

Press Kit 2009 - 2010



Evolving Landscapes

In Memory of Armando Perez-Segura
1984-2009

Evolving Landscapes represents the change taking place in our present world. It embodies the evolution we see culturally, politically, personally, and artistically. This season will mark the beginning of an exciting journey of new discovery coupled with unprecedented change while paying homage to the past. We hope that through this opening season, you, our guests, will be imbued with a sense of eagerness for the breathtaking things to come.

Evolving Landscapes is a season long musical tribute to our dear friend and artistic colleague, Armando Perez-Segura, whom recently lost his life in a motorcycle accident. Evolution, through its unpredictability and intrinsic inevitability brings joy, pain, love, and sorrow; all of which are testaments to a life well lived. We honor Armando's memory for he was vital, vibrant, and vividly vivacious, personifying the totality of Vivre Musicale. In this season we will ensure that the music lives and through it, the memory of a gifted musician and benevolent friend. Celebrate with us a life well-lived and a continually evolving musical landscape!

Concerts:

Saturday November 21, 2009 | 4pm
Steinway Piano Gallery
7940 N. Federal Hwy Boca Raton, Florida 33487

Friday March 5, 2010 | 8pm
An Die Musik
409 N Charles St Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Saturday June 26, 2010 | 7:30pm
Faith Lutheran Church
8265 Winton Road Cincinnati, Ohio 45231

Vivre Musicale:

about us

Vivre Musicale was founded in 2009 by clarinetist Berginald Rash and tenor Jorge L. Toro. Their lofty goal was to establish a forum for young performers to create a musical atmosphere and repertory that represents a new generation of artists and arts appreciators. In 2009–2010, Vivre Musicale has made great strides toward this goal. With three diverse concert programs in three different cities, and with program material ranging from traditional music of the past to the latest works by some of today’s most talented living composers, Vivre’s ambitious inaugural season is full of life and variety, and has already attracted positive reactions from the community, with Greg Stepanich from the Palm Beach ArtsPaper stating that Vivre Musicale is “a group with plenty of heart...worth paying attention to.”

Made up of a select group of young, classically trained musicians and guest artists from around the country, Vivre Musicale is a non-profit chamber music group and society that seeks to redefine and renew chamber music. Through the diversification of concert programming, performance venues, and collaboration with other artistic mediums, Vivre’s goal is to re-invigorate the chamber music audience and draw new audiences. Vivre’s vision is a future of living art, where classical music is not viewed as an aural museum of the past, but rather a vibrant, living expression of past and present impetus informed by contemporary knowledge and performance practice. In total, Vivre is life, the living music. It is that music which inspires, propels, and renews us all. We are a chamber group of the past, the present, and the future. Let the music live!

Vivre Musicale:

the 2009-2010 artists (in alphabetical order)

JESSICA ABEL, Soprano/Associate Director

MARTIN BLESSINGER, composer

MARTHA BRUCE, Violin

ADRIENNE GEISLER, Violin

ISMAR GOMES, Cello

MELISSA HUI, Composer

CAMERON HUSTER, Harp

CALEB JOHNSON, Viola

JENNY MARLIN, Flute

DAVID PEDRAZA, Viola

BERGINALD RASH, Clarinet/Co-Founder & Artistic Director

EVAN ROGERS, Composer

EVELYN SEDLACK, Oboe

NATASA STOJANOVSKA, Piano

JORGE L. TORO, Tenor/Co-Founder & Artistic Director

ZACHARY WADSWORTH, Composer

JULIA WILCOX, Piano

JESSICA ABEL, Soprano/Associate Director

Jessica Abel is a young American soprano who is committed to artistry and nuance in the music she performs. She is an avid promoter of contemporary vocal music and is a 2008 recipient of the Phyllis Bryn-Julson Prize for Commitment To and Performance of 20th and 21st Century Vocal Literature. Jessica's interest in contemporary repertoire was born during her undergraduate studies at the Florida State University, where she played the role of Rapunzel in the FSU opera scene of Conrad Sousa's *Transformations*, and where she was a chorus member in the 50th Anniversary production of Carlisle Floyd's *Susannah*. She continued to develop her interest in contemporary classical repertoire while performing title role in a contemporary American opera *Dora* with the Peabody Chamber Opera and recital "Early Works of Contemporary Masters" at the Peabody Conservatory. Most recently, Jessica performed the Sprechstimme role in Schoenberg's *Pierrot lunaire* with Ars Nova Dallas and the Dallas Festival of Modern Music, where the Fort Worth Examiner hailed her as "perfect throughout her delivery as Pierrot...executing the Sprechstimme technique with intimate aplomb."

