



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

***FIRST FRIDAYS AT THE FRICK
BROUGHT TO YOU BY FIRST NIAGARA
PRESENTS
ST. PETERSBURG STRING QUARTET***

Esteemed chamber ensemble with Russian roots helps set the stage for the Frick's Fabergé celebration

**Date/time: Friday, September 2, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.
Admission: A donation of \$5 per adult is suggested**



PITTSBURGH, PA, August 17, 2011—On Friday, September 2, 2011, the St. Petersburg String Quartet will perform the final concert of the 2011 season of *FIRST FRIDAYS AT THE FRICK BROUGHT TO YOU BY FIRST NIAGARA*. The performance takes place on the Great Lawn at the Frick Art & Historical Center beginning at 7:00 p.m. Guests are invited to come early and create a gourmet picnic with selections from the award-winning Café at the Frick, which begins serving at 5:30 p.m. The Frick Art Museum, Car and Carriage Museum and Museum Shop will remain open until 10:00 p.m. Admission to museums is free. Free parking is available in the Frick's off-street lot, or along adjacent neighborhood streets.

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The St. Petersburg String Quartet (SPSQ) is one of the world's most esteemed chamber ensembles and, with its Russian roots, the perfect group of performers to help the Frick prepare for its Fabergé exhibition, *Fabergé: The Hodges Family Collection*, opening October 23, 2011 at The Frick Art Museum. The quartet, founded as the Leningrad String Quartet in 1985 by first violinist Alla Aranovskaya and cellist Leonid Shukayev, was renamed the St. Petersburg String Quartet when the city of Leningrad reassumed its historic name.

In 2009, the SPSQ launched the St. Petersburg International Music Academy, an intensive summer program for students in the United States and Mexico. In 2010, the Quartet was appointed the inaugural quartet in residence at Wichita State University. The latest releases in the SPSQ's extensive discography include CDs of Ravel and Debussy quartets and the complete chamber music works of Tchaikovsky. Alla Aranovskaya and Leonid Shukayev are founding members of the SPSQ; Boris Vayner joined in 2005 and Evgeny Zvonnikov in 2010.

In addition to winning numerous chamber music competitions, the quartet has been honored with a Grammy nomination, best record honors in both *Stereo Review* and *Gramophone* magazines, an opening night performance at *Mostly Mozart* at Lincoln Center, a five-year residency at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, and hundreds of concerts at many prestigious festivals and series in North America, Europe and Asia.

ABOUT THE MUSICIANS

Alla Aranovskaya, First Violin, was born and raised in St. Petersburg, Russia, and began studying violin at age six. Her 20 years in music school included the Rimsky-Korsakov Music College and the St. Petersburg Conservatory. During her senior year at the conservatory, she became a member of the Kirov Opera Orchestra under the direction of Konstantin Simeonov, Yuri Temirkanov and Valery Gergiev. In the mid-1980s, she received second prize at the All Russian Violin Competition and recorded the Saint-Saens Concerto No.3 with the St. Petersburg Capella Orchestra conducted by Alexander Chernushenko. After graduating from the conservatory, Alla joined its faculty, and the idea of starting a string quartet first took hold. With cellist Leonid Shukaev, Alla prepared a program for the All Russian String Quartet Competition, thus beginning their professional journey together.

Boris Vayner, Viola, was born in Novosibirsk, Russia. His professional background includes Novosibirsk Music College and St. Petersburg Conservatory where he studied with Aleksey Lyudevig. Boris was a founding member of the Krasny String Quartet, which received first prize at the Gartow Fund Chamber Music Competition in St. Petersburg in 1999 and recorded all the quartets of Vissarion Shebalin for the Olympia label. As a soloist, Boris appeared with St. Petersburg Chamber Philharmonie and received 2nd prize in the Gartow Fund Solo Competition in St. Petersburg in 2002. He was an assistant principal viola of the St. Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra and a principal viola of the Novosibirsk Youth Orchestra. Boris moved to the United States in 2003 to study at the New England Conservatory and earned a master of music in 2005. He has attended master classes by Kim Kashkashian and Karen Tuttle and played with the Boston Symphony. In 2005, Boris joined the St. Petersburg String Quartet.

Evgeny Zvonnikov, Second Violin, entered the Rimsky-Korsakov Music College in 1994 and the St. Petersburg Conservatory in 2005. Since his first year of conservatory, he has been associate concertmaster of the Zazerkalie State Theater. Frequently invited as a solo and ensemble performer by various orchestras, he has taken part in many concerts in the main concert halls of St. Petersburg. He has toured with ensembles in Japan, Finland, France, Switzerland, and Italy. As a tango player, he has shared several concerts with Argentinean performers such as Martin Alvorado and performed with the gold and silver medal tango champions of Russia. As a solo performer, Evgeny took part in the Paganini and Yampolsky competitions (both in Moscow), and his duo received a certificate of honor for its performance of a Beethoven sonata. He also won second prize in the Maria Udina Chamber Music Competition. In December 2009, Evgeny won the St. Petersburg International Music Academy Concerto Competition and received a scholarship for participation in the Elan International Music Festival in Dallas, Texas, and St. Petersburg International Music Academy at Music Mountain, Falls Village, Connecticut. In October 2010, Evgeny was invited by the St. Petersburg String Quartet members to fill the second violinist position.

