

Jazz Meets Classical XVI—Made in the U.S.A. By Guildhian Pennyweather

The 16th edition of **Jazz Meets Classical** offered two programs in three venues to standing room only audiences at the: **Instituto de Mexico**, Saturday, March 29, the **San Antonio Museum of Art**, Monday, March 31, and the **Witte Museum**, Tuesday, April 1. **Made in the U.S.A.**—an eclectic and energetic program of music by American composers, and performed by an energetic ensemble of mostly American musicians—opened the series at the **Instituto Cultural de México** with all the excitement of a first performance, and followed by a repeat of the program a few days later at the **Witte Museum**.

Opening the festivities was the *Sonata for Clarinet and Piano* by **David Baker**, Distinguished Professor of Music and Chairman of the Jazz Department at Indiana University School of Music, and performed by the equally distinguished clarinetist **Robert Walzel**, Professor of Music and Chair of the University of Utah School of Music. The decidedly jazz harmonies and rhythmic drive were flawlessly and seemingly effortlessly supplied by pianist **Kristin Roach**. **Matthew Dunne**, guitarist and longtime arranger for **Jazz Meets Classical**, offered a delightful rendering of Scott Joplin's *Solace*, a Tango-Rag (would that be a *Rango*?) arranged for **Walzel** on clarinet, **Allyson Dawkins** on viola, and **Dunne** on guitar.

Next up was a driving, funk-flavored movement from the pen of composer **Kenji Bunch**, entitled *Night Flight* from his piano trio, *Swing Shift*. The driving rhythms were clearly performed by violinist **Joan Christenson**, cellist **David Mollenauer** and **Kristin Roach** on piano. The general funkiness of the evening continued with the world premiere of **James Scott Balentine's** *Double Black Stick Dance*, composed for this series for clarinetist **Robert Walzel** and the composer on the second "black stick." The piece opened up for improvised solos from jazz pianist **Heinz Frommeyer**, trumpeter **Curtis Calderon** (sitting in while off-duty from his regular Four Freshmen gig), and bassist **Zlatan Redzic**. **Kyle Keener**, of San Antonio's *Small World*, handled drum set duties admirably.

Closing the first half, an amazingly third stream version of *Riders on the Storm* brewed up clouds of dissonant harmonies punctuated by thunderbolts of improvisation, based on an arrangement by **Michal Rataj** of the famous tune by **The Doors**.

The second half included: *Three Piano Preludes* of **George Gershwin**, arranged by **Darrel Tidaback**, a rendition of a classic blues by **Wynton Marsalis**, *Soon All Will Know*, and a stunningly complex and interesting arrangement of **Duke Ellington's** *Cotton Tail*, created for this concert by **Matthew Dunne**.

A substantially different program, **Music of the New World**, awaited the audience at the **San Antonio Museum of Art**.

Paul Schoenfield's *Who Let the Cat Out Last Night?* opened the dance with some enthusiastic amplified fiddle music from violinist **Joan Christenson**, followed by **Libby Larsen's** *Blue Third Pieces: Deep Blue* and *Salt Peanuts!*, stunningly performed by flutist **Martha Fabrique** and guitarist **Matt Dunne**.

Mike Garson's *Ballad*, and **James Scott Balentine's** *Nine Wild Exotic Dances* featured clarinetist **Robert Walzel** wearing his two hats with equal elegance, the jazz hat supported by pianist **Heinz Frommeyer**, the classical by **Kristin Roach**. Closing the festivities was **Michael Torke's** *Yellow Pages* from the *Telephone Book*, a rousing piece that was exciting and musically satisfying on every level.

Our heartfelt thanks go to the **Russell Hill Rogers Fund for the Arts**, the **Instituto**, the **SAMA**, and the **Witte**. (Please see page 4). To the regulars who have loved and appreciated all sixteen years of **Jazz Meets Classical**, and to those who have just discovered it, the musicians say thank you for your support in letting us have so much fun making music together. See you next year!



Jazz Meets Classical: L to R: David Mollenauer, cello; Allyson Dawkins, viola; Kristin Roach, piano; Heinz Frommeyer, piano; Curtis Calderon, trumpet; Robert Walzel, clarinet; James Scott Balentine, clarinet; Kyle Keener, drums; Joan Christenson, violin; Matthew Dunne, guitar; Zlatan Redzic, bass. Photo by Mimi Quintanilla

2008-2009 Musical Offerings Season Review

Bach in the Saddle Again by Gail Wettstein

Back to back BACH was the treat that the Musical Offerings audience savored on November 13, 2007.

