

TADOS TRIO

Among Friends

Keith Lemmons, Clarinet
Sally Guenther, Cello
Debra Ayers, Piano



IN CONCERT: *Classical Music in the Valley*

Sunday, January 15, 2012

Jones Theater in Westcliffe, Colorado

IN CONCERT: *Classical Music in the Valley*

presents

Among Friends

with

TAOS TRIO

Keith Lemmons, Clarinet

Sally Guenther, Cello

Debra Ayers, Piano

Sunday, January 15, 2012, 2:00 pm

TRIO in B \flat Major, Opus 11

Ludwig van BEETHOVEN

I. Allegro con brio

1770-1827

II. Adagio

III. Thema: Pria ch'io l'impegno: Allegretto

Variations 1-9

Allegro

AMONG FRIENDS

CHAN Ka Nin

b. 1949

INTERMISSION

AUTUMN TRIO (Colorado Premiere)

Peter SCHICKELE

I. Mosaic

b. 1935

II. Intermezzo

III. Tarantella (La vache qui rit)

TRIO in a minor, Op. 114

Johannes BRAHMS

I. Allegro

1833-1897

II. Adagio

III. Andantino grazioso

IV. Allegro

*You are invited to have refreshments and meet the musicians
after the performance at a reception in the entry of Studio 2.*

PROGRAM NOTES

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN: TRIO in B \flat Major, Op. 11

The trio is an early work, composed in 1798 just before Beethoven turned his attention to his first set of string quartets. Many have pointed out that the Op. 11 piano trio is atypical of Beethoven. Accurate descriptions employ adjectives that one does not necessarily associate with the most familiar of his music: gentle, lyrical, playful, even, “light.” The reactions of his contemporaries range from describing the work as “easy” and “more melodious” to “difficult” and “unnaturally composed.” Most now share the opinion that it is wonderful music, especially when it is allowed to speak for itself. Still, it provides a curious exercise for the listener: if you didn’t know it was Beethoven, would you know it was Beethoven? *Notes from eaessence.org.*

CHAN KA NIN: AMONG FRIENDS

Written in 1989, this piece was composed especially for the Amici, a group of the composer’s colleagues at the University of Toronto. Amici, the name of the group, inspired the title and the spirit of the work. The work was commissioned by the Amici with a grant from the Ontario Arts Council and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. It won the prestigious 1991 Barlow International Chamber Music Competition and the 1994 Juno Award for Best Classical Composition.

Composer’s note:

Chamber music is usually played ‘among friends’. In many ways, the musical relationship in a composition is similar to friendship: first, there is the encounter of different individualistic personalities, then followed by interaction, conflict, and resolution. This one-movement work is essentially a theme and variations... The unique character of each instrument has influenced the musical materials: the grace note of the clarinet, the lyrical lines of the cello and the wide interval leaps of the piano. The mood reflects the stages of highs and lows of any human relationship: friendship, like music, will last only through the test of time.

PETER SCHICKELE: AUTUMN TRIO (Colorado Premier)

Composer’s note written February 1, 2011:

My son Matt studied composition with Joan Tower at Bard College. In his senior year he also studied cello, mostly to get familiar with a string instrument; he seemed to take to it naturally, but he didn’t own an instrument, so he stopped playing after graduation.

Years later, his wife told me that he was feeling the urge to play again, and she took up a collection among friends and family to buy him a cello as a birthday present. I assumed the task of finding an instrument that was decent but not prohibitively expensive, and in that task I had the help of a good Hudson Valley cellist, Nanette Koch. Matt was overjoyed at the present, and he's working on getting good enough to play some chamber music.

I wanted to do something to show my appreciation to Nanette, who put in a fair amount of time and energy on the project, and I came up with a musical idea for cello and piano, thinking to write a short "album leaf" type of piece. But, as often happens, things got out of hand: the idea turned into an extended movement which includes some virtuosic passages. The movement consists of a series of distinct sections, sometimes in suddenly different tempos, and that suggested the title "Mosaic."

It obviously wanted to be the first movement of a longer work, so I started getting ideas for a slow movement. Here again, what started out as an undemanding cello part became more demanding as the movement progressed. It has to me the feeling of an intermezzo.

By now it was time for a finale, and as I worked on the rippling triplets, robust and a little wild, of the opening theme, I got an image in my mind of a dancing cow, laughing and flinging herself around the pasture, which is the reason for the subtitle "La vache qui rit." It has nothing to do with cheese.

As it turned out, the work was premiered by Michele Zukovsky, Armen Ksajikian, and Brian Pezzone, piano, at one of the annual concerts of my serious chamber music presented by the Armadillo Quartet; the premiere took place at the Neighborhood Church in Pasadena, California on February 22, 2010.

BRAHMS: TRIO in a minor Op. 114

This trio displays a variety of moods and emotions that could hardly be wider. The first movement - whose opening theme is said to have been chosen by Brahms for his unwritten Fifth Symphony - sobs with bleak melancholy; the adagio second movement glows with loving warmth; the third, a surpassingly graceful Viennese waltz with a yodeling Ländler middle section, brings to mind Brahms' close friend and summertime neighbour Johann Strauss Jr.; and the finale, alternating between fiery passion and sardonic wit, exemplifies Brahms' fondness for "Gypsy" and quasi-Hungarian musical style.