Leonid Shukayev, Cello, was born “in the most beautiful city in the world—St. Petersburg.” At age six, he began studying music with Valentin Elin. Although Leonid had other interests such as math and biology, he chose to pursue music and entered the Rimsky-Korsakov Music College. In

college, he became very interested in chamber music and started attending classes taught by Vissarion Soloviev, the violist from the Taneyev String Quartet, and Emma Estrin. During his second year, he entered a chamber ensemble competition and, together with pianist Helena Kurdina (now working at the Met Opera), won first prize. At the Conservatory, he studied cello with Emanuel Fishmann and with chamber ensemble teachers Tamara Fidler and Vladimir Ovcharek, First Violinist of the Taneyev String Quartet. He entered the Conservatory doctorate program where he studied with Anatoli Nikitin and Sergei Roldugin and was invited to work with conductor Eugene Mravinski in the Leningrad Philharmonic Orchestra. His music career was interrupted for a year and a half by his military service. As a teacher, Leonid encourages his students to think for themselves, master their technique and, above all, love the music. For him, it is important that they achieve success not only in music but in other areas of their lives. The St. Petersburg String Quartet performs on the Great Lawn at the Frick Art & Historical Center at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, September 2, 2011. The media sponsor for this concert is WQED-FM 89.3.

FIRST FRIDAYS AT THE FRICK BROUGHT TO YOU BY FIRST NIAGARA

First Niagara is corporate sponsor of the 17th season of the *First Fridays at the Frick* summer outdoor concert series.

FABERGÉ AT THE FRICK

Fabergé: The Hodges Family Collection
October 23, 2011–January 15, 2012

The Frick is proud to present the first major exhibition of Fabergé objects to be shown in Pittsburgh. This exhibition includes more than 100 objects made by the renowned House of Fabergé, led by Russian artist-jeweler Peter Carl Fabergé (1846–1920), goldsmith and jeweler to the Russian court. All works are from the Hodges Family Collection, the first significant collection of Fabergé assembled in America in decades.

Fabergé created an extensive array of decorative items for wealthy Russian and European patrons. From fine jewelry to photograph frames, tableware, desk accessories, boxes, clocks,

cigarette cases, and smoking accessories, the consummate skill of the House of Fabergé is evident in the ingenious use of precious and semi-precious materials to create luxury objects of the highest order. The story of Fabergé is one of luxury and extravagance brought to an abrupt end by revolution. In 1918, following the establishment of the Bolshevik Soviet Republic, Peter Carl Fabergé and most of his family escaped to Switzerland. Many of Fabergé's wealthy Russian patrons also fled the country, taking what treasures they could with them. In the years since, as objects have made their way into auction houses and marketplaces, the allure of Fabergé has only grown, as collectors have sought out his spectacular and fascinating creations.

To complement this exhibition, the Frick will display select items from its collection of fine 17th-, 18th- and 19th-century Russian decorative arts, including an enameled tea set made by A.I. Kuzmichev, purchased by Henry Clay Frick through Tiffany & Co. in 1894, and Russian silver purchased by Helen Clay Frick.

As part of the site-wide *Fabergé at the Frick* celebration, a special installation at Clayton, *All That Glitters: Luxury in the Gilded Age*, will focus on decorative luxury objects in the collection and will create connections to the Fabergé exhibition by highlighting materials, designs, decorative trends, and elements of the international style that was popular at the turn of the 20th century.

In addition, as part of the Frick's site-wide focus on fine, well-designed luxury objects, three automobiles designed by renowned motor car manufacturer Rolls-Royce will be exhibited at the Car and Carriage Museum.

The opulent and glittering world of Fabergé and Russian decorative and folk art provide the inspiration for The Fabergé Shop, which will be open at The Frick Art Museum during the exhibition, and The Café at the Frick's ambience will evoke Russia at the turn of the 20th century.

And to complement the exhibition, the Frick is offering a wide and diverse schedule of programs focusing on the history, craftsmanship and legacy of the House of Fabergé and the fascinating period in Russian history during which the exhibition pieces were created. **More information is available online at FabergeAtTheFrick.org.**

Fabergé: The Hodges Family Collection is organized by the New Orleans Museum of Art. The Pittsburgh presentation is made possible through the generous support of First National Bank and the Richard King Mellon Foundation.

ABOUT THE FRICK ART & HISTORICAL CENTER

The Frick Art & Historical Center is the legacy of Helen Clay Frick, daughter of 19th-century industrialist and art collector Henry Clay Frick. Having established The Frick Art Museum in 1969, Miss Frick desired that her family home, Clayton, and the surrounding estate be preserved for, and opened to, the people of Pittsburgh after her death. Her vision was realized in 1990.

Today, the Frick Art & Historical Center houses a galaxy of collections—including fine arts, decorative arts, automobiles and carriages, and historic artifacts— in multiple galleries and venues, many of which are historic objects in and of themselves. These collections, and the programs that interpret them, illuminate the era during which Pittsburgh became one of the nation’s most important cities and also make meaningful connections to contemporary times. Although still a relatively young institution, the Frick ranks among Pittsburgh’s most important cultural and educational assets.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Frick Art & Historical Center is located at 7227 Reynolds Street in Pittsburgh’s Point Breeze neighborhood. Free parking is available in the Frick’s off-street lot or along adjacent streets. The Frick is open 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Tuesday–Sunday and closed Mondays and major holidays. Admission to The Frick Art Museum, Car and Carriage Museum, Greenhouse, and Playhouse is free. The public should call 412-371-0600 for information, or visit the Frick online at TheFrickPittsburgh.org.

For additional information or images, please contact Greg Langel, Media and Marketing Manager, at 412-371-0600 ext. 524 or GLangel@TheFrickPittsburgh.org.

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The Frick Art & Historical Center, a museum, historic site and cultural center serves the public through preservation, presentation, and interpretation of the fine and decorative arts and historically significant artifacts for all residents of and visitors to Western Pennsylvania.