Ms. Abel is equally at home performing the beloved standard operatic, art song, and concert repertoire. In 2010, Jessica will cover the role of Despina in Mozart's *Così fan tutte* with Chesapeake Concert Opera. She was recently in residence in Graz, Austria as a member of the Opera Studio at the American Institute of Musical Studies where she was a semi-finalist in the Mesitersinger Competition. In the summer of 2008, Jessica performed the role of Susanna in *Le Nozze di Figaro* under the direction of Matthais Kuntzsch with the Bay Area Summer Opera Theatre. She also recently appeared as Papagena in the Peabody Opera production of *Die Zauberflöte*. At Florida State University, Jessica was a soloist in a performance of Vaughn Williams' *Serenade to Music* under the baton of Andre Thomas, and was also a select soloist in the University Singers European concert tour where she had the opportunity to sing in Prague, Vienna, and Austria under the direction of Kevin Fenton. Past recitals have included works by Schubert, Schumann, Wolf, Faure, Debussy, and Poulenc, among others.

As a musician who gained inspiration, motivation, and support from her pre-collegiate studies, Jessica believes strongly in music education as a foundation for cultivating the creativity and productivity of youths, as well as a means to foster appreciation for the arts. In 2007, she toured to local grade schools in the Baltimore area, performing the role of Pamina in the Peabody Opera Outreach production of an abridged version of the classic opera *Die Zauberflöte*. Jessica has specialized graduate-level training as a vocal pedagogue. She runs a private studio in Baltimore, MD, and is on the faculty at the International School of Music in Bethesda, MD. She is committed to encouraging the talents of every youth to help create confident, well-rounded individuals.

Jessica holds a Master of Music in Vocal Performance and Pedagogy from the Peabody Conservatory of Music, and a Bachelor of Music from the Florida State University College of Music. She currently studies with Marianna Busching and Phyllis Bryn-Julson.

www.jessicaabel.us

MARTIN BLESSINGER, composer

Martin Blessinger is an Assistant Professor of Music Theory and Composition at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, TX. He holds a D.M in music composition from the Florida State University, where he studied with Ladislav Kubik and Ellen Taaffe Zwilich, as well as undergraduate and masters degrees from the State University of New York at Stony Brook, studying with Sheila Silver and Perry Goldstein. Prior to TCU, he worked as a Lecturer in Music Theory at the Ithaca College School of Music.

His works have been performed around the country by ensembles such as the North Shore Symphony Orchestra, the Metropolitan Brass Quintet, the Stony Brook Contemporary Chamber Players, Sounds New, and the new music ensembles of the University of Nebraska at Kearney, Florida State University, Franklin Pierce College, and Truman State University. His orchestration of Jessica Grace Wing's score for the hit off-Broadway musical *Lost* won Best Music in the 2003 New York City Fringe Festival. Further, he has won awards from the Diana Barnhart American Song Competition (cum laude, for *Cradle Song*), the Eppes String Quartet Competition (for *Postcard from the Americas*), the 2007 Illinois Wesleyan University Young Composers Competition (for *Fanfare for Brass Quintet*), and most recently, the 2008 NACUSA Young Composers Competition (for *Duo for Saxophone and Piano*). The Duo has since been accepted for publication by Reed Music in Australia and will be featured June 1st-9th, 2009 on the "Future Notes" radio program.

Martin Blessinger served as the vice-president of the SCI student chapter at the Florida State University for the '04-'05 academic year, and as president of the chapter in '05-'06.

<http://www.societyofcomposers.org/user/martinblessinger.html>

MARTHA BRUCE, Violin

Martha Bruce graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor in Music in violin performance from the University of Maryland. She is currently pursuing a Master in Music in violin performance from the Peabody Institute, studying with Violaine Melancon.

Originally from Vermont, Ms. Bruce grew up playing orchestral and chamber music throughout the New England area. Since beginning the violin at age six, she quickly developed a passion for all types of music. In 2003, Ms. Bruce assumed the concertmaster position in the Vermont Youth Orchestra, working with musicians such as Soovin Kim and Jaime Laredo. She was a winner of the Vermont Youth Orchestra Senior Soloist Competition, playing with the orchestra in January of 2005. She spent many summers playing music at the Kinhaven Music School in Weston, VT. This was a particularly influential experience, and one that propelled her interest in chamber music.

