

## Jazz Meets Classical XVIII highlights guest from L.A. and newly commissioned work

*Jazz Meets Classical* (JMC) delivered a jammin' eighteenth series with **five** presentations in five venues: the **Instituto Cultural de México**, the **First United Methodist Church** in Boerne, the **Jazz Market** at Main Plaza, the **San Antonio Museum of Art** and the **Witte Museum**. The First Church in Boerne and Jazz Market were exciting new venues for the group.

**Rob Hardt**, formerly of San Antonio, now of Los Angeles, was the multi-talented guest, performing on flute, clarinet and saxophone as well as arranging for the group. Rob plays with the Argentinean guitar ace, **Gonzalo Bergara**, in Los Angeles, and arranged two of his works for JMC: *Como Una Flor* and *A Una Carioca*. Both have a gentle lyricism, rich harmonies, and possess a driven Latin rhythmic pulse, as well as showing off superbly improvised solos by **Rob** and flugelhornist, **Curtis Calderon**, our home-grown Four Freshman touring member.

**James Scott Balentine** and his brother, **Bruce Balentine** (librettist), composed a very original and impressive multi-media work using music, text, acting and projection to tell their story of how jazz and classical musicians think. Titled *Full Frontal Lobes*, this work was ingenious in its concept and delivery and deserves to be performed widely. The work featured **Rob Hardt** as the main character of the story. Special thanks go to the commissioned work's underwriters: **Michael Gast** and **Guildhian Music** with additional support from **John Santikos** and **Musical Offerings**.

Three toe-tapping waltzes and reels by the jazz/classical/bluegrass violinist, **Marc O'Connor**, got the concert off to a delightful start, followed by *Club Crawl* by **Kenji Bunch**. All works showed off the dexterity of pianist **Brent Watkins**, violinist **Joan Christenson**, violist **Matt Diekman**, cellist **Ben Westney**, and bassist, **Zlatan Redzik**.

Guitarist, **Matthew Dunne**, deftly arranged two works for the ensemble, *Autumn in New York* and *My Little Suede Shoes*. The arrangements were inspired by the **Charlie Parker** recordings, *Bird with Strings*. Instead of the lush studio orchestra Parker had in the 1950's, Matt scored the works for a chamber setting, and called upon the string players to provide more than simply a background for the saxophone improvisations. As an encore, Matt also arranged **Duke Ellington's** *Cottontail*, which included an exciting solo by drummer, **Kyle Keener**.

Our very special thanks go to: the **Russell Hill Rogers Fund for the Arts** for its generous underwriting of musician and arranger fees for the JMC concerts at SAMA and the **Witte Museum**, the **Quintanilla/Schmidt family** for continued support at the Witte, the **San Antonio Museum of Art**, the **Instituto Cultural de México** for generous venue and staff support, and **KRTU** for its bighearted media endorsement.



Jazz Meets Classical: L to R front: James Balentine, clarinet; Zlatan Redzik; bass; Joan Christenson, violin; Curtis Calderon, trumpet; Ben Westney, cello; L to R back: Matthew Diekman, viola; Kyle Keener, drums; Brent

## 2009-2010 Musical Offerings 26th Season Review

### Music on the Move: Greece and Rome “artfully” ties music to antiquities

The *Music on the Move* Series continues to thrill audiences with its innovative format. November’s concert took place in the beautiful Greek and Roman Antiquities galleries on the first floor of the San Antonio Museum of Art. All works cleverly tied musical selections to Greek and Roman themes, gods and goddesses.

The concert began in the Greek gallery with Debussy’s *Syrinx* for solo flute, *Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun* for flute and harp, and Gluck’s “Melodie” from *Orpheus* and *Eurydice*.

The audience and musicians then progressed to the Roman Gallery, where the works presented included Tartini’s *Dido Abandoned* Sonata, Hersant’s *Héliades* for flute, violin, viola and cello, and Owen’s arrangements of *16th Century Lute Pieces* for the full ensemble.

Featured musicians were: **Rachel Ferris** harp, **Martha Fabrique** flute, **Joan Christenson** violin, **Matthew Diekman** viola, and **Josh Boulton**, cello. The concert was funded by generous support from **Frost**.