The evening started with the mellow strains of the *Suite #3 in C Major* for solo cello played with sensitivity and passion by **Joel Beckett**. **Gail Wettstein**, soprano, and **Owen Duggan**, baritone, shared the beauty, and soaring sounds of Bach's oratorios, supported by **Faith DeBow** on the harpsichord, **Joel Beckett**, continuo, **David Herbert**, oboe and oboe d'amore, and **Joan Christenson**, violin.

A special delicacy was the *Suite #6 in E major* for solo Harpsichord played exquisitely by **Faith DeBow**. The *Concerto in C Minor* for Oboe and Violin brought together all the skill and sensitivity of the instrumental musicians. The evening ended with the whole ensemble performing "Wann Kommst du, mein Heil" depicting a tender conversation between the Lord and his child, and also the upbeat and dancing "Der ewig reiche Gott" from *Nun danket alle Gott*.

For one entire evening the amazing facets of BACH'S music were on display. His mastery of the instrumental song, the passion of his commitment to Deity, the playfulness of melody and counterpoint, the majestic soaring sounds that lift your heart almost to heaven. Those of us who came were indeed fed and came away full for a moment, while remaining hungry for more.



L to R: David Herbert, Joel Beckett, Faith DeBow, Joan Christenson, Gail Wettstein, and Owen Duggan in Ruth Taylor Concert Hall.
Photo by Mimi Quintanilla

It's All Greek to Us

Gallery Concert at SAMA Not To Be "Mythed"

On May 5, 2008, Musical Offerings and the San Antonio Museum of Art presented a special event, *Myth and Music*. Houston Grand Opera Studio artists, **Faith Sherman**, mezzo-soprano, and **Kathleen Kelly**, piano, with **Joan Christenson**, violin, performed repertoire inspired by the re-opening of the Greek and Roman Antiquities Galleries at the San Antonio Museum of Art.

Ms. Sherman is the top prize winner in the 2007 Eleanor McCollum Competition for Young Singers, and **Ms. Kelly** is the head of Music Staff and Music Director of the highly acclaimed Houston Grand Opera Studio.

All works were cleverly tied to mythology. The program opened with **Tartini's** "Dido Abandoned" Sonata for violin and piano, a reference to Dido, the Queen of Carthage, who was abandoned by Aeneas when he went to war. **Ms. Sherman** followed with the Cantata *Arianna a Naxos* by **Joseph Haydn**, which depicts a highly emotional scene of love, loss, and grief.



Faith and **Kathy** then performed the whimsical, humorous, and heartfelt songs of Jake Heggie, which explore the mythological themes of creation, destruction, flight, and eros. **Joan** and **Kathy** played **Igor Stravinsky's** ecstatic and powerful "Dithyrambe", originally an ancient Greek hymn sung to the god Dionysus, and **Gluck's** beautiful "Melodie," taken from his opera based on the myth of Orpheus.

The themes of the concert are summed up by **Faith** and **Kathy** in **Richard Strauss'** beloved "Composer's Aria" from *Ariadne Auf Naxos*. This aria is not only a tour-de-force for mezzo-soprano, it is a hymn to the expressive and healing power of music, praising it as a gift of the gods.

The concert was creative in its programming, and throughout, **Faith's** beautiful, huge voice filled the Great Hall and thrilled the audience. We wish **Faith** the best of luck when she leaves the studio program and launches her professional career. The artists were generously housed by **Linda and John Casey** at O'Casey's Bed and Breakfast.

L to R: Joan Christenson, violin; Kathleen Kelly, piano;
Faith Sherman, mezzo-soprano
Photo by Enoch Sherman

MO news is good news.....message from the Artistic Director

A warm welcome to Musical Offerings' fourth newsletter. We have now entered our **25th Anniversary Season**, a celebratory occasion that we want you to share with us to the fullest!! Over the past season, we have continued to build upon our successes by presenting first-class chamber music concerts to growing audiences. Musical Offerings continues to present the premier jazz/classical mu-
event in San Antonio, *Jazz Meets Classical*, soon to be in it's seventeenth season.

