

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: August 17, 2009

Kronos Quartet World Premiere Concert at Oliver Ranch to Benefit Santa Rosa Symphony

(Santa Rosa, CA) – A concert unique for its extraordinary music, world-renowned artists and performance location is coming to northern Sonoma County on October 23. In a benefit for the Santa Rosa Symphony’s artistic and educational programs, the Kronos Quartet will perform the world premiere of *Purnati* (“Pure of Spirit”) in the Ann Hamilton-designed tower at the Oliver Ranch in Geyserville. A limited number of guests will be able to attend this event hosted by Steven Oliver, past chairman of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art board, and avid arts patron and collector. The 90-acre ranch property is home to his famous collection of site-specific sculptures, of which the Hamilton Tower is only one.

No private cars are allowed into the Oliver Ranch, so all ticket holders must arrive at the downtown Geyserville parking lots by 4 p.m. to board shuttle buses to the concert. The audience will listen to the 45-minute piece while seated or standing on a spiral staircase which extends to the top of the 80-foot performance structure.

The celebrated, Grammy Award-winning Kronos Quartet consisting of David Harrington, John Sherba (violins), Hank Dutt (viola) and Jeffrey Zeigler (cello), collaborated with Javanese ethnomusicologist and musician Rahayu Supanggah on his composition; he will perform with them on the *gendér*, a metallophone that is one of the leading instruments in the gamelan ensemble.

“With *Purnati*, we hope to give our audience a sense of the magical experience we had performing outdoors in Bali recently with the composer Supanggah,” said Kronos Artistic Director David Harrington. “Every frog, every bird and insect became part of the music. We came to think of our work together as a brilliantly patterned, hand-made fabric which we were allowed to assemble amidst the vastness of teeming nature.”

Benefit Includes Post-Concert Reception at Terroirs

At the conclusion of the performance, the audience will be taken by bus back to downtown Geyserville for a reception with the artists at Terroirs Artisan Wines. Light hors d’oeuvres and the boutique wines for which Terroirs is renowned will be served. In this renovated brick building with

modern glass facade and airy interior, the concert attendees will savor the refreshments as they ponder landscape paintings and other art.

The price of \$125 per person includes the concert and reception. A \$200 premium ticket includes the concert, reception, and a tour of the renowned outdoor sculpture collection at the Oliver Ranch (to be arranged in Spring 2010) led by Steven Oliver himself. Tickets may be purchased through the Santa Rosa Symphony Patron Services Office (707) 546-8742 or online www.santarosasympphony.com.

Buses Only, No Cars at Concert Site

It is important to note that no private cars will be admitted to the Oliver Ranch property. All audience members must park at the designated lots, either at Geyserville Park-and-Ride, Rimmel Road at Highway 128, or at the PG&E facility at the corner of Geyserville Avenue and Waldon Street. After the 15-minute ride to the site, there is a short walk on uneven ground from the bus to the Tower; comfortable shoes are recommended. Unfortunately, wheelchairs cannot be accommodated.

Commission Acknowledgment

Rahayu Supanggah's *Purnati* was commissioned for the Kronos Quartet by Judithe Bizot, Steve and Nancy Oliver & Oliver Ranch, The Bali Purnati Center for the Arts, and the Asian Cultural Council.

About the Ann Hamilton Tower

The tower is the most recent addition to a collection of artworks designed and installed at the Oliver Ranch. Designed by the renowned artist Ann Hamilton in collaboration with Jensen Architects, the 80-foot tower is an elegant monument that is neither about views nor prominence in the landscape. Fundamentally conceived as a performance space, double helix stairs both separate and connect the performers and audience while openings in the tower allow occupants to inhabit the massive walls in various positions—sitting, standing, or lying horizontal—without giving views of the surrounding landscape. It won a 2008 Merit Award for Excellence from the American Institute of Architects, San Francisco.

Jensen Architects collaborated with Hamilton on the development of this site-specific sculpture in the rolling hills of Sonoma County. They describe it as follows:

More than a sculpture, the project is a 24' diameter concrete tower, several stories tall, inside of which winds a double-helix spiral staircase. The structure is partially submerged below grade and is open at the top. The artist describes the project as an "un-tower"—there are no panoramic views of the landscape. Instead, the project "promises to take the visitors' mobile eye and its corporal housing on a

spiritual journey toward the light, moving progressively and incrementally away from the details of the observed world.”

About Kronos Quartet

The Kronos Quartet has for 30 years combined a spirit of fearless exploration with a commitment to expanding the range and context of the string quartet. They have released more than 40 recordings, commissioned over 400 works, won seven first-prize ASCAP awards and sold more than 1.5 million records.

The musicians of Kronos—David Harrington, John Sherba (violins), Hank Dutt (viola) and Jeffrey Zeigler (cello)—have pursued a singular artistic vision, combining a spirit of fearless exploration with a commitment to expanding the range and context of the string quartet. In the process, Kronos Quartet has become one of the most celebrated and influential groups of our time, performing thousands of concerts worldwide, releasing more than 40 recordings of extraordinary breadth and creativity, collaborating with many of the world’s most eclectic composers and performers, and commissioning hundreds of works and arrangements for string quartet. Kronos’ work has also garnered numerous awards, including a Grammy for Best Chamber Music Performance (2004) and “Musicians of the Year” (2003) from *Musical America*.