Left: Martha Fabrique, flute. Above: Joan Christenson, violin; Josh Boulton, cello; Rachel Ferris, harp, in the Roman Gallery. Photos by Susan Riley

### Music on the Move: Asia, and Voyage to East Asia by Martha Fabrique

Musical Offerings took a musical voyage to the countries of Japan, China and Korea in February through the auspices of the San Antonio Museum of Art’s Asian galleries and the Blue Star Contemporary Art Center. Ancient to contemporary music for strings and the Japanese *shakuhachi* were performed. String compositions featured were *Song of the Beggars* by Hyo-shin Na, *Rocking Mirror Daybreak* by Toru Takemitsu, and two compositions, *Song of the Ch’in* and *Chinese Folk Songs* by Zhou Long.

Highlights included two compositions by **Dr. Marty Regan**, Texas A&M College Station, for **Martha Fabrique** on *shakuhachi*, and string players **Joan Christenson** and **Sayaka Okada**, violin; **Terry Stolow**, viola; and **Josh Boulton**, cello. **Dr. Regan** gave wonderful pre-concert lectures on composing for Japanese instruments for an intrigued audience at SAMA. *Forest Whispers* for ‘cello and *shakuhachi* required both performers to become comfortable with a sense of rhythmic indeterminacy based on the breath, to imbue the piece with a flow of musical time. *Voyage* combines a rich variety of textures and glissandos played by the string quartet with the powerful emotional expressiveness of the *shakuhachi*.

The *shakuhachi* is the Japanese vertical, bamboo flute with five finger holes. During the 16th-19th centuries, it was played by Zen monks as a form of religious discipline and musical meditation. In the modern era, the *shakuhachi* is being used in an ever-widening variety of musical applications, ranging from its classical traditions through jazz, popular and new age music, to the avant-garde of Western classical music.

Two solo pieces from the Zen Buddhist tradition were featured, including *Echigo Sanya*. *Sanya* expresses the shape of Mt. Fuji and is a brilliant piece featuring virtuosic finger-work and large melodic inflections. *Tsuru no Sugomori* (Nesting of the Cranes) depicts the life-story of the Japanese cranes. Many special effects such as flutter-tonguing were heard in this piece.



As the audience contemplated Buddhist sculptures, Japanese gilded screens, and Chinese and Korean ceramics from hundreds of years ago, their ears were filled with the unique sounds of Asia creating an unforgettable multi-sensory experience.



Left photo: Joan Christenson, Sayaka Okada, Terry Stolow, Josh Boulton, Marty Regan, Martha Fabrique. Photo by Susan Riley. Right photo: Martha Fabrique. Photo by SAMA

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

Dear Fans and Donors of Musical Offerings,

Having just completed a stellar 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season, our 26<sup>th</sup> Season was no less exciting! *Music on the Move* at the San Antonio Museum of Art is, and continues to be, *extremely* popular. Look for lots more *Music on the Move* next season.

For the 12<sup>th</sup> summer, I'll be participating in the Grand Teton Festival, in Jackson, Wyoming, in which I'll perform with musicians from all over the United States. This festival features world-class soloists, musicians and conductors and is an enriching experience which enhances the work I do for the SA Symphony and for Musical Offerings.

Next season promises more inventive *Music on the Move* concerts, *Jazz Meets Classical*, and a BIG surprise concert in the works. Thank you for your continued interest and support of Musical Offerings!



We look forward to each new Musical Offerings season, knowing we will be introduced to music we may not be familiar with but always enjoy. *Jazz Meets Classical* programs are not to be missed. A string quartet performing with a jazz ensemble is a real joy! Joan Christenson provides us the opportunity to hear many talented musicians, some of whom have composed and/or arranged music specifically for Musical Offerings.

We hope you will join us for the 27<sup>th</sup> year of Musical Offerings' exciting and innovative programs.

Margaret and Jerry Rote  
Herweck's on Broadway



Board members: L to R: Joan Christenson, Jay Higginson, Thad Harkins, Mimi Quintanilla. Photo by Susan Riley

### What's up?

#### 2010-2011 Musical Offerings

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

**Jazz Meets Classical XVIII**  
San Antonio Museum of Art  
Witte Museum  
Instituto Cultural de México

**and more...**

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

### How can I help? Get a jump on giving for the 2010-2011 season 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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is dedicated to the performance of  
fine chamber music in San Antonio.

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#### The 26th Season in PICTURES!

1. Jazz Meets Classical at Jazz Market on Main Plaza. L to R: Joan Christenson, Matthew Diekman, Ben Westney, Brent Watkins, Zlatan Redzic, Kyle Keener, Curtis Calderon
  2. Performance of *Full Frontal Lobes* by James Balentine (standing left), Bruce Balentine, librettist, standing right.
  4. Curtis Calderon and Rob Hardt, Jazz Meets Classical
- Photos #2-3 by Susan Riley. Photo #1 by Michael Gast.

