

# Violinist Huang energizes Ying show



Provided photo

The Ying Quartet performed in Sunday's LifeMusic concert.

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If Olympic medals were given to musicians, the judges might encounter the same controversy as they do in figure skating: artistry versus athleticism. While artistry is at the center of the musical experience, a musician who can race around an instrument always scores big with audiences.

Evan Lysacek won gold in last week's Olympic men's figure skating event for tackling all the elements of skating at its highest quality of execution. Similarly, violinist Frank Huang would have been in medal contention in Sunday's annual LifeMusic concert with the Ying Quartet.

Huang, the quartet's first violinist, set new speed records in quar-

tets by Haydn and Mendelssohn, adding uncanny control of dynamics and phrasing within his velocity. He also gave an artistically poised performance in a newly commissioned LifeMusic work by Richard Danielpour.

Huang earned big points for his quality of execution, not merely his hair-raising pace.

The entire quartet opened up Haydn's *Quartet in B-flat, Op. 33, No. 4* at a lively tempo, as witty statements traveled around the group, including second violinist Janet Ying, violist Phillip Ying and cellist David Ying. But it wasn't long before Huang had an accelerated string of sixteenth notes that seemed to leave a trail of smoke