

**Nonesuch Releases Kronos Quartet's *Floodplain* on May 19**

**Featuring music from Azerbaijan, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan,  
Lebanon, India, Iran, Iraq, Palestine, Serbia, and Turkey**

*Kronos... an all-terrain vehicle in contemporary culture.* —The New Yorker

Nonesuch Records releases the latest Kronos Quartet album, *Floodplain*, on May 19, 2009. The album includes new works written for Kronos by composers from Palestine and Serbia, traditional works from Lebanon, Turkey, and Iran, contemporary interpretations of classical music of Azerbaijan and India, and popular music from 1940s Egypt and 1970s Iraq.

Floodplains are extremely fertile tracts of land that border rivers, and many have been settled for millennia. The album was inspired by the idea that floodplains—which are prone to devastating flooding—will experience new life after a catastrophe, just as cultures that undergo great difficulty will experience creative fertility.

Kronos' artistic director and founder David Harrington says, "*Floodplain* was imagined and recorded during one era in American politics, and then released during a very different one. Our work is a continuously evolving interaction with the world we are a part of, and we are always trying to find ways to reflect what it means to be musicians today."

As journalist Anastasia Tsioulcas writes in *Floodplain*'s liner note, "The Kronos Quartet has always been interested in exploring music of our time—not just work that is aesthetically current, or even necessarily contemporaneous with our era, but music that creates a dialogue with our collective concerns and issues."

Over the course of more than three decades, San Francisco's Kronos Quartet has commissioned more than 600 new works, performed thousands of concerts world wide, released more than 50 recordings, and collaborated with dozens of artists. Working with composers from nearly every corner of the globe, Kronos has literally created a new repertoire for string quartet. A non-profit organization, the Kronos Quartet/Kronos Performing Arts Association is committed to mentoring emerging musicians and composers and to creating and performing new works, devoting five months of each year to touring (2009 US schedule follows). The Kronos Quartet members are David Harrington, violin; John Sherba, violin; Hank Dutt, viola; and Jeffrey Zeigler, cello.

**For more information, visit [www.kronosquartet.org](http://www.kronosquartet.org) or <http://publicity.nonesuch.com>, or contact:**

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