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Notes

from Chamber Music Monterey Bay

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CMMB's 43rd Season ~ from Gluck to Glass and other stops along the way

CMMB is poised to embark on its 43rd season of bringing the very best chamber music ensembles in the world to Carmel's Sunset Center.

Recently, CMMB has been garnering a significant amount of notoriety for its stellar and imaginative programming. Presenting world-class ensembles for our patrons is at the very core of our mission.

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Chamber Music Monterey Bay 2009/10 Concert Series ~ Sunset Center, Carmel

Emerson String Quartet ~ Friday • October 23, 2009 • 8 PM

La Pietà ~ Saturday • November 21, 2009 • 8 PM

Richard Stoltzman & Borromeo String Quartet
Saturday • January 16, 2010 • 8 PM

ATOS Trio ~ Friday • February 19, 2010 • 8 PM

Cypress String Quartet ~ Saturday • April 17, 2010 • 8 PM

St. Lawrence SQ premieres John Adams commission

CMMB's 2008/09 season will end on a high note at 8 PM on Saturday, April 25, 2009 at Carmel's Sunset Center.

The final concert of CMMB's 42nd season will feature the St. Lawrence String Quartet performing Haydn's String Quartet #2, Opus 77; Mendelssohn's String Quartet in F minor, Opus 80; and the Central Coast premiere of a new (2008) string quartet by the renowned American composer John Adams. Adams, who was born in 1947 and taught at the San Francisco

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The St. Lawrence String Quartet

CMMB's 2009/10 season starts on October 23, 2009, with the

Emerson String Quartet

performing Dvořák, Shostakovich & Schubert



"... with musicians like this there must be some hope for humanity."
— *The Times of London*



The Cypress String Quartet visits Walter Colton Middle School on September 5, 2008 (below)



CMMB's 09/10 Season (continued from page 1)

From the eternal Emerson String Quartet to the unusual nine-woman Canadian ensemble La Pietà, CMMB will once again present an extraordinary season. Classical superstar Richard Stoltzman will join the Borromeo String Quartet, and we will welcome the most recent

winners of the prestigious Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson International Trio Award – The ATOS Trio, from Germany.

To round out this exciting season, we are proud to present the Cypress String Quartet, which just completed its first year of CMMB Residency, in a

concert that will feature a brand new String Quartet by Kevin Puts, commissioned for them.

Please make plans to join us for our 43rd season of stand-out programming. Season subscriptions provide great savings and are available by calling 831.625.2212.

The Cypress String Quartet Residency

In February, the Cypress String Quartet completed its first year of a very successful Community Residency for CMMB.

Over the course of 16 events for MPUSD schoolchildren, they worked with hundreds of music students, coaching young musicians and offering instruction in the art of performance.

Other activities included a teacher workshop, mini-concerts for seniors at residence facilities, and community performances

of chamber music at the Ol' Factory Café in Sand City, and for the Gentrain Society at MPC.

Workshop students made noticeable improvements, and many third- and fourth-graders expressed great enthusiasm to begin playing an instrument in their school programs.

Despite the worrisome and genuine concern that MPUSD music teachers might lose their jobs in the coming school year, CMMB plans to continue the Residency if we are

able to raise sufficient funds in this difficult economy.

We are deeply grateful for the underwriting of the Residency by Harriet Mitteldorf, and for the support from these foundations: Chamber Music America, the Community Foundation for Monterey County, the Monterey Peninsula Foundation, and the Harden Foundation.

Stay tuned for future plans for the Cypress Quartet Residency.

St. Lawrence SQ (continued from page 1)

Conservatory of Music between 1972 and 1984, is especially well-known for his operas: "Nixon in China," "The Death of Klinghoffer," and "Doctor Atomic."

When the SLSQ premiered it in January of this year, The New York Times described it as, "a

stylistically fluid extended fantasy, with the players moving seamlessly through a colorful sequence of episodes... hushed, introspective moments and solo passages for each player." The St. Lawrence, with a record of more than two thousand performances during twenty years, was

praised for "the passionate intensity that has long been its hallmark."

To help us all appreciate the new John Adams piece, members of the Quartet will conduct a pre-concert lecture at 7 PM at Sunset Center, offering us their insights into the work.

Chamber Music Monterey Bay Board President Amy Anderson attends annual Chamber Music America Conference in New York



I am always pleased to attend the national meeting of Chamber Music America (CMA), which takes place each January in New York City.

Along with the excitement of spending a few days in Manhattan (*very cold* this year), I especially look forward to the meeting's diverse programming, chock full of "all things chamber music" for presenters, ensembles, and agents alike.