In her undergraduate career, Ms. Bruce enjoyed playing in the University of Maryland Symphony Orchestra— an ensemble led by James Ross that featured a dynamic and diverse programming. She participated in several unique concerts with the orchestra, including a multimedia presentation of Igor Stravinsky's *Petrushka*, as well as a concert featuring John Adam's *The Chairman Dances*, performed with the Liz Lerman Dance Exchange.

As an undergraduate, Ms. Bruce was part of the Chamber Music Connections program at the University of Maryland. This program focused on bringing classical music into disadvantaged elementary schools in the area. Ms. Bruce's string quartet made many presentations in public schools, educating and performing for third and fourth grade students.

Her principle teachers include Ira Morris, Dr. James Stern, and Violaine Melancon. She has also coached with members of the Guarneri Quartet, including Arnold Steinhardt. She has participated in various summer festivals including the National Orchestral Institute and Garth Newel. She has taught privately throughout her high school and undergraduate career, and most recently was on the faculty of the Vermont Youth Orchestra's Reveille Festival in August of 2009.

ADRIENNE GEISLER, Violin

Adrienne Geisler graduated from Peabody Conservatory of Music in May 2009 with a Master of Music in violin performance. She has studied with Almita and Roland Vamos at the Music Institute of Chicago, Shirley Givens at Peabody (Bachelor of Music), and Herbert Greenberg at Peabody (Master of Music).

An avid orchestral musician, she is currently a member of the Annapolis Symphony, Allentown Symphony, and Philharmonic Orchestra of the Americas. Splitting time among New York, Baltimore, and Pennsylvania, she also performs as a substitute with the Baltimore Symphony, Norwalk Symphony, Binghamton Philharmonic, Symphony in C, and Westchester Chamber Orchestra.

Miss Geisler has participated in several summer festivals including Aspen Music Festival, Kent Blossom Music Festival (where she performed with the Cleveland Orchestra and served as concertmaster of the chamber orchestra), and the National Repertory Orchestra. Adrienne has performed at Jazz at Lincoln Center and Alice Tully Hall in New York City, and the Kennedy Center and Italian Embassy in Washington, D.C. She also served as assistant concertmaster during a segment honoring Leon Fleisher at the Kennedy Center Honors in 2007, has been a featured soloist several times on PBS, and has won several top talent awards at the Miss Indiana Scholarship Program (part of the Miss America system).

Also a lover of new music, Adrienne has performed with the Peabody Camerata, SONAR New Music Ensemble, and Ligetisplit Ensemble.

ISMAR GOMES, Cello

Ismar Gomes is a master's student at the Peabody Institute in Baltimore, Maryland. He earned his Bachelor of Music from Peabody in 2009, studying with Alison Wells, and now continues his studies with Amit Peled. Ismar also works regularly with Clive Greensmith of the Tokyo Quartet in New York. Prior to his work at the Peabody Institute, Ismar was a student of Marc Johnson, cellist of the Vermeer Quartet. Originally from Cleveland, Ismar has performed throughout the US and Europe, including two tours of the Netherlands and performances in France and Canada. Recently he has performed concerts at the Kennedy Center, Severance Hall, Amsterdam City Hall, Château de Fontainebleau, and Harris Hall.

As a chamber musician, Ismar has commissioned and premiered many works by emerging composers and is the dedicatee of a solo sonata by a Pulitzer-Prize-nominated composer. This performance season already includes several premieres of works commissioned by Mr. Gomes, and there are more to come. At major festivals including Aspen, Bowdoin, Toronto Summer Academy, and the Zeist Music Days, Ismar has had the opportunity to play for the likes of Janos Starker, Steven Doane, and Paul Katz.

Also an accomplished orchestral musician, Ismar has performed with the Baltimore Chamber Orchestra, the Harrisburg Symphony, the Towson New Music Ensemble and serves as Assistant Principal of the Mid-Atlantic Symphony.

Ismar relishes the opportunity to pass along what he has learned through his work with the Vermeer and Jerusalem Quartets, as well as with members of the Cleveland, Juilliard, Brentano and Tokyo Quartets. He has taught privately and coached chamber music in Cleveland and Baltimore, and for the past two years has coached chamber music at the Cleveland Institute of Music's Summer Festival. While Ismar is not teaching, practicing and performing, he studies historical performance practice, philosophy, music history and enjoys watching opera.

