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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tickets & Information: 212/854-7799

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“The performance was insightful and vibrant, and the setting ideally intimate...The series puts the chamber back into chamber music. And what a splendid way to spend your lunch hour.”

— Anthony Tommasini, *The New York Times*, reviewing the Daedalus Quartet’s fall 2008 lunchtime concert

Miller Theatre at Columbia University

continues its acclaimed **LUNCHTIME CONCERTS** series this spring 2009:

Chaira String Quartet • Pacifica Quartet

Two superb young groups play Mozart and Mendelssohn over 12 more *free* lunchtime concerts in the cozy confines of Columbia’s Philosophy Hall

January 26, 2009 – April 22, 2009 (see schedule below)

All concerts 12:30PM – 1:30PM
Philosophy Hall at Columbia University
FREE – No tickets required

Presented in collaboration with Columbia University’s Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

FREE LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

Philosophy Hall at Columbia University, 12:30PM – 1:30PM

(Philosophy Hall is conveniently located on the east edge of campus, just north of 116th Street/College Walk and to the east of Low Library and Buell Hall)

One of the most successful innovations in last year’s Miller season was the series of lunchtime concerts in which the **Pacifica Quartet** presented all the Beethoven Quartets in the semi-casual setting of Columbia’s **Philosophy Hall**, “an ideal room for chamber music” according to *The New York Times*. This spring the Pacifica Quartet and the **Chiara String Quartet**—performing quartets by Mozart and Mendelssohn—add to the 2008-2009 offering started in the fall with the Daedalus Quartet.

SPRING 2009 CONCERTS:

Chiara String Quartet - Mozart “Haydn” Quartets

Monday, January 26 - K. 387

Tuesday, January 27 - K. 421

Wednesday, January 28 - K. 428

Monday, February 9 - K. 458

Tuesday, February 10 - K. 464

Wednesday, February 11 - K. 465

Pacifica Quartet - Mendelssohn Quartets

Monday, April 6 - Op. 12

Tuesday, April 7 - Op. 44, No. 1

Wednesday, April 8 - Op. 44, No. 2

Monday, April 20 - Op. 13

Tuesday, April 21 - Op. 44, No. 3

Wednesday, April 22 - Op. 80

ARTISTS:

Chiara String Quartet

Curtis Macomber, violin

Julie Yoon, violin

Jonah Sirota, viola

Gregory Beaver, cello

Pacifica Quartet

Simin Ganatra, violin

Sibbi Bernhardsson, violin

Masumi Per Rostad, viola

Brandon Vamos, cello

BIOS: **CHIARA STRING QUARTET** reaches from concert hall into clubs, bars, and galleries, expanding the places to hear live classical music while returning chamber music to its roots in intimate spaces. The quartet was recently named the Blodgett Artists-in-Residence at Harvard University, a post they begin in the fall of 2008, in addition to their ongoing residency at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The quartet's other honors include the Guarneri Quartet Residency Award for artistic excellence by Chamber Music America and a top prize at the Paolo Borciani International Competition. Chiara devotes much of its season to reaching new audiences through concerts in non-classical venues. Internationally, the Chiara Quartet has performed at the American Academy in Rome and completed an 80-city tour of Sweden. Also at Miller Theatre this season, the group will perform in a Composer Portrait concert featuring the music of Jefferson Friedman.

Recognized for its virtuosity and exuberant performance style, the **PACIFICA QUARTET** has carved out a compelling musical path. Since the ensemble came together in 1994, it has won top prizes in leading international competitions, including the 1998 Naumburg Chamber Music Competition. In 2002 Pacifica was appointed to the Lincoln Center's Chamber Music Society Two program, and it was further honored with Chamber Music America's coveted Cleveland Quartet Award. In May 2006 the Pacifica received an Avery Fisher Career Grant, the second chamber music ensemble ever to be selected. The Pacifica Quartet tours extensively throughout the United States, Europe, and the Far East. The Quartet is an ardent advocate of contemporary music, commissioning and performing as many as eight new works a year. The members of the Pacifica Quartet were appointed to the faculty of the University of Illinois in 2004 and are also resident performing artists at University of Chicago and the Longy School in Boston.

For more information, the public should call the Miller Theatre Box Office
at 212-854-7799, M-F, 12-6PM or visit www.millertheatre.com.

For further information, press tickets, and to arrange interviews, please contact
Aleba Gartner Associates at 212/206-1450 or a@alebagartner.com.

For photos, please contact Lauren Bailey at 212/854-2382 or lrb2113@columbia.edu.

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