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<http://www.newesterhazy.org/press.htm>

**“NEQ’s perfect tuning and sensitive phrasing made the clean textures and conventional harmonic patterns shimmer”**-San Francisco Classical Voice, November 2013

## **Palo Alto Friends Music in the Meeting House**

&

### **THE NEW ESTERHÁZY QUARTET**

**Kati Kyme**, violin

**Lisa Weiss**, violin

**Anthony Martin**, viola

**William Skeen**, violoncello

present

## ***Esterházy, Book II***

Paul **Brantley**: *Esterházy, Book II*

Joseph **Haydn**: Quartets Op. 20, No. 1 in Eb & Op. 20, No. 4 in D

**Friday, January 31**, 2014, at 7.30 pm,

Palo Alto Friends Meeting House, 957 Colorado Ave, Palo Alto, CA 94303.

**Suggested donation is \$25**, to be paid at the door.

For reservations, please call (650) 322-2455. For directions, please visit [www.pafm.org](http://www.pafm.org)

**San Francisco, January 6, 2014**—On January 31 the New Esterházy Quartet present the world premiere of a new work written especially for them by New York composer Paul Brantley. *Esterházy, Book II* is a three-movement string quartet written specifically with the sounds of the quartet’s period instruments in mind. Two contrasting quartets by Joseph Haydn himself will frame *Esterházy, Book II*. Admission to the concert is by donation, and all funds received will benefit the Friends Committee on Legislation of California, the Quaker lobby for just and compassionate law-making in Sacramento.

To celebrate the life of the late mathematician and early computer pioneer Franz Alt, Paul Brantley was commissioned to compose a string quartet in memory of his dear friend,

who passed away in 2012 at age 100. Alt was also a wonderful amateur violinist and violist who regularly held string quartet readings in his home up until the last year of his very rich life. Brantley participated in these as cellist for nearly a decade.

Inspired by Haydn’s comment that that in his isolation at the Esterházy estate he was “forced to become original,” Brantley is calling his piece written for New York’s Flux Quartet “Esterházy.” The composer writes: “I’ve always responded to Haydn’s statement more as a metaphor for the creative process in general: wherever the artist might be geographically, one has to enter a self-reliant, ‘Esterházy,’ frame of mind—and thus the creative person’s perennial balancing act of ‘being in the world’/’being in one’s own.’ Franz Alt’s life was manifestly a meaningful and beautiful balance in this regard.”

Upon this piece being announced for the Flux Quartet, the New Esterházy Quartet contacted the composer expressing interest in giving the West Coast premiere. “As much as I was thrilled by such a request, the music I had conceived and written at that point was not entirely idiomatic for such a period instrument group. But because this music was concerned with all kinds of “doubles”, the idea occurred to me to compose two independent and yet interlaced quartets: one for Flux, the new music quartet; and one for NEQ, the period instrument group.”

**Paul Brantley** is the recent recipient of the “Dream Project” commission from the Memphis Symphony Orchestra, from a pool of 280 applicants. The two “books” of his string quartet, *Esterházy*, will receive their premieres this season by Flux and New Esterházy Quartets. He has also had recent performances at at Bargemusic; Monadnock Music Festival; Bridgehampton Chamber Music Festival; St. Bartholomew's; Philharmonic Orchestra of the Americas (*Town Hall*), Left Bank Ensemble (*Kennedy Center*), Ethel (*Kimmel Center*), Excelsior Trombone Ensemble (*Performance Today*), Goliard Ensemble, Manhattan School of Music Symphony, Belladonna, L’Opera du Village, and SONYC (The Kitchen).

Paul has performed as solo cellist with Trey Anastasio, Cassatt Quartet, recorded for Béla Fleck and James Morrison, toured with Jimmy Page/Robert Plant, gigned with Chester Thompson, produced for Roy “Futureman” Wooten, conducted for David Binney, and arranged for Ethel, Todd Rundgren, and Christian Scott. He recently joined the eclectic group, Afro-Jersey, with Terre Roche (of “The Roches”). He has recorded solo cello for Sony/Columbia, Rounder, Warner Bros., Polydor, Compass, and others. Composer’s residencies and seminars include: MacDowell Colony, Banff Centre, Gabriel Fauré Conservatoire, and Yale School of Music. Paul teaches conducting at The Manhattan School of Music. <http://www.billholabmusic.com/composers/paul-brantley>

**The members of the New Esterházy Quartet—violinists Lisa Weiss and Kati Kyme, violist Anthony Martin, and cellist William Skeen—specialize in period performance and often occupy the first chairs of Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra and American Bach Soloists. With Haydn’s 68 quartets as their core repertoire, the New Esterházy Quartet is increasingly recognized as one of the world’s top period-instrument string quartets. The**

quartet has been praised for their "sumptuous sound with beautifully controlled dynamics" and recently received accolades in *Early Music America Magazine* for their *Haydn in America* CD:

**"The slow movements—especially the gorgeous *Adagio cantabile* of Op. 17, No. 4, where the period instruments sound especially warm and resonant—are lyrical and tranquil; and the fast movements are tight and crisply articulated."**

Currently in their seventh year of subscription concerts in San Francisco and Palo Alto, the New Esterházy Quartet has added performances at Berkeley's Hillside Club for the 2013-2014 concert season. Recent projects feature pupils and admirers of Haydn including late works by Mozart and Beethoven, as well as novel explorations of early Bartók and Schoenberg. Four Haydn recordings are available, and a premier recording of an 1850s composition by Hungarian composer Imre Székely is underway. To learn more about the quartet, please visit [www.newesterhazy.org](http://www.newesterhazy.org)

Since 1997, **Palo Alto Friends Meeting** has hosted classical chamber music concerts to benefit the Friends Committee on Legislation. The size and acoustics of the Quaker Meetinghouse are ideal for chamber music performances.

The Friends' Committee on Legislation is a Quaker organization founded in 1952 to lobby in Sacramento for just and compassionate law-making in California. FCL currently concentrates on prison and death penalty reform, health care allocation, human rights, and freedom of religious practice. See also <http://www.fclca.org>

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