MELISSA HUI, Composer

Melissa Hui was born in Hong Kong and raised in Vancouver, Canada. She received her D.M.A. from Yale University and M.F.A. from the California Institute of the Arts. Her mentors include Jacob Druckman, Earl Kim and Mel Powell. Initially inspired by the haunting music of the African pygmies and Japanese gagaku court orchestra, she strives to create a personal music of ethereal beauty, intimate lyricism, and raucous violence.

Her commissions include works for the Oregon Symphony, National Arts Centre Orchestra, Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony, Kronos Quartet, St. Lawrence String Quartet, New Millennium Ensemble and Essential Music (NYC), Ensemble Antipodes (Switzerland), Dogs of Desire (of Albany Symphony), Manitoba Chamber Orchestra, New Music Concerts (Toronto), Société de Musique Contemporaine du Québec and the Nouvel Ensemble Moderne (Montréal), Tapestry New Opera Works, and a soundtrack for the Oscar-nominated documentary, Sunrise Over Tiananmen Square. Her works have been performed throughout North America, Europe, Australia, and Asia, including performances by the American Composers Orchestra at Carnegie Hall, San Francisco Contemporary Music Players, California EAR Unit, Esprit Orchestra (Toronto), Taiwan Symphony Orchestra, and at International Gaudeamus Music Week (Amsterdam), ISCM festivals in Switzerland and Croatia, Théâtre de la Ville (Paris), Festival Sons d'Hiver (France), Merkin Hall, Focus Festival, and Music at the Anthology in New York City, Hong Kong Arts Festival, Festival Internacional Cervantino (Mexico), Pacific Music Festival (Japan), Spoleto Festival, and L.A. Philharmonic's Green Umbrella series, among others.

She is a founding member of the Common Sense Composers Collective. Her compositions have been released on CRI, UMMUS, Santa Fe New Music, Nisapa and Centredisc, which released a CD of her solo and chamber works in 2006. Recent projects include commissioned works for Ensemble Contemporain de Montréal and an opera, Pimootewin, based on a Cree myth with librettist Tomson Highway for Soundstreams Canada.

She is the recipient of a Guggenheim fellowship (1997) and a Fromm Foundation commission (2000) as well as numerous grants and awards. Now living in Montreal, she was a member of the composition faculty at Stanford University from 1994-2004 and a Visiting Professor at the California Institute of the Arts and at Peabody Conservatory in 2007.

CAMERON HUSTER, Harp

Prize-winning harpist, Cameron Huster has successfully placed herself among the world's leading harpist. Having begun the harp at an early age and serving as principal harp for the Florida Symphony Youth Orchestra, Ms. Huster is establishing herself as a skilled orchestral harpist. She has served as principal harp with many symphony orchestras including the Orlando Philharmonic, Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra, the Central Florida Symphony Orchestra, and Valdosta Symphony Orchestra. As a competition winner, Ms. Huster, between 2001- 2002, won 2nd prize in the Florida State Music Teachers Concerto competition, 3rd place in the Intermediate I competition for the American Harp Society, 1st place in the Bach Young Artist Competition, and 1st place in the Florida State Music Teachers Community Service Award. In 2003, Ms. Huster won 3rd prize at the American Harp Society's Intermediate II competition; in 2004 she won 1st prize of the Mount Dora Young Artists Competition; and in 2006 she was a finalist for the US Army Band "Pershing's Own."

During the summer of 2002 Ms. Huster served as principal harp with the National Youth Orchestra Festival and in 2003 was a young artist at the Boston University Tanglewood Institute. Equally comfortable as a recitalist and pedagogue, Ms. Huster has been a guest artist and clinician at the University of Southern Alabama. She has given recitals for the Volusia County Music Teachers Association, served as the harpist for high tea at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in New York City, and has given a benefit concert for the victims of Hurricane Katrina in Mobile, Alabama. Ms. Huster has been heard as the harpist for the Tallahassee Community Chorus, the Eastern New Mexico University choir during their 2006 winter concert, and has performed internationally at the World Harp Congress in Dublin, Ireland.

Ms. Huster has received her Bachelor's in Harp Performance from the Florida State University College of Music summa cum laude, her Master's in Harp Performance from the Mannes College- The New School for Music summa cum laude, and is currently pursuing a Graduate Performance Diploma at the Peabody Conservatory. She has studied with Melody Long Anglin, Mary Brigid Roman, Susan Jolles, and Ruth Inglefield.

