



## NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Melissa Peterson  
Community Relations Coordinator  
P: 314-246-4448  
mpeterson34@webster.edu

470 E. Lockwood Ave.  
Webster Groves, MO 63119  
P: 314-968-5939  
F: 314-963-6915  
www.webster.edu/cms

January 25, 2012

### The Euclid String Quartet to appear in concert and mentor Community Music School students during the St. Looney Chamber Blitz



**WHO:** The Euclid String Quartet, Quartet-in-Residence at Indiana University-South Bend

**WHAT:** Concert and Chamber Music Workshop Activities

**WHEN:** Saturday, February 11, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** the Community Music School of Webster University, 535 Garden Ave., Webster Groves, MO 63119

**ADMISSION:** FREE and open to the public

**MORE INFO:** Call 314-968-5939

The Community Music School (CMS) of Webster University welcomes the **Euclid String Quartet** for a

return visit February 9-12, 2012 as the resident ensemble of the **St. Looney Chamber Blitz**. The four day chamber music workshop, now in its fourth year, is an offering of the **Preparatory Program** of the CMS, and is funded in part by a generous grant from the **National Endowment of the Arts**. Students are coached and mentored by Euclid Quartet members, **Jameson Cooper, violin, Jacob Murphy, violin, Luis Vargas, viola, and Si-Yan Darren Li, cello**, and participate in a juried mock-competition, concluding with a master class given by the quartet members.

On Saturday, **February 11, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.**, the Euclid Quartet will be presented in concert at the CMS Concert Hall. The performance will begin with **Haydn String Quartet in B-flat Major, Op. 71, No. 1** and the **Debussy String Quartet in g minor, Op. 10**.

The quartet mesmerized local patrons at last year's Sheldon Hall concert, and this year promises to be even more exciting with the inclusion of **two world premieres** commissioned specifically for the Euclid Quartet and the St. Looney Chamber Blitz. Webster University jazz pianist and Director of Composition **Kim Portnoy** was commissioned to write a one movement piano quintet incorporating jazz styles, suitable for professionals and advanced level students. The resulting **Caprice** will be a welcome addition to the piano quintet literature. Preparatory Program Artistic Director **Vera Parkin** will join the Euclid Quartet at the piano. "Audiences will love Kim's new work; it is vivacious and has great textures and interplay between the strings and piano. I think audiences will immediately take to it. The Euclid Quartet did such a wonderful job as our guest ensemble last season that it was a natural to invite them again and commission some works for them to play with friends--a thing quartets love to do. Not only are they a world class quartet, but each member is an outstanding soloist and teaching artist."

The second commission is a clarinet quintet incorporating authentic Roumanian folk songs. **Gypsy Suite**, by St. Louis Symphony violist and composer **Christian Woehr** is comprised of four songs of varying characters and tempos, ending in a frenzied dance of mixed meters. As one local eastern European violinist said, "it's almost sorcery what those gypsy fiddlers can do." Clarinetist **Dana Hotle** will be joining the Euclid Quartet in the premier.

Ms. Hotle is clarinetist and Artistic Director of **Chamber Project St. Louis**. She is also a faculty member of the CMS.

The Euclid Quartet is the Quartet in Residence at Indiana University-South Bend. The four members hail from four different continents, and are named for Euclid Ave. in Cleveland, home to a wealth of great artistic talent and tradition. Winners of numerous international prizes, including the Osaka, Hugo Kauder, and Carmel chamber competitions, the quartet was recently awarded the prominent "Great Masterpieces" grant by the National Endowment for the Arts. For more information about the Euclid Quartet, visit: [www.euclidquartet.com](http://www.euclidquartet.com)

For further information about the St.Looey Chamber Blitz, please call 314.968.5939.

Founded in 1925, CMS offers outstanding music education and performance opportunities to students of all ages and abilities and serves the entire St. Louis metropolitan region. Classes are available in University City, at Faust Park in West County, and at CMS headquarters located on the Webster University campus in Webster Groves. For more information, call 314-968-5939.

The Community Music School is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music, and is a certified member of the National Guild for Community Arts Education. The Community Music School receives assistance from the Arts and Education Council of Greater Saint Louis and support from the Regional Arts Commission of St. Louis. Financial assistance for this project has been provided by the National Endowment for the Arts.

