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CONTACT:

Robert Cable, Stanford Live

650-736-0091

rcable@stanford.edu

**ST. LAWRENCE STRING QUARTET AWARDS CECILIA QUARTET ITS
2013 JOHN LAD PRIZE, NAMED IN HONOR OF STANFORD ALUMNUS**

Stanford, CA, September 3, 2013—The St. Lawrence String Quartet, Stanford's Grammy-nominated resident ensemble, has awarded Canada's **Cecilia String Quartet** its **2013 John Lad Prize**. Presented in collaboration with Stanford Live and Vancouver's Music on Main series, the award includes invitations from both organizations to appear on their respective concert series.

First introduced to Stanford audience through the St. Lawrence's summer Chamber Music Seminar, the Cecilia Quartet recently appeared in a joint concert with the Afiara String Quartet during the inaugural season at Stanford's Bing Concert Hall. "This award recognizes the Cecilia Quartet not only for the extraordinary impact this young ensemble has made already on the world's concert stages but perhaps more significantly for the impact off stage—for their dedication and generous contributions as chamber music ambassadors in the greater community." says SLSQ co-founder Lesley Robertson. "We are proud to acknowledge the artists of the Cecilia Quartet."

Now in its third year, the Lad prize is named in honor of the SLSQ's dear friend John Lad (Stanford '74), a violist and ardent chamber music lover who passed away in 2007. He was a decades-long practitioner of Tai Chi and a regular lecturer in Philosophy. At the time of his death, Lad was teaching Tai Chi in the physical education department at Columbia/Barnard University.

The SLSQ was initially introduced to Lad when they were preparing R. Murray Shafer's String Quartet no. 6 ("Parting the Wild Horses Main"), a composition which combines string quartet with the movements of Tai Chi. He went on to perform and tour with the ensemble across North America and Europe for several seasons. Lad quickly became a fixture at the summer Chamber Music Seminar, playing viola in an assigned group, leading early morning Tai Chi classes in Braun Courtyard, playing a Tai Chi based ball toss game with eager participants, then reading chamber music late into the night.

“John Lad’s passion for playing string quartets was addictive,” says SLSQ co-founder and first violinist Geoff Nuttall. “His devotion to music against all odds and his total lack of ego are both qualities that are crucial to the success of any young string quartet. His spirit lives on strongly in our memory and at the seminar.”

ABOUT THE CECILIA QUARTET

Taking its name from St. Cecilia, the patron saint of music, the Cecilia String Quartet—**Min-Jeong Koh** and **Sarah Nematallah**, violin; **Caitlin Boyle**, viola; and **Rachel Desoer**, cello—continues to win praise following its 2010 first prize at the Banff International String Quartet Competition (BISQC). “The balance between expressiveness and interplay was almost dauntingly perfect,” wrote the *Berliner Zeitung* after a performance in the Konzerthaus Berlin.

European tours have taken the four Toronto-based Canadian musicians to the Concertgebouw Kleine Zaal (Amsterdam), Beethoven-Haus (Bonn), Wigmore Hall (London), and venues in Italy and Belgium. The CSQ formed while the members were students at the University of Toronto. The group soon won acclaim for its “extraordinary commitment and maturity” (*The Montreal Gazette*). Prizewinners at international string quartet competitions in both Osaka (2008) and Bordeaux (2010) and winners of a Galaxie Rising Stars Award in Canada, the CSQ went on to capture the first prize at the BISQC. “With a stunning spirit of creativity that consistently celebrated risk-taking and discovery, the Cecilia Quartet impressed the distinguished jury above all others,” said the competition’s executive director, Barry Shiffman, when announcing the winners.

The CSQ now performs for leading presenters in Canada, the United States, and Europe. The group is also Ensemble-in-Residence at the University of Toronto’s Faculty of Music, a position that has been made possible by a generous gift from BMO Financial Group. CSQ’s concert recordings have been broadcast on more than a dozen international public radio networks, including those in Australia, Canada (CBC/SRC), and Germany.

Highly committed to teaching and outreach, the CSQ has held teaching duties at the Austin Chamber Music Festival (Texas), San Diego State University (California), McGill University (Québec), QuartetFest at Wilfrid Laurier University (Ontario), and Summer String Academy at Indiana University and recently served as Quartet Fellows at the Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto. The group has presented educational programs for elementary and high schools across Canada, the United States, Italy, and France. The CSQ actively seeks to develop new audiences, and the group’s presentations have taken them to venues as varied as the Monarch School for homeless youth (San Diego) and the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory (Stanford).

ABOUT THE ST. LAWRENCE STRING QUARTET

The St. Lawrence String Quartet won both the Banff International String Quartet Competition and Young Concert Artists Auditions in 1992, launching a career that has included performances throughout Europe, Asia, and North and South America. Throughout its more than 20-year history, the quartet has shown a commitment to both artistry and education. The artists have served on Stanford's music faculty and as the university's ensemble-in-residence since 1998. First violinist and founding member **Geoff Nuttall** began playing the violin at the age of eight after moving to London, Ontario, from Texas. Violist and founding member **Lesley Robertson** began her training in Canada and met Nuttall in the late 1980s. Cellist **Christopher Costanza** joined the ensemble in 2003 after performing for many years with the Chicago String Quartet. while violinist **Scott St. John**, from London, Ontario made his debut seven seasons ago.

ABOUT STANFORD LIVE

Stanford Live is multi-disciplinary performing arts on the campus of Stanford University. We are committed to sharing, celebrating, and advancing the art of live music, dance, theater and opera. We unite celebrated and emerging artists with the Stanford campus and greater Bay Area communities in a broad range of experiences to engage the senses and emotions, stimulate minds, and enrich lives. We value artistic vitality, learning, and an inclusive community. For more information, visit <http://live.stanford.edu/>.

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