CALEB JOHNSON, Viola

Violist Caleb Johnson was born in Kansas City, so he started to appreciate jazz and improv very early on. Traveling young, as he was home-schooled, gave him the chance to hear music from all over - everything from bluegrass and jazz in his home state of Missouri, Central Asian folk in the Gobi desert, to Islamic sacred music in war zones in the Middle East. He learned and loved how there is always, always something about a place that can only be experienced through its music, through its art. While growing up, his uncle would take him to the Lyric Opera in Chicago. He embraced the opera as it seemed to combine everything that was beautiful - dance, acting, visual art, singing, chamber music - and soon wanted to be an opera singer. However, he turned to the viola as his voice and has never looked back. He went to study under David Holland at the Interlochen Arts Academy, where he discovered the vast world of viola literature - he started performing Hindemith and Stravinsky, and formed impromptu chamber groups where he became acquainted with the quartets of Villa-Lobos and Ginastera. His mission in life is seeking out little musical treasures from all over and adapting them to his medium.

JENNY MARLIN, Flute

Ms. Marlin received her Bachelor of Music from Pittsburg State University where she studied flute with Dr. James Hall. While at PSU, she served as principal flute of the Wind Ensemble and Southeast Kansas Orchestra, and was a winner of the Waddill Chamber Music competition. She was also the flutist for the Heartland Opera Company and performed with the St. Joseph Symphony. She earned her Master of Music from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee where she studied with Caen Thomason-Redus. While at UWM she served as principal flute of the orchestra and wind ensemble and played in the Telos Quintet, and performed a concerto with the UWM Community Orchestra. She has played in master classes for such artists as Mathieu Dufour, Leone Buyse, Tadeu Coelho, and Keith Underwood.

Currently Ms. Marlin is teaching elementary music where she is able to share her love for music to the next generation of musicians. She also participates in music education outreach programs and recently played on the world premier of Zin! Zin! Zin! A Violin composed by John C. Ross, which incorporates music with the reading of the book by Llyod Moss.

DAVID PEDRAZA, Viola

Born in Reynosa, Mexico, David started his musical studies at 14 in the OCJM under Jose Vazquez. Later on he received a full scholarship to study the Bachelor of Music at Shenandoah Conservatory. From 2003 to 2005 he was part of the Youth Orchestra of the Americas under Placido Domingo, Carlos Prieto and Gustavo Dudamel. David holds a Professional Performance Certificate from Lynn University Conservatory of Music and recently he finished his Master of Music at the same institution with an award of full scholarship. He won the First Prize with Vitali String Quartet at the 2004 MTNA Virginia chamber music competition and also has received honorific mentions in 2005 and 2007 from the MTNA Viola competition in Florida. He has participated in master classes of Carol Rodland, Jeffrey Irvine, Roberto Diaz, Kim Kashkashian, Peter Slowik, Orlando Cole, Arnold Steinhardt, Ellen Rose and Basil Vendryes. Recently he performed as a soloist with the Lynn Chamber Orchestra. David has performed in countries like: Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, Peru, Spain and the UK. His teachers include: Doris Lederer and Ralph Fielding. In the summer 2009 David will be studying with Wilfried Strelhe Principal Violist of the Berlin Philharmonic. Currently he is part of the Vitali Quartet, Palm Beach Pops, Symphony of the Americas and the Miami Symphony

BERGINALD RASH, Clarinet/Co-Founder and Artistic Director

An artist of great technical skill and sensitive musical expression, Berginald Rash has set himself apart as a consummate musician. In 2007, he served as Principal Clarinet with the Milwaukee Summer Philharmonia., was a finalist for the Colorado College Summer Music Festival and a semi-finalist for the New World Symphony in Miami Beach, Florida. In December, he was the grand prize winner of the 2007-2008 University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Wind Ensemble Concerto Competition with Scott McAllister's *Black Dog* and performed Mozart's Clarinet Quintet, Weber's Clarinet Quintet, and was featured soloist in Rebecca Clarke's Prelude, Allegro, and Pastorale for Wisconsin State Senator Lena C. Taylor and former Wisconsin State Senator Gwen Moore at the Ozaukee County NAACP convention. He has also served as Principal Clarinet with the Florida State University Philharmonia Orchestra and 2nd clarinet with the Florida State Chamber Orchestra, a group comprised of faculty and students.

