

For Immediate Release

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**PIPA MASTER WU MAN TO GUEST WITH SHANGHAI QUARTET
IN WORLD PREMIERE OF LEI LIANG'S 'FIVE SEASONS'
SEPTEMBER 12 AT 3PM
AT MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY'S ALEXANDER KASSER THEATER
Concert also includes Beethoven, Schumann and a solo for pipa**

The world premiere of Lei Liang's "Five Seasons" will be performed by the Shanghai Quartet and pipa master Wu Man, who is guesting for the September 12 concert at the Alexander Kasser Theater. The poetically evocative work begins with a delicate suggestion of ice melting in early spring, followed by a "cicada chorus" suggesting the long, hot summer days in the Beijing of Liang's youth. The fall is recalled through sound images of "leaves falling" and winter with the quintet creating the insistent sound of drumming associated with *dong*, the Chinese pronunciation of winter. To capture the spirit of the changing seasons, the music moves from sparse to dense, still to rapid, and tranquil to exuberant. The composition invites Wu Man to improvise as is customary with pipa performances. The concert will also include Beethoven's Quartet, op. 18, no. 3 and Schumann's Quartet, op. 41, no 1. Wu Man will also present "Dance of the Yi People," a solo for the pipa composed by Wang Huiran.

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PLEASE SEE THE FOLLOWING PAGE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

TICKET, TRANSPORTATION AND DINING INFORMATION

All tickets are \$15 and are available at the Alexander Kasser Theater Box Office, by calling 973-655-5112 or online at www.peakperfs.org

Charter bus service is provided from New York City's Port Authority Bus Terminal – arcade on 41st Street between 8th and 9th Avenues – to the Alexander Kasser Theater (\$10 per person, roundtrip) for all Saturday and Sunday performances. Bus reservations may be made by calling 973-655-5112 or by visiting www.peakperfs.org. For train service, available only on weekdays, go online to www.njtransit.com or call 1-973-275-5555.

For restaurants close to the Alexander Kasser Theater, visit <http://www.destinationmontclair.com>

Montclair State University is located at 1 Normal Avenue, Montclair, New Jersey 07043.

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Five Seasons is commissioned by the Shanghai Quartet. This commission has been made possible by the Chamber Music America Commissioning Program, with funding generously provided by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Aaron Copland Fund Music, and the Chamber Music America Endowment Fund. Additional support provided by the Meet the Composer's *Commissioning Music/USA* program, which is made possible by generous support from the Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust, the Ford Foundation, the Francis Goelet Charitable Lead Trusts, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, New York State Council on the Arts, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and the Helen F. Whitaker Fund.

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