



# SOUTHWEST CHAMBER MUSIC

## March 2008 *PROJECT MUSE* GUIDE

### String Quartet: Music of Him Sophy, Phúc Linh & W. A. Mozart

The presentation will focus on the string quartet and its interpretation by distinguished contemporary Southeast Asian composers from Cambodia and Vietnam, Him Sophy and Phúc Linh, alongside a presentation of W.A. Mozart's *"Hunt" String Quartet*. As this program suggests, music is an international language able to cross cultures and centuries. We hope you will be enlightened by the juxtaposition of music by current composers from a non-European region with music by one of the most revered names in classical music.

#### **ABOUT SOUTHWEST CHAMBER MUSIC**



GRAMMY® Award-winner **Southwest Chamber Music** has been bringing *PROJECT MUSE* in-school performances to schools throughout Los Angeles County since 1994 with music that reflects the vast diversity of art music from around the world. Founded in 1987, Southwest Chamber Music is the most active chamber music ensemble in the Western United States, maintaining a full season of over 100 concerts, community and educational events

throughout the year. Our website is [www.swmusic.org](http://www.swmusic.org).

For this performance, we welcome our Southwest Chamber Music players: Lorenz Gamma and Shalini Vijayan, violins; Jan Karlin, viola; and Fang Fang Xu, cello.

#### **ABOUT STRING QUARTETS**

The String Quartet is a musical ensemble usually consisting of two violins, one viola and one cello. The first violin will generally have the main melody line, with the second violin and viola accompanying with a lower harmony. The cello rounds out the ensemble with a strong bass line that often can be a melody in itself. The String Quartet is a favorite form of classical music because of the intimacy and the dynamism of the musical interactions. Many String Quartets form as a group, like a rock band, and continue with the same members for many years.

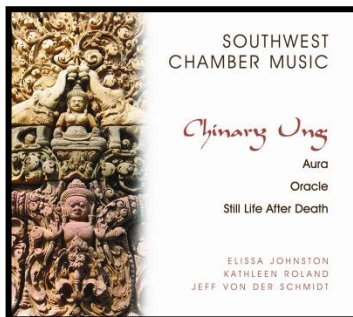
## FEATURED COMPOSERS

**Him Sophy** is a professor of music at the Royal University of Fine Arts and the Royal Academy of Cambodia, both in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Born into a musical family in Prey Veng province, Cambodia, Him Sophy began his studies in music in 1972 at the Royal University of Fine Arts in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. From 1975 to 1979, his musical studies were suspended due to the genocidal Khmer Rouge regime, under which he worked in a labor camp. In 1985, he received a full scholarship from the former Soviet Union to continue his studies in Moscow for the next decade.

**Phúc Linh** was born in 1947 and is both a highly revered composer in his homeland and the pre-eminent bassoon virtuoso in Vietnam. His compositions rely heavily on the immense tradition of Vietnamese folk music. Loosely translated, the name of his composition, "Thiên Thai," means a fairy tale world. As with other works of Linh, this string quartet transports the listener to an imaginary and peaceful Vietnam, with each member of the string quartet as a make believe persona from Vietnamese folk stories.

**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** was born in 1756 in Austria and is one of the most popular and prolific composers from the classical era. Many of his 600 compositions remain part of standard concert repertoire today. Completed in 1784, the *String Quartet No. 17, K. 458 "The Hunt"* was the fourth work in a set of six quartets by Mozart dedicated to Franz Josef Haydn, an earlier composer who wrote some of the first string quartets.

## TAKE SOUTHWEST HOME WITH YOU!



*Southwest Chamber Music's 2007 recording of music by Cambodian American Composer Chinary Ung*

### **Chinary Ung: Aura, Oracle and Still Life After Death**

This new release from Southwest Chamber Music and Cambria Master Recordings features music of Grawemeyer Award-winning composer Chinary Ung. The recording includes *Aura*, *Oracle* and *Still Life After Death*. Sopranos Elissa Johnston, Kathleen Roland and Grammy Award-winning members of Southwest Chamber Music are featured in this dazzling recording.