During his training, Berginald performed with several esteemed orchestral programs. In 1998, he served as co-principal clarinet of the Bay Youth Symphony Orchestra of Virginia. In 2000 he was selected as a Young Artist for the Boston University Tanglewood Institute in Lenox, Massachusetts where he participated in the clarinet workshop and the Young Artist Wind Ensemble under the baton of Frank Battisti. That same year Berginald played bass clarinet with the Virginia Symphony in their performance of Shostikovich 7th Symphony conducted by then assistant conductor Wes Kenney. In 2002 he was selected as soloist for the Virginia Commonwealth University Festival of Winds and Percussion.

Berginald holds both a Bachelor of Music, cum laude and Bachelor of Arts in Spanish, cum laude from Florida State University, and has recently completed the Master of Music degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Peck School of the Arts where he was a Chancellor's Award recipient. Berginald can be heard playing basset clarinet with the University of Wisconsin- Milwaukee Wind Ensemble on their recently released recording of Mozart's Serenade No. 10 for winds in B-flat, K. 361. He has been coached by Eric Ohlsson, Evan Jones, Roy Delp, Jeff Keesecker, Eva Amsler, Steve Barta, Mark Nuccio, Lewis Rosove and Ted Soluri. His teachers include F. Edward Knakal, Deborah Bish, Frank Kowalsky, and Todd Levy. He has performed in master classes with Steve Cohen, Mitch Estrin, Ian Grietzer, Bil Jackson, Ricardo Morales, Sean Osborn, Rebecca Rischin, Ethan Sloane, Michael Webster, and Charles West.

EVAN ROGERS, Composer

Evan holds a Bachelor of Science in Music Technology from Northeastern University where he studied with composers Ronald Bruce Smith and Anthony De Ritis and a Master of Music in Composition from the Peabody Conservatory where he studied with composers Michael Hersch and Kevin Puts. Rogers has also had the privilege to coach with esteemed composers Libby Larsen, Melissa Hui and Chen Yi.

Recent performances include the European premiere of selections from his song cycle *Six Significant Landscapes* at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France in 2007, and *Double bass quartet No. 1*, a work commissioned by double bassist Jeffrey Weisner of the National Symphony Orchestra, premiered in April of 2008.

Upcoming performances include a collaboration with innovative writer-director Natsu Onoda-Power and Georgetown University on a dramatic multi-media work entitled *Madness and Civilization*, to be performed in February, 2010. In March, song cycle *Six Significant Landscapes* will be performed by the chamber ensemble *Vivre Musicale* in Baltimore, MD.

EVELYN SEDLACK, Oboe

Evelyn Sedlack is an active musician in south Florida, performing with orchestras in South Florida such as the Symphony of the Americas and the Palm Beach Opera. She was also an associate member of the Chicago Civic Orchestra for the 2009-2010 Season. Currently Ms. Sedlack is pursuing a Professional Performance Certificate at Lynn Conservatory of Music in Boca Raton, Florida, where she was awarded a full scholarship.

Ms. Sedlack began studying with Atlanta area oboist Barbara Cook in 1997, excelling as a young student. While attending high school, Ms. Sedlack was a member of the Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra and the Atlanta Youth Wind Symphony. A full scholarship recipient, Ms. Sedlack attended the Florida State University College of Music in Tallahassee, Florida, where she received her Bachelor of Music degree in Oboe Performance, cum laude. While studying in Tallahassee, Ms. Sedlack performed with several orchestras around the northern Florida/ southern Georgia area including the Albany Symphony and the Sinfonia Gulf Coast Symphony. She has also spent many summers performing at the Brevard Music Center Institute and Festival.

Evelyn earned her Master of Music degree in Oboe Performance with distinction from DePaul University School of Music in Chicago, Illinois, where she was an active musician and teacher. She performed with the ensembles of DePaul University, and she served as principal oboist with the Chicago Classical Symphony. While in Chicago, Ms. Sedlack maintained a private studio and was an instructor at the Music Institute of Chicago and Lake Forest High School.

Evelyn has studied oboe with Dr. Paige Morgan, Jelena Dirks, Dr. Eric Ohlsson, Eugene Izotov, and she is currently studying with the great Joseph Robinson, former principal oboist of the New York Philharmonic. She has also worked with many renowned conductors such as Grant Llewellyn, Andre Raphel Smith, Keith Lockhart, David Effron, Steven Smith, Alex Jimenez, and Michael Lewanski.

