

Immediate Release
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Coming in August!
Montalvo Arts Center's World Premiere Commission Divide Light
Spotlight: Del Sol String Quartet

Dynamic, San Francisco-based ensemble joins creator Lesley Dill, The Choral Project and more for this new opera

SARATOGA, Calif. – San Francisco-based [Del Sol String Quartet](#), recognized for its ability to showcase living composers in relevant, responsive and deeply passionate performances, brings their ability to this new production of *Divide Light* created by New York-based visual and performance artist [Lesley Dill](#). *Divide Light* redirects the classic form of opera using the works of Emily Dickinson (1830-1886) to celebrate and investigate American Transcendentalism. Composed by [Richard Marriott](#) and joined by [The Choral Project](#) and three operatic soloists: Jennifer Goltz, soprano, Kathleen Moss, mezzo and soprano and Andrew Eisenmann, baritone, as well as visual elements in the form of scrims and costumes that reveal messages through the poems that reside on them, all the players take the audience on a journey of the soul by embodying the sound, the voice and the character of Emily Dickinson, as conceived by Dill.

[Del Sol String Quartet](#) is known for introducing new work from prominent and emerging composers, collaborating with other musicians across cultures and genres, as well as presenting a Bay Area season concert series. The group is a two-time winner of The Chamber Music America/ASCAP Prize for Adventurous Programming and stands out as a group of pure invention. In 2008 the group premiered *Spiral X: In Memoriam* (for amplified string quartet) by Grawemeyer Award-winning composer, Chinary Ung. As a result of this performance at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., the quartet has been invited to play at the Palaces of St. Petersburg Music Festival, to be held in Russia in June 2009, and will premiere a multimedia version of composer [Michael Harrison's](#) *Revelation* (Best of Recordings 2007: New York Times, Boston Globe and Time-Out New York) at the [Other Minds](#) Festival in 2009. Other Minds Recordings has recently produced their new *Ring of Fire* CD to be released in August 2009.

“The participation of the Del Sol String Quartet brings an unmatched element to *Divide Light*,” said Dill. “The group’s experience collaborating with organizations across the Bay Area and undeniable drive to further their musical direction makes them a perfect collaborator for this unique, multifaceted production.”

Introduced in 1992, the quartet began in residence at the Banff Centre for the Arts, followed by a residency at San Francisco State University in association with the Alexander String Quartet. Other appointments have included the 2003 Emerging Quartets and Composers Residency with the Muir String Quartet and Joan Tower in Park City, Utah; Hot Springs Music Festival in Arkansas (2004-05); and quartet-in-residence at University of New Mexico.

“Divide Light is in a category all its own and The Del Sol String Quartet is delighted to be part of it,” said members of Del Sol. “The group enjoys performing pieces that go beyond the norm, and looks forward to sharing with the audience not only its musical abilities, but also its dynamic presence through interactive costumes in this exciting night of exploring the world of Emily Dickinson.”

Incubated in the heart of Silicon Valley at [Montalvo's Sally and Don Lucas Artist Programs residency](#), Divide Light incorporates Dickinson's poems and goes beyond rational reason into the world of obsessive informational insanity, which refers not only to Dickinson aficionados, but also to the overflow of information we now have at our fingertips made possible by the Internet and amazing new technologies.

Participants include:

Lesley Dill, Artistic Director, Libretto, Video Designer, Costume Designer
Richard Marriott, Composer
Daniel Hughes, Music Director
Della Davidson, Stage Director
Paige Howie, Costume Mistress
The Choral Project
Del Sol String Quartet
Jennifer Goltz, Soprano
Kathleen Moss, Mezzo Soprano
Andrew Eisenmann, Baritone
Montalvo Arts Center, Production

Please see additional participants at www.dividelight.com.

Divide Light receives its world premiere in Montalvo's outdoor amphitheater, the Garden Theatre, on Aug. 13 at 8:00 p.m., curtain at 8:30 p.m.

The commission and production of Divide Light is generously funded by: The Rockefeller Foundation, MAP Fund; William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and J. Lohr Vineyards & Wines.

TICKET INFORMATION

\$55/35/20-Student (Members: \$44/28/15-Student)

Tickets are available now. Please call Montalvo's Box Office at 408-961-5858 or www.montalvoarts.org.

Tickets are also available at www.ticketmaster.com.

About Montalvo Arts Center

Montalvo Arts Center is a member-supported, nonprofit organization dedicated to capturing the innovative and diverse spirit of Silicon Valley and engaging people in contemporary concerns through the arts. Located in Silicon Valley's Saratoga hills, Montalvo Arts Center rests on 175 stunning acres, including the Sally and Don Lucas Artist Programs, an international artist residency; a historic Mediterranean villa, two theaters, a gallery and 2.5 miles of hiking trails. The historic villa and grounds were left to the people of California in 1930 by Senator James Phelan for the encouragement of art, music, literature and architecture.

For more information about Montalvo Arts Center, call 408-961-5800 or visit www.montalvoarts.org/.

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