Notes from riverdaleensemble.com.

THE PERFORMERS



Cellist, **SALLY GUENTHER**, educated at the Indiana University School of Music (under Janos Starker) and the Juilliard School of Music (Harvey Shapiro), has spent the majority of her career in Norway. After engagements with several US orchestras, including the Cincinnati, Fort Worth and Syracuse symphonies (as principal cellist), and the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, she became solo cellist of the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra in Norway, a position she held for twenty years. She was also a professor at the Grieg Academy of Music, and a founding member of the contemporary chamber ensemble, BIT 20, an internationally recognized group which records and travels extensively throughout Europe and Asia.

Guenther returned to the US part-time in 2001 and moved to New Mexico in 2004 where she resides in Taos with sculptor husband, Janis Mintiks, and their three Samoyeds. She is active as an orchestral and chamber musician and maintains a cello studio in Santa Fe.



Pianist, **DEBRA AYERS** performs extensively as a recitalist with singers, instrumentalists, and chamber music ensembles including Vega string quartet, Arcadian Winds, Auros New Music Ensemble, Aspen Santa Fe Ballet, Aspen Music Festival Chamber Players, Emerald City Opera, Breckenridge Music Festival, Serenata of Santa Fe and Taos Chamber Music Group. She is co-founder and pianist of Boston-based MONTAGE Music Society. With MONTAGE cellist Marc Moskovitz she presented the North American premiere of the rediscovered Zemlin-sky Cello Sonata at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC.

Ms Ayers is a proponent of contemporary music and has premiered works by numerous composers. She is an alumna of the University of Southern California and the University of Wisconsin and the recipient of many grants and awards. Recordings include a critically acclaimed recording with Ilana Davidson of Ernst Krenek Lieder (Capriccio) and MONTAGE Music Society's *Starry Night Project* featuring music of noted living American composers written exclusively about works of visual art (MSR Classics).

TAOSTRIO specializes in the trio repertoire written for clarinet, piano and strings. This eclectic body of repertoire spanning the classical era to the present day allows programming for all levels of interest.

Taos Trio is committed to providing educational outreach in tandem with concert performances. On Monday, January 16, the ensemble will perform for the students of the Custer County Schools.

THE PERFORMERS



Clarinetist, **KEITH LEMMONS** serves as a Presidential Teaching Fellow, Professor of Clarinet and Music Undergraduate Advisor at the University of New Mexico-Albuquerque where he has taught since 1984. He combines an international reputation as a sought after soloist, master teacher, chamber and orchestral musician with a distinguished teaching career. Concerts in Colombia, Sweden, Brazil, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Canada, Portugal as well as throughout the United States have all met with critical acclaim.

He was an invited guest artist and international judge for the 2009 International ClarinetFest in Portugal and an invited artist and teacher at the 2009 International South American Clarinet Festival in Colombia. Professor Lemmons is a member of the acclaimed New Mexico Winds Woodwind Quintet, Trio New Mexico and Trio Clarivoce, and all artist faculty ensembles-in-residence at The University of New Mexico. He is principal clarinet with Santa Fe Pro Musica, Serenata of Santa Fe, Taos Chamber Music Group and regularly performs with the New Mexico Symphony, Santa Fe Symphony, Opera Southwest Orchestra and Roswell Symphony. His numerous recordings are found on a variety of CD labels. Professor Lemmons is on the roster of Leblanc/Conn-Selmer Clarinet Performing Artists.

He is the proud father of Justin and Megan Lemmons.

ART SHOW IN STUDIO 2

ENJOY THE WORK OF GARY AND HULDA BENSON

before the concert, during the intermission and during the reception.

Words from the artists:

Gary: I started taking pictures at the age of ten, and even then I knew what it was like to take a ‘keeper’. Sixty years later I’m still at it and with the availability of digital SLR cameras, I find that getting that ‘kick’ happens a lot more often.

Hulda: At age eleven I became aware of my talent and love of art when I was inspired to draw the beautiful and colorful Native Americans I saw in New Mexico. Living in Westcliffe and viewing the Sangre De Cristos daily is a privilege and an artist’s dream. I paint with an art group and work in my home studio.

WANT MORE CLASSICAL MUSIC?

IN CONCERT hosts various classical music programs on Westcliffe’s own radio station, KWMV, 95.9 FM.

You can find Gary and Gwyn Miller on the “Music Your Way” program from 7:00–8:00 pm on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month and Bob Powers at 6:00–7:00 pm on the 3rd Wednesdays.

In addition, David Niemeyer hosts “Sunday Classics” every Sunday from 8:00–10:00 pm.

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IN CONCERT: PO Box 1484, Westcliffe, Colorado 81252

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Alpine Lodge, Candy’s Coffee, Edwardo’s, Rancher’s Roost at Cliff Lanes,
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IN CONCERT: *Classical Music in the Valley* was founded in 2003 to support and promote classical music in the Wet Mountain Valley. The mission of the group is to provide cultural and educational opportunities for residents of the area by presenting an annual series of live classical music performances and youth workshops.

IN CONCERT is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. Contributions are tax deductible.

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Jerilyn Jorgensen and Cullan Bryant - Violin and Piano March 4, 2012

Southern Colorado Community Band - Free Concert June 3, 2012

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