It is really exciting to be surrounded by other chamber music fanatics and to feel the national "pulse" of the chamber music community, which, I am happy to report, is alive and thriving. There is no better place to "talk the talk" and to discuss ideas and challenges, such as "How do we get young people into our concerts?" No matter which region of the country we come from, the issues are very similar.

The meeting starts out with a luncheon and keynote speech by a notable advocate of the arts; recent speakers have included author and doctor Oliver Sacks, *New Yorker* critic Alex Ross, and

former National Endowment of the Arts Chairman Dana Gioia.

Not surprisingly, there were two sessions this year devoted to strategies for cutting costs without cutting program quality—those sessions were jammed and quite helpful.

I also attended excellent sessions on marketing issues, education residencies, and one called "Building Community through Technology: How to embrace the Internet to spread and share your message."

There are also afternoon "showcase" concerts, where six ensembles per day get thirty minutes each to show their stuff to a room crowded with curious presenters like myself. These concerts offer an excellent opportunity to sample an unfamiliar group, such as the fabulous mixed ensemble I heard featuring string quartet, percussion, baritone and clarinet, or to reacquaint oneself with an ensemble whose members may have changed, such as the superb Osiris Piano Trio, who last performed on our series in 2004.

Always, there is a lot of post-concert discussion among colleagues and "catch up" with old friends from meetings past. This can also be a time to network with potential booking partners; whenever possible, CMMB does a "block booking" with other west coast presenters, which helps keep costs down.

Finally, there are typically two full evening concerts, one that focuses on works recently commissioned by CMA, and one organized around a specific theme—this year's theme was "American Masterpieces."

CMA is an excellent organization that serves a wonderful community of like-minded people. I always return from these annual meetings with lots of new ideas, excited to share what I've heard and discovered with our Peninsula concertgoers.

There are many, many superb ensembles touring these days; the hardest part is narrowing it down to five each season! We hope you've enjoyed our choices.

— Amy Anderson

Chamber Music America

History and Overview

In 1977, thirty-four chamber musicians met in New York City to address the career challenges of the field and to discuss how to raise the nation's awareness of chamber music. They founded Chamber Music America (CMA), the only national service organization for the chamber music profession.

In thirty-one years, CMA has grown to represent more than 8,000 individual and organization members.

Chamber Music Defined

Chamber Music America defines chamber music as music for small ensembles in which players perform one to a part, generally without a conductor.

Historically, the term *chamber music* was restricted to Western classical music for small ensembles, such as the string quartet. Today, however, chamber music comprises many different musical styles and genres.

At the heart of this art form is a spirit of collaboration. Democratic in essence, chamber music demands that each individual engage in a close musical dialogue with the other performers. Their collective musical instinct, experience, knowledge, and talent guide the process of interpreting, rehearsing, and performing.

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Kevin Puts

"In hands of Miró Quartet, Kevin Puts' *Credo* astounds."
- Scott Cantrell, The Dallas Morning News

Enthusiasm for Kevin Puts' *Credo* at Carnegie Hall

The highlight of Amy Anderson's January trip to the CMA conference was attending the New York premiere of Kevin Puts' *Credo* at its sold-out performance at Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall.

As she says, "It was a thrill to hear our first commissioned work in

such an historic venue, and to experience firsthand the audience's enthusiasm. The Miró Quartet's performances of *Credo* continue to generate great reviews."

Scott Cantrell wrote in *The Dallas Morning News* on February 10 of this year, "It's not often that a

brand-new piece of music ... hits you right in the solar plexus ... Patrons ... were wide-eyed at the aural and emotional impact of the piece."

To read the entire review, please visit: www.miroquartet.com/cgi-bin/view_review.cgi?review_id=90



Image: Don Perdue

Carnegie Hall

Thanks to Annual Fund Donors

Contributed income is essential to ensuring the artistic and fiscal vitality of CMMB. We are indebted to everyone who responded to our Fund Appeal this past year:

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Katherine Bucquet

Board Member Spotlight ~ Katherine Bucquet

Katherine Bucquet is the newest board member of Chamber Music Monterey Bay. Katherine grew up in Carmel and attended Sunset School, now the Sunset Cultural Center.

Katherine's family has long involvement in the local music scene, from the Monterey Jazz Festival to the Carmel Bach Festival. While not

musically adept, she retains a passionate appreciation for music, saying she has "all of the interest and none of the ability."

Katherine left Carmel at 18 and established a career as a commercial property manager. She specialized in institutional investor clients and managed over one million

square feet of office and retail space in Sacramento for many years. She returned to Carmel about ten years ago and now, in retirement, manages the family business.

Katherine's other interests include reading, hiking, dog training, and knitting. She does not own a television.