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Press Release

Phoenix, AZ, March 8, 2011

**WORLD-ACCLAIMED KRONOS QUARTET TO PERFORM
AT THE MUSICAL INSTRUMENT MUSEUM**

Celebrated and cutting-edge contemporary string ensemble Kronos Quartet will give a special concert performance at the Musical Instrument Museum (MIM) Music Theater on May 20 at 7:00 p.m. The event will be part of the 40th annual meeting of the American Musical Instrument Society (AMIS) to be held from May 18 to 22 at MIM.

“MIM is pleased and honored to be hosting both the Kronos Quartet and AMIS,” commented MIM curator of musical instruments Christina Linsenmeyer. “All three share a common dedication to fostering a greater understanding of the world’s rich and diverse musical cultures. And the Kronos Quartet has curated a special program to complement the theme of this year’s AMIS meeting, which is ‘Musical Intersections of Time, Place, and Culture.’”

Hailed by *New Yorker* music critic Alex Ross as an “all-terrain vehicle in contemporary culture,” the Grammy-winning Kronos Quartet has consistently and adventurously expanded the boundaries of string quartet repertoire, from early music to contemporary compositions, from world folk music to daring interpretations of rock classics. The quartet has collaborated with an extraordinarily diverse range of renowned musical artists, including Steve Reich, Philip Glass, David Bowie, Franghiz Ali-Zadeh, Tom Waits, Astor Piazzolla, Wu Man, the Modern Jazz Quartet, Café Tacuba, and Asha Bhosle.

The Kronos Quartet’s relationship with MIM began in June 2010 when the group’s leader, David Harrington, visited the museum. At that time, he remarked, “MIM is a new American treasure. It’s like walking into the soul of humankind.” Fittingly enough, the quartet’s May 20th performance at MIM will feature an internationally flavored program including compositions from the United States, Canada, Greece, Iraq, Iran, Mexico, India, and the Balkans (see complete concert program below). One of the selections, Severiano Briseño’s “El Sinaloense,” was arranged by celebrated Argentinean composer Osvaldo Golijov, whose work titled *Phoenix* made its world debut last September as a special commission for the Phoenix Symphony by the Target Corporation to honor MIM’s opening.

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The Kronos Quartet's performance at MIM's intimate, acoustically superb Music Theater is sure to be one of the high points of this year's concert season in Phoenix and an event not to be missed.

The members of the Kronos Quartet are:

David Harrington, violin

John Sherba, violin

Hank Dutt, viola

Jeffrey Zeigler, cello

The Kronos Quartet concert program on May 20 includes:

Bryce Dessner / Aheym (Homeward)

Missy Mazzoli / Harp and Altar

Unknown (arr. Ljova & Kronos) / Oh Mother, the Handsome Man Tortures Me

Traditional (arr. Jacob Garchik) / Smyrneiko Minore

Traditional (arr. Jacob Garchik) / Lullaby

Aleksandra Vrebalov / ...hold me, neighbor, in this storm...

INTERMISSION

Severiano Briseño (arr. Osvaldo Golijov) / El Sinaloense (The Man from Sinaloa)

Ram Narayan (arr. Kronos, transc. Ljova) / Raga Mishra Bhairavi: Alap

Nicole Lizée / Death to Kosmische

*PROGRAM SUBJECT TO CHANGE

About MIM

MIM enriches the world community by collecting, preserving, and making accessible high-quality musical instruments, images, and music from every country in the world. We celebrate our world's diverse musical cultures and foster global understanding by offering our guests an incomparable interactive experience, a welcome and fun environment, dynamic programming, and exceptional musical performances.

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About AMIS

The American Musical Instrument Society is an international organization founded in 1971 to promote better understanding of all aspects of the history, design, construction, restoration, and usage of musical instruments in all cultures and from all periods. The membership of AMIS includes collectors, historians, curators, performers, instrument makers, restorers, dealers, conservators, teachers, students, and many institutional members.

About the Kronos Quartet

For more than thirty years, San Francisco's Kronos Quartet has pursued a singular artistic vision with a spirit of fearless exploration. The Grammy-winning Kronos is one of today's most celebrated ensembles, performing thousands of concerts worldwide, releasing over forty-five recordings of extraordinary breadth, commissioning more than seven hundred new works, and collaborating with renowned artists of myriad disciplines.

For more information, interviews, and images, contact

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