Montana String Quartet to perform last of its fall series

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

One of the University of Montana's most prominent music groups, the Montana String Quartet, will perform the last in its fall series of 24 Young Audience concerts in Alberton Tuesday (23rd), Dr. Lloyd Oakland of the U of M School of Music reports.

The quartet is composed of faculty members from the School of Music, including Prof. Eugene Andrie and Dr. Gerald Doty, violinists; Dr. Florence Reynolds, cellist; and Prof. Eugene Weigel, violist and composer in residence at the U of M.

Since the middle of September the quartet has travelled as far as Havre, Great Falls, Butte and Helena to the east, Stevensville, Corvallis and Hamilton to the south and Kalispell and Whitefish to the north.

These performances were made possible by a grant from a New York group called Young Audiences, Inc. The "seeding program" as it is called utilized upper grade school groups of around 300 each in informal settings.

The program is intended to promote the understanding of music by giving the youngsters the opportunity to hear and question professional musicians as they play together.

This is the only such program in the mountain northwest. The Portland Symphony provides the ensembles for a similar program there. The next nearest similar program is at Denver. Dr. Oakland, Montana coordinator for Young Audiences, hopes the U of M faculty brass and woodwind ensembles will also qualify for the corporation's grants.

"Although the Young Audience grant has run out for this year, it will continue to subsidize the Montana String Quartet for half the cost to send it to more schools, if the schools are willing to pay half the cost of the concert and mileage from Missoula," Dr. Oakland said.
Not only has school and student response been terrific, but the communities which have utilized a visit of the Quartet for a community sponsored concert have also been excited over the performances.

One sixth grader at Morningside school in Great Falls "felt as if her heart was dancing with the music." A seventh grader from Big Fork told the quartet that it "sure didn't sound like Jack Benny." A fifth grader from the Sunnyside school in Havre said to the Quartet: "You take time to make music interesting." A fourth grader at Missoula's Paxson school had "never believed that tunes could sound so good."

Dr. Oakland also mentioned that Livingston and Plains have requested Young Audience performances by the Montana String Quartet, and that he is hoping to arrange performances in other towns along the way so as to split the cost.