

Photos Available Upon Request

MEDIA CONTACT: Kathleen Van Gorden
KVG Communications
401-480-1840
kathleenv@kvgcom.com



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 25, 2013

FirstWorks and Community MusicWorks Partner to Present Kronos Quartet

- *Commission for Internationally Renowned Ensemble Made Possible Through Bold Partnership* -
- *Rare Providence Performance Celebrates Musical Innovation and Exploration* -
- *Intimate and Exhilarating Evening at RISD Auditorium Highlighted by World Premiere* -
- *November 8, 2013* -

PROVIDENCE, RI – [FirstWorks](#) and Community MusicWorks partner to present a rare Providence performance by Kronos Quartet, one of the world's most celebrated and influential ensembles, Friday, November 8, 2013, 8:00pm at RISD Auditorium. A legendary force at the forefront of the performing arts, Kronos embraces a spirit of fearless exploration to tell the stories of new music like no other.

The evening celebrates spectacular virtuosity and some of the best music of our time created especially for Kronos by a host of composers including Laurie Anderson, Serbian wunderkind Aleksandra Vrebalov, and Canadian electronic trickster, John Oswald. The highlight of the concert will be the first-ever performance of *A Voice Exclaiming*, a musically bi-lingual piece by the internationally renowned Kareem Roustom, composed for Kronos and The Community MusicWorks Players as part of an ambitious partnership between FirstWorks and Community MusicWorks (CMW).

"A Voice Exclaiming by Kareem Roustom is the perfect opportunity for Kronos to work with the students and faculty of Community MusicWorks through this partnership with FirstWorks to extend the reach of new music in our society," said David Harrington, Kronos Quartet founder and violinist. "This is a vivid, thought-provoking new piece that reflects hope in the time we live in, and the immense possibility for positive change as well as its awesome uncertainties and dangers."

A Voice Exclaiming was conceived to bring awareness to important global issues, and weaves together Arabic and Western music in homage to Syria, the birthplace of the composer.

"This ambitious project realizes FirstWorks vision to bring the best artists of our time to Providence, to debut new work, to collaborate with one of our finest local ensembles, and to deeply engage students and our community," said Kathleen Pletcher, Executive Artist Director, FirstWorks. "The eyes of the music world will be turned on Providence for this momentous new musical work and the

groundbreaking way it connects generations and cultures. The performance on November 8 will be an event not to be missed for those in our community hungry to participate in a moment that changes our perceptions of the very act of making a concert. We are thrilled that our partnership with Community MusicWorks has enabled us to undertake this transformative project.”

“The inspiration, incubation and performance of this work advances Providence as an important hub for new music. Three musical generations come together to debut this new piece,” said Sebastian Ruth, Founder and Artistic Director, Community MusicWorks. “Through our partnership with FirstWorks, we have brought an internationally renowned ensemble and an Emmy-nominated composer together with young people and resident professional musicians from Community MusicWorks. This project furthers CMW’s mission of redefining the role of musicians in building civil society.”

Featuring David Harrington (violin), John Sherba (violin), Hank Dutt (viola) and Sunny Yang (cello), Kronos are the only recipients of both the Polar Music Prize and the Avery Fisher Prize, two of the most prestigious awards given to musicians.

FirstWorks and Community MusicWorks present Kronos Quartet, Friday, November 8, 2013, 8:00pm at RISD Auditorium, 17 Canal Walk, Providence. Tickets are \$28-65 and are available online at first-works.org, or call 401-421-4281.

Editors Notes: *A Voice Exclaiming* is currently in rehearsal in Providence with the CMW Players and three accomplished student musicians. Rehearsal visits are available upon request. Kronos Quartet will be in Providence from November 5, preparing for the world premiere and media opportunities are also available. Contact: Kathleen Van Gorden at kathleenv@kvgcom.com or 401-480-1840 to schedule a preview of this significant work of art.

Calendar Listing (High Resolution Images Available Upon Request):

Kronos Quartet, one of the world’s most celebrated and influential ensembles, returns to Providence with the world-premiere of a new work by Kareem Roustom, commissioned by FirstWorks and Community MusicWorks in a bold, creative partnership. An intimate and thrilling concert evening celebrates the spectacular virtuosity of Kronos in a program of works created especially for them by leading composers from across the globe. Friday, November 8, 8:00pm at RISD Auditorium. Tickets \$28-65 at first-works.org or call 401-421-4281.

About Kronos Quartet

For 40 years, San Francisco’s Kronos Quartet—David Harrington (violin), John Sherba (violin), Hank Dutt (viola), and Sunny Yang (cello)—has combined a spirit of fearless exploration with a commitment to continually re-imagining the string quartet experience. In the process, Kronos has become one of the

world's most celebrated and influential ensembles, performing thousands of concerts worldwide, releasing more than 50 recordings, collaborating with many of the world's most eclectic composers and performers, and commissioning more than 800 works and arrangements for string quartet. A Grammy winner, Kronos is also the only recipient of both the Polar Music Prize and the Avery Fisher Prize. With a staff of ten, the non-profit Kronos Performing Arts Association (KPAA) manages all aspects of Kronos' work, including the commissioning of new works, concert tours and home-season performances, and education programs.

About FirstWorks: Connecting Art with Audiences

FirstWorks is a non-profit arts organization that builds the cultural, educational, and economic vitality of our community through world-class performing arts and education programs. Since 2004, FirstWorks has offered Rhode Islanders access to some of the most exciting artists of our time including Yo-Yo Ma & the Silk Road Ensemble, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Wynton Marsalis, Joffrey Ballet and the master artists of Pakistan through the Caravanserai project (2011-12). Beginning with an unprecedented collaboration with Providence's Department of Art, Culture + Tourism, FirstWorks has produced 22 groundbreaking arts festivals, attracted more than 155,000 participants, presented over 361 international artists and innovators, engaged more than 100 nonprofit community organizations and schools, and grown into a multidimensional arts organization recognized with 15 National Endowment for the Arts grants. In fall 2012, FirstWorks partnered with the City of Providence to present the inaugural FirstWorks Festival: On the Plaza, leading a consortium of 18 organizations to create an event that drew 40,000 people into downtown Providence. In July 2013, the City of Providence and FirstWorks were named recipients of another a second NEA Our Town grant to support a community design effort to create a cultural corridor in downtown Providence along Washington Street, and to establish the FirstWorks Festival on the Plaza as a biennial signature event in Providence. Visit www.first-works.org to learn more.

About Community Music Works

Founded in 1997, Community MusicWorks (CMW) is a nationally recognized community-based organization that uses music education and performance as a vehicle to build lasting and meaningful relationships between children, families, and professional musicians in urban neighborhoods of Providence, RI. The Community MusicWorks Players is the resident ensemble of Community MusicWorks. New Yorker music critic Alex Ross describes Community MusicWorks as "a revolutionary organization in which the distinction between performing and teaching disappears."

###