The Quartet will present this program again as part of our

### **Music Unwrapped Free Family Series: Saturday, March 29**

**2:00 p.m.** at the Japanese American National Museum in downtown Los Angeles and

**4:00 p.m.** at the Pacific Asia Museum in Pasadena. Admission is FREE.

Please join us at the performance on **Sunday, March 30 at 5:00 p.m.** at Boston Court in Pasadena.

Tickets are \$38 general admission, \$28 seniors, and \$10 students.

Call 626.685.4455 for more information.

## **Musical Vocabulary** (from the California Standards for the Arts)

- The **BASS LINE** is the low-pitched register of a piece of music. It is usually a simpler, more repetitive version of the melody.
- A **BEAT** is a unit of measure of rhythmic time.
- **DOUBLE STOPS** are the act of playing two notes simultaneously on a stringed instrument, such as a violin. In performing a double stop, two separate strings are depressed (*stopped*) by the fingers, and bowed or plucked simultaneously. A **TRIPLE STOP** is the same technique applied over three strings.
- **DYNAMICS** are various degrees of volume in the performance of music, such as loud and soft.
- **HARMONY** is the simultaneous combination of tones.
- **HARMONICS** are high notes that are achieved on instruments of the violin family when the performer lightly places his finger exactly in the middle of the vibrating string.
- **IMPROVISATION** is the spontaneous creation of music.
- **LEGATO** is to play notes smoothly.
- **STACCATO** is to play notes with distinct separation.
- **MELODY** is an organized sequence of single notes.
- **METER** is the grouping of beats by which a piece of music is measured.
- **ORNAMENTATION** is decorative notes of short duration added to compositions to emphasize certain notes and to add flavor to the composition.
- **PIZZICATO** is playing a string instrument by plucking or strumming the strings with the fingers.
- **PORTAMENTO** is a technique of gliding from one note to another without actually defining the intermediate notes; a smooth sliding between two pitches.
- **PONTICELLO** is playing on the bridge of a string instrument to achieve a special effect.
- **RHYTHM** is the combination of long and short, even and uneven sounds that convey a sense of movement in time.
- A **SCORE** is the written form of the entire composition. All players have a part of the score for their instrument, unless they have memorized the notes.
- The **STRING FAMILY** is the group of instruments that use strings to produce sound. The strings are made of gut, steel, or nylon. They are usually played with a **bow** - a long stick that has horsehair attached to it. Usually the bow is drawn across the strings. This is called bowing.
- **TEMPO** is the pace at which music moves according to the speed of the beat; fast and slow.
- **TIMBRE** is the tone color or character of sound heard.
- **TONALITY (KEY)** is the tonal center of a composition.
- A **TRILL** is an ornament that consists of rapid alternation between one tone and another tone either a step or a semitone away from the first tone.
- **TUNING** is to adjust a music instrument to the desired frequency or pitch.
- **VIBRATO** is the pulsating or vibrating element of some sounds that is produced by a full, resonant quality of tone. Vibrato is a very slight fluctuation of the pitch of a note.

## Continue Learning with these Web Links

A great site to learn more about **Chamber Music** is:

[www.library.thinkquest.org/27110/noframes/homepage.html](http://www.library.thinkquest.org/27110/noframes/homepage.html)

**To try to create your own composition** visit [www.creatingmusic.com](http://www.creatingmusic.com)

To become knowledgeable about various **instruments** go to [www.playmusic.org](http://www.playmusic.org).

Learn about Cambodia: [www.killingfieldsmuseum.com](http://www.killingfieldsmuseum.com)

Learn about Vietnam: [www.geographia.com/vietnam](http://www.geographia.com/vietnam)

Download and learn about traditional music from around the world:

[www.smithsonianglobalsound.org](http://www.smithsonianglobalsound.org)

Read about Southwest Chamber Music's 2006 cultural exchange trip to Cambodia and Vietnam on our blog: [www.swmusic.org/site/concerts/familySeries\\_master.html](http://www.swmusic.org/site/concerts/familySeries_master.html)



For more information:

**1.800.726.7147** or visit our website [www.swmusic.org](http://www.swmusic.org)

**New! Check us out on myspace:**

[www.myspace.com/southwestchambermusic](http://www.myspace.com/southwestchambermusic) or do a search on facebook

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