In 1973, David Harrington was inspired to form Kronos after hearing George Crumb's *Black Angels*, a highly unorthodox, Vietnam War-inspired work featuring bowed water glasses, spoken word passages, and electronic effects. Kronos then began building a compellingly diverse repertoire for string quartet, performing and recording works by 20th-century masters (Bartók, Shostakovich, Webern), contemporary composers (Aleksandra Vrebalov, John Adams, Alfred Schnittke), jazz legends (Ornette Coleman, Charles Mingus, Thelonious Monk), and artists from even farther afield (rock guitar legend Jimi Hendrix, Azeri vocalist Alim Qasimov, avant-garde saxophonist John Zorn).

Integral to Kronos’ work is a series of long-running, in-depth collaborations with many of the world’s foremost composers. One of the quartet’s most frequent composer-collaborators is “Father of Minimalism” Terry Riley, whose work with Kronos includes the early *Sunrise of the Planetary Dream Collector*; *Cadenza on the Night Plain* and *Salome Dances for Peace*; 2002’s *Sun Rings*, a multimedia, NASA-commissioned ode to the earth and its people, featuring celestial sounds and images from space; and, most recently, *The Cusp of Magic*, commissioned in honor of Riley's 70th birthday celebrations in 2005 and recorded and released in 2008.

In addition to composers, Kronos counts numerous artists from around the world among its collaborators, including the Chinese pipa virtuoso Wu Man; legendary Bollywood “playback singer” Asha Bhosle, featured on Kronos’ Grammy-nominated CD, *You’ve Stolen My Heart: Songs from R.D. Burman’s Bollywood*; Inuit throat singer Tanya Tagaq; Mexican rockers Café Tacuba; genre-defying sound artist and instrument builder Walter Kitundu; the Romanian gypsy band Taraf de Haïdouks; renowned American soprano Dawn Upshaw; and the unbridled British cabaret trio, the Tiger Lillies. Kronos has performed live with the likes of icons Allen Ginsberg, Zakir Hussain, Modern Jazz Quartet, Tom Waits, David Barsamian, Howard Zinn, Betty Carter, and David Bowie, and has appeared on recordings by such diverse talents as Nine Inch Nails, Amon Tobin, Dan Zanes, DJ Spooky, Dave Matthews, Nelly Furtado, Rokia Traoré, Joan Armatrading and Don Walser.

Kronos’ music has also featured prominently in other media, including film (*Requiem for a Dream, The Fountain, 21 Grams, Heat, True Stories*) and dance, with noted choreographers such as Merce Cunningham, Paul Taylor, Twyla Tharp, and Eiko & Koma setting pieces to Kronos’ music.

Kronos’ recording and performances reveal only a fraction of the group’s commitment to new music. As a non-profit organization based in San Francisco, the Kronos Quartet/Kronos Performing Arts Association has commissioned more than 600 new works and arrangements for string quartet. One of Kronos’ most exciting initiatives is the Kronos: Under 30 Project, a unique commissioning and composer-in-residence program for composers under 30 years old, launched in conjunction with Kronos’ own 30th birthday in 2003.

About Rahayu Supanggah

Born in Java in 1949 into a family of master puppeteers, renowned musician and composer Rahayu Supanggah has become one of Indonesia’s most prolific artists working in the field of gamelan music and culture. He also enjoys an international reputation as a pioneering academic and collaborator in this field. In 1985, Supanggah graduated with a Ph.D in ethnomusicology from the University of Paris and subsequently joined the staff at STSI, the traditional Arts Academy in Surakarta, teaching composition, ethnomusicology and aesthetics. He was appointed rector between 1997 and 2002 and continues to coordinate post-graduate studies there. Over the years, Supanggah has lectured in the USA, Holland, France, Switzerland and Britain and has published many influential articles on gamelan music and theory.

In addition to his academic achievements, Supanggah has collaborated internationally in varied roles as composer, performer, advisor and artistic director with many leading artists, including Peter Brook, Robert Wilson, choreographer Andre Gingras, and in the Indonesian film *Opera Jawa* directed by Garin Nugroho, which won the SACEM Prize for best soundtrack and musical creation

at the Festival des 3 Continents in Nantes in 2006. He is currently Artist in Residence at Southbank Centre in London where he assists with performances and the development of the gamelan program.

Supanggah will be performing with the Kronos Quartet in the world premiere of his composition *Purnati*. Kronos will perform on their traditional string quartet instruments and Supanggah will perform on the gendér (pronounced with a hard “g” and accent on the second syllable: gen-DAIRE). The gendér, one of the leading instruments in the gamelan ensemble is a metallophone with brass keys in a stylish wooden frame.

PERFORMANCE SUMMARY:

Date: Friday October 23, 2009
Artists: Kronos Quartet and Rahayu Supanggah
Program: *Purnati* World Premiere
Benefit for: Santa Rosa Symphony
Concert Location: Oliver Ranch in the Ann Hamilton Tower, Geyserville, CA
Time: Guests to arrive at parking lots by 4 p.m. for short bus ride to concert site.
Reception: Included in price. Kronos Quartet members and the composer will attend.
Reception Location: Terroirs Artisan Wines, 21001 Geyserville Ave., Geyserville

Parking Location(s): Geyserville Park-and-Ride, Rimmel Road at Highway 128. Overflow parking at PG&E facility at the corner of Geyserville Avenue and Waldon Street. Patrons must ride the buses to the concert site. Private cars are not allowed onto the ranch.

Price: \$125 for concert and reception (\$75 tax deductible)
\$200 for concert, reception and a Spring 2010 tour of the renowned outdoor sculpture collection led by Steven Oliver (\$100 tax deductible)

Tickets: <http://www.santarosasympphony.com>
Santa Rosa Symphony Patron Services Office: 54-MUSIC (707) 546-8742
Hours: M-F, 9 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Downtown Santa Rosa at 50 Santa Rosa Avenue, first floor off elevator lobby.

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