

Felix Piano Quartet to appear on AU Miller Theater stage

2/16/11

On Friday, Feb. 25, the Felix Piano Quartet will perform on stage in the new Miller Theater at Alfred University at 7 p.m. Admission is free. The program is funded by the David and Elizabeth Miller Performing Arts Fund. The program will include "Cavatina from Miniatures for Violin, Viola and Cello in B-flat Major" by Dvorak; "Serenade for Violin, Viola, and Cello in C Major by Dohnanyi; and the "Piano Quartet in G Minor" by Brahms. The performance group is made up of violinist Sieh-Jian Tsai, violist Janz Castelo, cellist Rintaro Wada and pianist Ritsuko Wada. Tsai was born in Taipei, Taiwan and received a bachelor of music degree from the University of Illinois- Urbana-Champaign, as well as a master of arts degree in music from the New England Conservatory in Boston, MA. He has been a solo with the Taiwan Strings Orchestra since winning its fifth violin concerto competition in 2004. More recently, Tsai was invited on a European and South American tour with the Verbier Festival Orchestra. He is currently a member of the second violin section of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra. Castelo, of San Juan, Puerto Rico, received a bachelor of arts degree of music in viola performance from the Peabody Conservatory of Music. He continued his studies with Boston Symphony violist Edward Gazouleas. He has appeared in music festivals in the United States and abroad, including the National Orchestral Institute in Maryland, and the Kuhmo Chamber Music Festival in Kuhmo, Finland. Castelo joined the viola section of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra in the fall of 2001. In 2007 he formed the Buffalo Chamber Players, a mixed chamber ensemble. Mr. Wada is the artistic director of the Chamber Music Society of Olean. He has performed as a soloist, chamber musician, and orchestra member in Japan, Italy, and the United States. He earned a master of science degree in cello performance and literature from Eastman School of Music, Rochester, and a bachelor of music degree and post-graduate diploma in cello performance from Showa College of Music in Japan. He is a cellist in the Western New York Chamber Orchestra, the orchestra director of the Olean City School District, and an adjunct faculty member at Houghton College's Greatbatch School of Music and at St. Bonaventure University. Mrs. Wada holds a bachelor of arts degree of music in piano performance from Showa College of Music where she was a merit scholarship student, studying with Takahiro Sonoda, one of Japan's leading pianists. Her teaching career began in 1991 at the Yamaha Music School. She has performed as a soloist, chamber musician, and accompanist in universities and churches. She played as a pianist in the Allegany Piano Trio, Felix Piano Trio, Feifen Piano Trio, and W piano Quartet. She is a member of Music Performance Practice Association of Japan and currently teaches in her private studio and at Jamestown Community College, Olean.