NATASA STOJANOVSKA, Piano

Pianist Natasa Stojanovska studies at the Conservatory of Music at Lynn University in Boca Raton, Florida with Roberta Rust in the Bachelor of Music program. She was born in Prilep, Macedonia and began to play the piano at age eight. She has performed solo recitals in France, Portugal, Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Romania, and the United States, and has also been recognized as an adept accompanist and chamber musician.

She performed at the Gusman Concert Hall and Broward Center this Fall. She has received the FSMTA 2009 Gray Perry Young Collegiate Piano Award and in 2008 she was winner of the concerto competition at the Brevard Summer Music Festival in North Carolina and performed the Tchaikovsky Concerto No. 1 at the Festival. In 2002 she was hailed as the best young pianist in her native country and was awarded first place at *Interfest Bitola* (2001 and 2002).

Stojanovska has been a prizewinner in numerous competitions: *FSMTA Byrd Piano Ensemble Competition* (2009) in her duo, *The SISTERS STOJANOVSKA*, *Walenstein Competition in Miami* (2008), *Liszt- Bartok* Sofia, Bulgaria (2006), *The Musician of the New Millennium* in Skopje, Macedonia (2005), *Special Awards Interfest Bitola, Macedonia* (2004 and 2005), *Isidor Baic* Novi Sad, Serbia (2004), *Ohrid Competition* (2004), and *Petar konjovic* Belgrad, Serbia (2002).

Natasa Stojanovska finished primary school in the class of Professor Nade Stojkoska in Prilep, her high school education in the class of Professor Margarita Tatarcevska in Bitola and studied for two years at the Academy of Musical Arts in Skopje with Professor Todor Svetiev.

JORGE L. TORO, Tenor/Founder and Artistic Director

Peruvian tenor Jorge L. Toro received his Bachelor's degree in Music Performance from the Florida State University, where he studied with Roy Delp and Stanford Olsen.

Jorge's musical skills and talents have taken him to such places as New York, Baltimore, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Toronto, and The British Isles, and have earned him several prestigious awards and prizes. In 2001, he was invited to compete in the Llangollen Eisteddfod International Music Festival in Llangollen, Wales, United Kingdom, taking home 3rd place for the United States. He also won the Delray Beach Chorale Scholarship and was awarded the Bethesda-by-the-Sea Scholarship later that year. In 2002, Jorge won first place in the National Association of Teachers of Singing Adjudications.

In 1999, Jorge performed at Carnegie Hall with DSOA. During Florida State's University Singers 2004-2005 East coast tour, Jorge performed as featured tenor soloist for Ariel Ramirez's Gloria from *Misa Criolla*. In 2008, Jorge made his debut with the Delray Beach Chorale as tenor soloist for Mozart's Coronation Mass. Mr. Toro held the position of tenor section leader for the 2009-2010 Season.

Jorge got his first taste of opera when in 1999, Jorge participated in Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance* with The Gilbert & Sullivan Light Opera Society of the Palm Beaches. Since then, he has performed several roles in the Florida State Opera Scenes program, and was a chorus member in the 50th Anniversary production of Carlisle Floyd's *Susannah*. Professionally, Jorge has been a member of the Palm Beach Opera chorus since 2005. He has sung in operatic works by such composers as Beethoven, Puccini, Verdi, Donizetti, and Massenet, and has sung under the baton of Maestro Bruno Aprea, Maestra Keri-Lynn Wilson, Maestro Gérard Korsten, Maestro Alberto Zedda, Dr. André Thomas, and Dr. Kevin Fenton.

Jorge is currently the Director of Music Activities & Manager at the Academy of Dance, Music & Theatre in West Palm Beach, Florida.

ZACHARY WADSWORTH, Composer

The music of Zachary Wadsworth, praised for its "evocative mixture of old and new," includes works for solo instruments, choral works, art songs, chamber music, orchestral pieces, and an opera. He has received several composition awards, including first prizes in the 2007 ASCAP / Lotte Lehmann Foundation Art Song Competition, the first Long Leaf Opera One Act Opera Competition, the 2007-8 Chamber Music Rochester Young Composer Competition, the Boston Choral Ensemble Commission Competition, and the Pacific Chorale Young Composer Competition, a Charles Ives Scholarship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, three Morton Gould Young Composers Awards from ASCAP, the Howard Hanson Large Ensemble Prize and the Simon Rose Memorial Scholarship from the Eastman School of Music, and the Frances E. Osborne Kellogg Memorial Prize from the Yale School of Music. Recordings of his choral works, "O Saving Victim" and "Beati Quorum Remissae," are available on the Gothic record label, and the latter has been published by Alliance Music Publications.

