

June 2016

Musical Offerings has just completed its 32nd season. Founded in 1983-84, MO has been presenting high quality, innovative chamber music concerts for 32 years.

The Official Newsletter of Musical Offerings

# Motif

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Jazz Meets Classical ensemble—Front (L to R): Amy Venticinque, violin; Vivienne Spy, piano; Joan Christenson, violin; Dennis Dotson, trumpet/fluegelhorn; Back (L to R) Holgen Gjoni, cello; Matt Diekman, viola; Zlatan Redzic, bass; Aaron Prado, piano; Kyle Keener, drums; James Balentine clarinet/saxophone; Robert Walzel, clarinet

Two special guests highlighted the Jazz Meets Classical concerts April 10 and 11th, 2016: Robert Walzel, an outstanding clarinetist from the University of Kansas, and Dennis Dotson, jazz trumpet soloist with the Woody Herman Orchestra and Buddy Rich Big Band who currently teaches at UT Austin.

Mr. Walzel (Bob), a proponent of jazz and other culturally influenced music, has premiered and recorded several new works written

for him including a CD of Jim Balentine's compositions—Wild Exotic Dances.

Bob and pianist Vivienne Spy performed *Jaren's Reel* from that CD. Bob was also featured in *Double Black Stick Dance*, an energetic gem that Jim composed for both he and Bob on clarinet.

Other works showing off Bob's immense talents included: *Ballad in Memory of Shirley Horn* by Richard R. Bennett, *Pacific Serenade* by Miguel del Aguila and *Preludio y Merengue* by Paquito D'Rivera.

The second half of the program included *Bill's Shadow*, a brilliant tribute to Billy Strayhorn that Jim composed in 2015 for the Strayhorn Centennial. This was scored for the full ensemble and featured Dennis on fluegelhorn.

The program concluded with *Regret* by Dave Brubeck, *Wrong Note Rag* by Leonard Bernstein, *Haitian Fight Song* by Charles Mingus, and *The Chant* by Jellyroll Morton, all beautifully arranged for our ensemble by Jim Balentine.

Thank you, Jim, for your many contributions to Jazz Meets Classical over the years!

Musician and arranger fees, and the appearances of Robert Walzel and Dennis Dotson, were underwritten by a generous grant from the Russell Hill Rogers Fund for the Arts. Additional support came from Quintanilla Schmidt Consulting. Thank you to our concert sponsors.

Next season is the 25th Anniversary of Jazz Meets Classical! Please plan to share this with us.



## Las Americas in conjunction with the San Antonio Museum of Art

**M**usical Offerings presented a Las Americas concert on February 21, 2016, in the Contemporary Latin American gallery at SAMA as part of the Symphony sponsored Las Americas Festival.

A string quartet performed the electrifying *Four for Tango* by Astor Piazzolla, the dynamic *String Quartet #2* by Alberto Ginastera, *Lullaby* by George Gershwin, and several other works by composers from North and South America.

Eric Schneeman, Ph.D. Musicology, UTSA Lecturer and board member of Musical Offerings provided colorful commentary on the composers and works.

Performers included Joan Christenson, violin; Eric Siu, violin; Sayaka Okada, viola; and Holgen Gjoni, cello.



Photo by Susan Riley



Photos L to R; Eric Siu, violin; Joan Christenson, violin; Holgen Gjoni, cello

## Something for EVERYONE

**T**he hugely successful season opener took place on Sunday afternoon, November 15, 2015 at Christ Episcopal Church.

The program featured the brilliant Antonín Dvořák *Quintet for String Quartet and Double Bass*, and *From Yesterday to Penny Lane: 7 Songs after the Beatles* by John Lennon-Paul McCartney, arranged for guitar and string quintet by the Cuban

composer Leo Brouwer. Matthew Dunne, Coordinator of Guitar Studies at UTSA, was the guitar soloist.

In-between was the short beautiful *Cancao do Amor* by Heitor Villa-Lobos.

This concert was very well attended and received. Musicians featured were: Beth Girko and Eric Siu, violins; Sayaka Okada, viola; Holgen Gjoni, cello; and Zlatan Redzic, bass.



Photo by Susan Riley



Photos L to R: Matthew Dunne, guitar; Elizabeth Girko, violin; Sayaka Okada, violin; Zlatan Redzic, bass

What's Up  
for the 2016-17  
Season?



Photo by Susan Riley

Joan Christenson, Artistic Director,  
Musical Offerings

More programs at the  
San Antonio Museum of Art

...

Participation in the  
San Antonio Symphony sponsored  
Mozart Festival

...

Programs at  
Christ Episcopal Church

...

Jazz Meets Classical  
25th Anniversary

## How can I help?

Get a jump on giving for the 2016-2017 season of Musical Offerings. Your support is SO important to the success of our organization.

CLIP AND MAIL IN ENCLOSED ENVELOPE

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

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*Jazz Meets Classical*  
L to R; Jim Balentine, Cindy Balentine,  
Dennis Dotson, Bob Walzel

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



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