



Music for Flute, Viola, & Harp

Sunday, February 3, 2019

Ruth Ann Ritchie, Flute
Alicia Valoti, Viola

Jaymee Haefner, Harp
Christopher Curtis, Host

Harbord Street

Milton Barnes (1931-2001)

Parade
Waltzing
Ragtime
Memory
Saturday Night

Between Earth and Sea

Sally Beamish (b. 1956)

Zodiac Trio

William Mathias (1934-1992)

Pisces
Aries
Taurus

Slam Ahead

Don Davis (b. 1957)

Astraios Chamber Music would like to thank Kelly Pfaffenberger and First Baptist Church of Farmers Branch for hosting today's event!

Special thanks to Bob and Julie England, Laura and Stuart Morgan, and all our donors who make our concerts possible.

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Flutist **Ruth Ann Ritchie** is the founder and Executive Director of Astraios. Since 2007 she has established concert series in Texas and Colorado and led Astraios ensembles in performances across the U.S. She is the founding flutist of both The August Winds quintet and the Cirrus Quartet.

Inspired to play flute at the age of two, Ruth Ann studied at the Cleveland Institute of Music and the Cleveland Music School Settlement before receiving a Bachelor of Music with Distinction in Flute Performance from Indiana University. She continued her studies at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, receiving a Graduate Diploma in 2006. Her primary teachers have been Tom Robertello, Alexa Still, Linda White, and Joseph Juhos.

Ruth Ann also serves as Executive Director of the Dallas-based Orpheus Chamber Singers. As an administrator, she has worked with Froot Fire-Dallas and Hall Ensemble, and served on the Board of the Lewisville Lake Symphony from 2012-2015. Ruth Ann has been a guest panelist at the National Flute Association's annual convention, speaking on the topic of "Creative Careers for Musicians."

Dr. Alicia Marie Valoti is the Assistant Professor of Viola at Central Michigan University. She studied with Lawrence Dutton, Bruno Giuranna, Garth Knox, Nobuko Imai, Hatto Beyerle, and Atar Arad, and completed

her doctorate in viola performance at Stony Brook University in New York. Alicia has taught and performed throughout the world, including in Canada, Italy, China, and the United States.

A committed educator, Alicia served on the faculty of Lone Star College and Sam Houston State University School of Music, where she was a member of the Kolenneh String Quartet. In addition, she was an Affiliate Artist at the Moores School of Music at the University of Houston and remains an Artist-Teacher at the Schlern International Music Festival in Italy. She also served on the string faculty at the prestigious Interlochen Summer Academy for the Arts in 2014.

Dr. Jaymee Haefner teaches at the University of North Texas (UNT) and serves as Director of Undergraduate Studies for the College of Music. She obtained her Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees from the University of Arizona and her Doctor of Music degree from Indiana University. She has performed throughout the Dallas-Fort Worth area, in Los Angeles, Colorado, Mexico, the Czech Republic and Russia.

An avid supporter of new compositions for harp, Jaymee has commissioned and premiered several new works. Her current projects include her "Better than One" duo with harpist Emily Mitchell and her "Crimson" duo with violinist Matt Milewski; both duos released CD recordings in 2015. When she isn't on stage, Dr. Haefner trains in karate with her son, and earned her first degree black belt in 2015. Learn more about her at www.theprofessionalharpist.com.

Christopher Curtis is an actor, singer, and director currently based in Dallas, TX, and serves as the President of Astraios's Board of Directors. After graduating from Oklahoma City University where he studied voice with George Massey, Christopher has gone on to work at more than a dozen theaters in the region including Dallas Children's Theater, Casa Mañana, Lyric Stage, Shakespeare Dallas, Theatre Three, Circle Theatre, City Rep, Oklahoma Shakespeare in the Park, Kitchen Dog, Pegasus Theatre, and Uptown Players. A selection of his favorite roles include "Charlie Brown" in *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, "Horton the

Elephant" in *Seussical*, "John Dickinson" in *1776*, "Max" in *The Sound of Music*, "Toby Belch" in *Twelfth Night*, "Carl Hanratty" in *Catch Me If You Can*, "Teddy Roosevelt" in *Newsies*, "Cogsworth" in *Beauty and the Beast*, and the title role in *Hamlet*. He is also a veteran improviser, and has performed improv on stages throughout the region over the last 20 years as well as performing in New York.