The 2008-2009 season will continue with the same innovative programming that has defined Musical Offerings through the years. Our ability to present unique collaborations creates a special niche for us in San Antonio.

Please enjoy the newsletter. We invite you to familiarize yourself with Musical Offerings, to attend our concerts and to share in the experience of our versatile programming and creative collaborations.



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Musical Offerings is highly regarded in the community as a presenter of quality performances and innovative programs. Every year my husband and I look forward to the creative programs of beautiful and interesting music. We support Musical Offerings because we enjoy the diverse programs of classical, jazz and contemporary chamber music--especially the *Jazz Meets Classical* series. We have witnessed the growth and development of Musical Offerings' audiences and support under the nurturing leadership of Artistic and Administrative Director, Joan Christenson. Each season the eclectic program offers a fresh perspective on chamber music. We look forward to the surprises the coming season will bring.

Mimi Quintanilla and David Schmidt

What's up?

2008-2009 is Musical Offerings' 25th Anniversary Season

**Concert at Trinity University
Ruth Taylor Concert Hall**

**Music on the Move concert
at the
San Antonio Museum of Art**

**The best of
Jazz Meets Classical**

San Antonio Museum of Art

Witte Museum

Instituto Cultural de México

www.musicalofferings.org

.....clip and mail in enclosed envelope.....

How can I help? Get a jump on giving for the 25th anniversary of Musical Offerings.

I would like to support Musical Offerings with a gift of MOney! MO is a designated 501(c)(3) organization. *All contributions are recognized in all concert programs for the fiscal year June-May. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.*

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*Musical Offerings, founded in 1983,
is dedicated to the performance of
fine chamber music in San Antonio.*

Visit our website
www.musicalofferings.org

Why should you support Musical Offerings? Did you know that Musical Offerings has sponsored the following events;

- ◆ *Jazz Meets Classical™* Series at the Witte Museum, the Landing at the Riverwalk, the San Antonio Museum of Art and the McNay Art Museum 1992-2005
- ◆ *Taste of Tango* Our Lady of the Lake University 2001, the First Unitarian Universalist Church 2004, Texas Lutheran University 2005, Instituto de Mexico 2006
- ◆ 3 chamber orchestra programs conducted by Christopher Wilkins 1992-95
- ◆ *Gallery Concerts* Series at the San Antonio Museum of Art 1983-1993

And participated in the following events; Chamber music concerts in conjunction with

- ◆ 25th Anniversary of the San Antonio Museum of Art 2006
- ◆ First anniversary of the *Henry A. Guerra Public Library branch* 2005
- ◆ Educational Concerts in schools *Class Acts* 2002-2003, *Campus Concerts* sponsored by the San Antonio Symphony League 2004, Guerra Public Library, 2005
- ◆ *Opening of the William L. Cowden Gallery and The Nelson A. Rockefeller Center for Latin American Art*, San Antonio Museum of Art
- ◆ The Southwest Guitar Festival 2000
- ◆ *The Virgil Thompson Centennial* with the San Antonio Symphony 1997
- ◆ *Mexico: 30 Centuries of Splendor* Art Exhibit 1991

Where Would We Be Without Our Volunteers?

Musical Offerings and the Witte Museum salute our hard-working, fun-loving volunteers: Valeria Lopez, Meredith Ruiz, Janet Garza, Penny Wiederhold, and Joe & Diane Dondero, who have generously given their time to come to the aid of our organizations! Thank you SO much.

Jazz Meets Classical XVI at the Instituto Cultural de Mexico was generously supported by the City of San Antonio, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Office of Cultural Affairs.

Jazz Meets Classical XVI at the Witte Museum was generously supported by the Quintanilla Schmidt Family, and musician and arranger fees graciously underwritten by a grant from the Russell Hill Rogers Fund for the Arts.

Jazz Meets Classical XVI at the San Antonio Museum of Art, *Music of the New World*, was funded by the Nathalie and Gladys Dalkowitz Charitable Trust. The fees for Artistic Director, Joan Christenson, and clarinetist, Robert Walzel, are underwritten by a generous grant from the Russell Hill Rogers Fund for the Arts.



Volunteers for JMC at the Witte Museum, L to R: Valeria Lopez, Meredith Ruiz, Janet Garza, Penny Wiederhold, Joe Dondero, Diane Dondero