quartet in B-flat major,
op. 18, no. 6**

**Allegro con brio
Adagio, ma non troppo
Scherzo: Allegro
La Malinconia: Adagio; Allegretto quasi Allegro**

**Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770-1827)**

INTERMISSION

Piano Quintet in A major, op. 81

**Allegro, ma non tanto
Dumka: Andante con moto
Scherzo (Furiant): Molto vivace
Finale: Allegro**

**Antonin Dvorák
(1841-1904)**

**This concert is partially funded by
The F. Ralph Swanson and Mary A. Swanson Music Artist in Residence Fund**

A native of Shanghai, WEIGANG LI began violin studies with his parents at age 5 and went on to attend the Shanghai Conservatory at age 14. He came to the United States to study at the San Francisco Conservatory through an exchange program between the sister cities of San Francisco and Shanghai. He has been a soloist with the Shanghai Conservatory Orchestra, the Shanghai Symphony and the BBC Symphony Orchestra. In 1982 he appeared with the BBC Scottish Symphony in a concert that was recorded for broadcast. Upon graduation from the Shanghai Conservatory in 1985, he was appointed assistant professor of violin there. Shortly thereafter he left China to continue his education at the Northern Illinois University on a full scholarship, receiving his master's degree in 1987. For the next two years, Mr. Li studied and taught at the Juilliard School as teaching assistant to the Juilliard Quartet. His other teachers have included Shmuel Ashkenasi, Pierre Menard, Shu-Chen Tan and Isadore Tinkleman. Mr. Li was featured in the film "From Mao to Mozart" with Isaac Stern in China.

HONGGANG LI began violin studies with his parents at the same time as his brother, Weigang. When the Beijing Conservatory reopened in 1977 after the Cultural Revolution, Mr. Li was selected to attend from a group of over five hundred applicants. He continued his training at the Shanghai Conservatory and was appointed a faculty member there in 1984. He also has served as a teaching assistant at the Juilliard School. Mr. Li has appeared as soloist with the Shanghai Philharmonic and the Shanghai Conservatory Orchestra. In 1987 he won a violin as a special prize given by Elisa Pegreff of the Quartetto Italiano at an International competition in Italy.

ZHENG WANG began violin studies with his mother at age 10 and turned to the viola six years later. He was principal violist with the Nankung Opera until he entered the Shanghai Conservatory in 1981 as a student of Xi-Di Shen. Upon graduating from the Conservatory, he was appointed assistant professor of viola there. He received his master's degree from Northern Illinois University, where he studied with Richard Young. He has been a guest artist with the Juilliard String Quartet at the Library of Congress.

A native of Ann Arbor, Michigan, JAMES WILSON began cello studies at age 11 and went on to graduate from the University of Michigan, where, as a student of Jeffrey Solow, he was the recipient of the music school's highest honor. He continued his studies with Stephen Kates at the Peabody Institute of Music and was twice selected as a participant in the Piatigorsky Seminar for Cellists. Mr. Wilson has appeared as soloist with the Ann Arbor Symphony and has recorded for Access Records.

Masterclass
with Ruth Laredo
September 18, 1993
10:30 AM
North Court Recital Hall



Faculty Recital
Russell Wilson, piano
September 26, 1993
3:00 PM
North Court Recital Hall

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