

Colorado Quartet to Perform on VG, Tortola

The Colorado Quartet, a classical musical ensemble, will perform in two shows in the British Virgin Islands, as the H. Lavity Stoutt Community College's 2009-2010 Performing Arts Series continues later this month.

The first concert will be held on Virgin Gorda on Friday 29 January at 7:00 p.m., and the other at the College's Paraquita Bay Auditorium, Tortola on Saturday 30 January at 8:00 p.m. The members of the quartet are violinists Julie Rosenfeld and Deborah Lydia Redding, violist Marka Gustavsson, and cellist Katie Schlaikjer.

The quartet has been a ground-breaking ensemble for nearly three decades. Catapulted onto the scene by back-to-back wins at the Banff International String Quartet and Naumburg competitions, it was the first all-women quartet to attain international stature. It is also the first female group in history to perform the complete Beethoven Quartet cycle in Europe and North America, and its recording of the cycle will be complete in 2010 on the Parnassus label.

In addition to appearing on the major concert stages of the world, the members of the Colorado Quartet are deeply committed to communicating with a wide range of audiences: from grade-school children to professionals to prison inmates. The quartet has taught at Yale University, and has held Master Classes on four continents in different languages.

During their tenure as Visiting Professors at Bard College, they developed a lecture series that places the quartet literature within a cultural context, making it relevant to today's listener. They received a grant from the Lila Wallace/Reader's Digest Foundation to collaborate on this programme with book groups and church organizations in under-served communities in Iowa, and have taken this approach into the Bard Prison Initiative.

Recordings and live concerts by the Colorado Quartet are frequently heard on radio and television stations worldwide. The group is Artistic Director of the Soundfest Chamber Music Festival and Quartet Institute on Cape Cod, founded in 1991, which receives funding from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the Arthur Foundation.

Tickets for the concert are \$20 in advance, or \$25 at the door, and are available at LIME, HLSCC Bookstore, Road Town Bakery, Umi Fashions, Sunny Caribbee and the College's Virgin Gorda Centre. HLSCC faculty and staff tickets are \$10 and College students, \$5, and are available only at the Bookstore and at the door on concert night. Primary and secondary school students are admitted free. Tickets for the post concert reception are sold separately at \$15 each.

LIME and FirstBank Virgin Islands are platinum sponsors of the College's Performing Arts Series, while several other local companies have also supported financially. For more information, please call Coordinator of the Performing Arts Series, Linette Baa, 852-7223.

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