

QUARTET QUARTERLY



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THE COLORADO QUARTET



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An Exciting Spring

As you can see by the box on the bottom right, we are twenty-five years old! In May of 1983, the Colorado Quartet won the two most prestigious prizes in the chamber music world: the Naumburg Chamber Music Award in New York, and first prize at the very first Banff International String Quartet Competition in Canada.

The CQ had been around for a few years as a student quartet before this time, but in the fall of 1982 we reformed, with Julie Rosenfeld and Francesca Martin joining Deborah Lydia Redding and Sharon Prater, who had brought the group from Colorado to study at The Juilliard School. Seven months later, after a season of intense rehearsals, we won both the competitions within a ten-day time period. Diane joined in May of 1988, so she is celebrating her 20th anniversary this year as well. Marka is edging close to the ten-year mark, but is not quite there yet!

We are kicking off our 25th Anniversary year with a concert at Symphony Space on May 9th. We'll be playing repertoire from the winning competitions as well as a new work written by composer Kirsten Volness, entitled *Tree of Life Suite*. We haven't seen the score yet, and eagerly await its arrival. We also plan to play the work at Soundfest in June.

We are celebrating our anniversary in a few other ways as well. First of all, we are performing most of the repertoire from the two competitions this season and next, which includes Beethoven Opus 18#5 in A major, the "Emperor" Quartet by Haydn, the Brahms B-flat Quartet, Dvořák's A-flat major Quartet, and the two 20th century works by Alberto Ginastera and Benjamin Britten.

continued on page 2



Kirsten Volness has been named the winner of the BMI Foundation's 2nd Annual Women's Music Commission and will receive \$5,000 to create a new work to be premiered by the Colorado Quartet at Symphony Space in NY City in May, 2008. In making the announcement, BMI Foundation President Ralph N. Jackson said that "the commission commemorates both the 25th Anniversary of the Colorado Quartet and the 30th Anniversary of Symphony Space, and celebrates both organizations' long and outstanding commitment to American composers and new music."

The competition, open to American women composers between the ages of 20 and 30, was judged under pseudonyms. 54 entries were received from across the United States. The judges for the competition were Lisa Bielawa, Shafer Mahoney and Joan Panetti. Laura Kaminsky, Curator of Music Programs at Symphony Space, served as Artistic Coordinator for the Women's Music Commission project.

Kirsten Volness (b. 1980) grew up in a small town in southern Minnesota, where she communed with the great outdoors. The magic found in the natural world informs and inspires her creative work, as do earth-based spiritual traditions. She is currently completing a DMA in Composition at the Univ. of Michigan (from which she holds an MM), where she studied with Bright Sheng, William Bolcom, Betsy Jolas, Michael Daugherty, Karen Tanaka, Evan Chambers and Erik Santos. She received a Bachelor of Arts, summa cum laude, from the Univ. of Minnesota, where she studied with Judith Lang Zaimont. Her work has been performed by the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra, featured at the Montreal Fringe Festival and presented throughout the U.S., Europe and Australia.



Colorado Quartet
25th Anniversary Concert

Friday, May 9 at 7:30 pm
Symphony Space, New York City

Benjamin Britten: Quartet #2
Alberto Ginastera: Quartet #2
Kirsten Volness: "Tree of Life Suite" (world premiere)

tickets are available online at www.symphonyspace.org
or by calling 212-865-5400

THE COLORADO QUARTET



continued from front page

Next, we are finishing up our Beethoven recording project in 2008 and look forward to the release of the complete Quartets in 2009.

Diane has decided to celebrate the anniversary by driving herself (and the rest of the quartet) completely crazy as she writes *What Time Does the Concert Start?*, a book of memoirs the CQ that delves into our history and our many interesting and illuminating experiences on the road. It's uncertain as to whether she will self-publish or be commercially published, but she hopes to have the book out sometime this coming season. We will of course have the book with us for sale at all concerts as soon as it's available.

Speaking of Diane and her countless projects, she has finally decided to get some of her arrangements and compositions published. Many Soundfest students have encountered

her arrangements in one form or another: cello trios, sextets reworked with fewer viola parts, easier pieces for younger quartets. She is starting off her publishing project with two volumes of student pieces for cello and piano which features many original compositions by Diane and also her father, Alan Chaplin. Upcoming publications will include two volumes for cello ensembles and three volumes for various string ensembles (those are the ones you've heard or played at Soundfest). The music will be available online from our website and at Johnson String Instrument, in addition to other places.

If you're anywhere near New York in early May, come and hear us at Symphony Space. Make sure you buy your tickets early so you don't get left out. And if we don't see you there, then we look forward to bumping into you somewhere else.

Upcoming Colorado Quartet events

FEB 15, Monday at 7:30 pm—BRYAN, TX at First Presbyterian Church

Joint concert with Marian Anderson Quartet: Mendelssohn Octet, Britten Quartet #2

