ROBERT SIROTA

It would be difficult to overstate the impact that Robert Mann's work as violinist, teacher, conductor and composer has had upon the musical life of this country and the world. His career has encompassed so much and touched so many that a world without his influence would be a vastly diminished place.

As founder of the Juilliard String Quartet, he developed a new paradigm for string quartets that infused renewed vitality and vigor into this most venerable of art forms. His artistic progeny now populate a substantial segment of the chamber music world.

Everything that Robert Mann has done, and continues to do, is informed and motivated by his prodigious intellect, lively curiosity and abiding humanity. But most of all, Robert Mann is a lover: a lover of people, of ideas, of great music—and of his incomparable life's companion, Lucy. Ultimately it is Robert's loving nature that makes him so persuasive as an artist—that magnifies and binds together his extraordinary gifts. Art in the service of such love is the highest calling to which we can aspire. Robert Mann demonstrates how to live out this aspiration.

I feel so fortunate to be Robert Mann's friend, and to work with him at Manhattan School of Music. As we celebrate his many achievements, I can't wait to see what he will do next.

In celebration,

Robert Sirota



2008