An energetic compositional collaborator, he has received commissions from numerous individuals and organizations, including The Commission Project, the Hanson Institute for American Music, the Eastman School of Music, Smith College, St. Anne Church, Rochester, and St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Rochester. His pieces have been performed by the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, the Atlanta Philharmonic Orchestra, Long Leaf Opera, and by ensembles at Cambridge University, Yale University, the Eastman School of Music, Westminster Choir College, Smith College, and Nazareth College.

Zachary studied composition at the Eastman School of Music (BM, 2005) and Yale University (MM, 2007), and he is currently pursuing a DMA in music composition at Cornell University. His composition teachers have included Steven Stucky, Roberto Sierra, Martin Bresnick, Ezra Laderman, Ingram Marshall, Carlos Sanchez-Gutierrez, Ricardo Zohn-Muldoon, Robert Morris, David Liptak, James Willey, and Syd Hodkinson. He has also studied at the Boston University Tanglewood Institute and the Aspen Music Festival and School.

www.ZacharyWadsworth.com

JULIA M. WILCOX, pianist

Julia M. Wilcox is an Ohio-born, American pianist whose captivation and love for music has pushed her to become not only an accomplished performer, but also an active teacher and music director. Ms. Wilcox is part of a legacy, being the third generation of professional musicians in her family. It was her father, violinist, John C. Wilcox who first introduced Julia to music. Ms. Wilcox began her music training in piano at the age of five. At nine years old, she began study with Bach-scholar, Marcellene Hawk-Mayhall. Since then she has gone on to study, perform, teach, and direct music throughout the United States and Europe.

Ms. Wilcox has performed in the United States and abroad. She was a competitor in the 2008 Schlern International Piano Competition in Völs am Schlern, Italy. She was also a participant in the festival, performing throughout northern Italy in various solo and collaborative recitals. Ms. Wilcox has performed throughout Ohio, appearing with the Youngstown State, Dana Chamber Orchestra and in solo recitals in Youngstown and Cincinnati. She has performed recitals throughout much of the Eastern United States. In 2007, Ms. Wilcox received her Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance from Florida State University, studying with Leonard Mastrogiacomo. Throughout this degree, Ms. Wilcox was a working collaborative pianist and choir accompanist. She played under Larry Gerber with the FSU Men's Choir and worked with many vocalists involved in FSU's music program, learning most of the standard repertoire. Ms. Wilcox was the sole recipient of the Brautlecht Scholarship, an award given to an outstanding senior who demonstrates promise in their chosen field.

Currently residing in Cincinnati, Ohio, Ms. Wilcox has held the position of Director of Choirs at Faith Lutheran Church since the fall of 2007 when she began her Master of Music degree at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. During her time at CCM, Ms. Wilcox studied with Frank Weinstock, featured teacher in the book, *The Most Wanted Teachers in the USA*, by Benjamin Saver. It was Mr. Weinstock's teaching that refined Ms. Wilcox's playing, allowing her to approach the piano as if it were an extension of self, and not just an instrument that one plays. While at CCM, Ms. Wilcox played in concert with the CCM contemporary music ensemble, Café MoMus. As well as actively performing while at CCM, Ms. Wilcox held a Graduate Assistantship in the Secondary Piano Department. Ms. Wilcox graduated from CCM in June of 2009.

Post graduation, Ms. Wilcox has developed her private studio, JM Wilcox Piano Studio, while also teaching at the Loveland Music Academy in Cincinnati, Ohio. Furthermore, she teaches K-8th grade music at Corryville Catholic School and has just begun directing the Faith Lutheran Church Children's Choir. Ms. Wilcox feels strongly that sharing her knowledge with younger generations is just as important as developing one's own skill and technique. In addition to an active teaching career, Ms. Wilcox still finds time to perform. Deeply passionate about the great artists - Beethoven, Brahms, Mozart, and Bach, among others, Ms. Wilcox is equally passionate about promoting and performing contemporary music. She is inspired by new music because it is the music of the current generation; it is this contemporary music that reflects the times in which we presently live.

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