MAR 6, Thursday at 8:00 pm—COCONUT CREEK, FL at Wynmoor Theater

Beethoven Op 18#5, Britten Quartet #2, Brahms Quartet in B-flat major

MAR 8, Saturday at 8:00 pm—TROY, NY at Emma Willard School

Brahms Quartet in B-flat major, Britten Quartet #2, Ginastera Quartet #2

MAR 9, Sunday at 2:30 pm—UTICA, NY at Museum of Art

Brahms Quartet in B-flat major, Britten Quartet #2, Ginastera Quartet #2

MAR 14, Friday at 8:00 pm—BLUE BELL, PA at Montgomery County Community College

APR 2, Wednesday at noon—ALLENDALE, MI at Grand Valley State University

APR 3, Thursday at 7:30 pm—OSHKOSH, WI at University of Wisconsin

APR 6, Sunday at 3:00 pm—DULUTH, MN at Sacred Heart Music Center

APR 8, Tuesday at 7:30 pm—GRAND RAPIDS, MN at Itasca College

APR 12, Saturday at 7:30 pm—ST CLOUD, MN at Salem Lutheran Church

APR 26, Saturday at 6:30 pm—CHICAGO at Arts Club of Chicago

MAY 4, Sunday at 3:00 pm—BARD COLLEGE at Olin Auditorium

Amy Beach Piano Quintet with pianist Sharon Bjorndal, Britten Quartet #2, Ginastera Quartet #2

MAY 9, Friday at 7:30 pm—NEW YORK CITY at Symphony Space

25th Anniversary Concert! World Premiere by Kirsten Volness, Britten Quartet #2, Ginastera Quartet #2



THE HERMES REPORT

D. Lydia Redding ran her Miles for Music pledge race, the Knickerbocker 60K, on November 17. She had a great run and finished second in her age group. She even did some extra mileage on that day, as a 60K is a bit under the kind of distances she prefers, and came out with a total of 45 miles.

If you sent in a marathon pledge form, you should have received a friendly little note from us asking you to pay up. You can always send money in to support Soundfest even if you didn't pledge; just make checks out to Soundfest at Falmouth Academy and send them to the Soundfest contact address on the other side of this newsletter.





Soundfest

NEWS AND NOTES

2008 dates:
June 14-28

The Cerulean Quartet (as a trio at Soundfest in 2007), with Soundfest faculty member and cellist Jim Pedersen, performed two excellent concerts in New York City in January..... Cellist Christopher James (Soundfest 2000-2006) won the Bronx Arts Ensemble concerto competition in 2007 and was presented by them in performance; he will be a freshman at Boston University in the fall..... violinist Kayla Moffett (Soundfest 1999-2002; 2004) is a first-year student at the University of Southern California..... Soundfest has received another year of funding from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and has also been continued for a second year with a scholarship from a private foundation for at-risk youth.

Please join us in thinking positive healing thoughts for Meghan Patrick (cellist, Soundfest 1997-99), who is undergoing chemo and radiation treatments for brain cancer after two craniotomies to remove tumors at the top of her head. Her sister Kathy (Cerulean Trio, Soundfest 2007) reports that she is in great spirits and doing very well with the rigors of the daily treatments. Meghan, who has been establishing a career as a pastry chef in Boston, is spending her weekdays in Boston and weekends out on the Cape with her parents.

Soundfest applications & auditions

We got cheap and saved both money and paper this year, and have posted all our applications online instead of mailing them. (You still have to mail one back to us.) If you'd like to attend Soundfest this year, go to our website at www.coloradoquartet.com to get the information. Application deadline is March 1st, although we are aware that applications will dribble in for a couple of weeks after that.

Live auditions in Falmouth are set for Saturday, March 15—that is the only day we are hearing live auditions on the Cape; all others need to be recorded. We'll also set times in the New York area and at Bard College for anyone wanting to audition there. If you send in a recorded audition, Diane will set a time to email you excerpts and then you'll do sight reading over the phone (because of course we aren't going to let you get away with not doing a sight-reading audition just because we aren't seeing you in person.



Julie practicing away by herself—a familiar sight at the CQ's recent recording sessions of early Beethoven Quartets. We did our recording in Sosnoff Hall in the Fisher Center for the Performing Arts at Bard College.

Soundfest Scholarship Contribution

We greatly appreciate anything you can contribute—it all helps us bring deserving students to study at Soundfest.

Name(s) _____
please print names as you'd like them listed in Soundfest program book

Address _____

_____ Email _____

Amount of donation \$ _____ Please make checks out to **SOUNDFEST at FALMOUTH ACADEMY**

mail to: **Colorado Quartet, 81 Grand Avenue #1-J, Englewood, NJ 07631**

Scholarship ear-marked for: _____
all contributions are tax-exempt to the extent allowed by law



Colorado Quartet CD update

We just finished three grueling days of recording early Beethoven Quartets. Julie suffered the most — as first violinist, she is really in the hot seat with the Opus 18 Quartets, which feature the first violin in a soloistic position much of the time. We all slept a lot for the week after the sessions. We managed to get ten movements on disc: complete Opus 18#5 and Opus 18#4, plus the first two movements of Opus 18#1. We worked for 8-9 hours each of the days. Our fingers were really sore, and Julie suffered through the final day with a split under the nail of one finger. Ouch.

There are two more sets of sessions scheduled later this year, and then our complete Beethoven Quartet project will be complete, and hopefully released while we're still in our anniversary year.

We are also anticipating the release of the *late* Beethoven Quartets, which should happen any moment....




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CONTRIBUTIONS to the MARGARET BRADLEY MEMORIAL SOUNDFEST SCHOLARSHIP FUND may be sent to: The Cape Cod Foundation, 259 Willow Street, Yarmouthport, MA 02675
All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Newsletter online

You can always find the newsletter online at www.coloradoquartet.com. There are also frequently updated lists of Colorado Quartet concert appearances, as well as info on recordings available and Soundfest events.

And now you can also see us at www.myspace.com/coloradoquartet.



The Soundfest Chamber Music Festival and Quartet Institute operates with donations from friends and family like you, and with a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Send us News!

Drop us a line when you have news & we'll pass it along in the next newsletter.
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