

American String Teacher's Association of New Jersey
Chamber Music Institute 2008 at Kean University
Union, New Jersey
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Session II: August 3 – August 9, 2008

2008ASTA/NJ CHAMBER MUSIC INSTITUTE FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES

VIOLIN

Mary Ann Mumm, violin, grew up in Milwaukee, Wisconsin where she studied with Gerald Stanick of the Fine Arts Quartet. At age 15, she made her debut with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra as the first prize recipient of their Young Artists Competition. Ms. Mumm earned both Bachelor and Master of Music Performance degrees from Indiana University as a performance scholarship student and graduate teaching assistant of Josef Gingold. Other former teachers include Ivan Galamian and Tadeusz Wronski.

Ms. Mumm was appointed to the faculty of Northwestern University where she taught for four years as an Assistant Professor of Violin/Viola and Chamber Music. Her orchestral engagements have included the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Lyric Opera of Chicago, the New York City Opera and Ballet Orchestras, Philharmonia Virtuosi and most recently, 17 years with the MET Orchestra. As an orchestral musician, Ms. Mumm has performed extensively on radio broadcasts and television as well as recording on the Sony and Deutsche Gramophon labels. Her numerous chamber music collaborations include performances with Sarah Chang, Ida Kavafian and Peter Wiley as well as principal musicians from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra and MET Orchestra.

Ms. Mumm is sought after for her enthusiastic teaching and dedication to music education. She served as chair of the String and Chamber Music Departments at the Hartwick College Summer Music Festival from 2001-04 and is currently Coordinator of Chamber Music for the Youth Orchestras of Essex County and Assistant Director of the ASTA/NJ Chamber Music Institute at Kean University.

In addition to her guest artist masterclass engagements and work as a violin clinician for NJMEA, Ms. Mumm is a frequent competition, certificate adjudicator and national conference guest artist for the American String Teachers Association. She is currently the 2006-08 President of the New Jersey Chapter of ASTA. Ms. Mumm continues a very active performing career as a chamber musician and soloist in addition to maintaining a private violin studio at her home in Jersey City.

Born in New York City, **Brennan Sweet** began violin studies at two years of age in Edmonton, Alberta. In 1977 he studied at the Franz Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest, Hungary. Beginning his college education as an engineering student, Brennan earned a Bachelor of Music degree from Indiana University, serving for three years as teaching assistant to Josef Gingold and then joining the faculty for another two years as Lecturer. Concertmaster of several orchestras including the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra and Owensboro Symphony Orchestra, Brennan was also a founding member of the Evansville String Quartet. He performed two seasons as

Assistant Concertmaster of the Colorado Music Festival in Boulder. He joined the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra in 1994 as Associate Concertmaster and subsequently led the orchestra as Acting Concertmaster for three seasons under Zdenek Macal. In recent years Brennan was a founding member of the Mostly Mozart at Monteux festival with the Ensemble Tremblay in Hancock, Maine, has performed several recitals with acclaimed pianist Jenny Lin in the New York metropolitan area and in 2007 joined the faculty of Kean University as a Concert Artist.

Brennan Sweet performs on the 1713 Antonio Stradivarius ex "Prince Ferdinand of Bavaria" violin from the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra Golden Age Collection.

Amy Hamilton-Soto, violinist, of Rockaway, New Jersey, began her violin studies at age 5. She received a Bachelors of Music Degree from The Juilliard School in 1994 and a Masters Degree in Music Performance from Mannes College of Music in 1996. She studied with Eugene Drucker of the Emerson Quartet, Stephen Clapp, Lewis Kaplan and Oscar Ravina.

Amy first appeared with an orchestra at the age of 10, when she performed the Bach A minor Violin Concerto with the Montclair State College Orchestra. She has performed in Kaufman Concert Hall, Alice Tully Hall, the Austrian Institute in New York City, the Russian Embassy in Washington, D.C., Weill Recital Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, and Carnegie Hall, to mention a few, and has toured in France, Sweden and Bermuda.

She has also performed with Diana Krall in the JVC Jazz Festival in Carnegie Hall; the New York Pops and Skitch Henderson; the New York Chamber Symphony; Steve Lawrence and Edie Gourmet in Atlantic City; Brian Wilson of the Beach Boys in Easton, Pa.; and Bobby Vinton in Cove Haven Resorts. In addition, Amy performs with numerous orchestras and chamber groups throughout the metropolitan area.

Christopher Nam, violin, studied in at Mannes College of music with Sally Thomas. There he received his Bachelor's, master's degree and Professional Studies degree. Mr. Nam continued with graduate studies DMA degree at Rutgers University with Arnold Steinhardt. His numerous awards the Steinhardt scholarship at Rutgers University, the first prize at the Dong-A competition in 1983 and many major prizes in the other competitions including Ye-Won Music, Han-kook News competition in Seoul, the first prize of Mannes Concerto Competition in 1992, and Artist International Competition in New York. His New York Debut Recital was in 1993 at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall through the Artist International Competition.

Mr. Nam has been appeared as a soloist and concert master with numerous orchestras and chamber groups in the Metropolitan area including the Montclair Chamber Orchestra, Korean Chamber Orchestra and The New York Sinfonietta.

He taught at Montclair State University undergraduate and Music Preparatory divisions. Also he was a faculty member of Rockland Summer Music Festival and The Stocks Summer Music Camp. Currently, Mr. Nam teaches violin and music technology at County College of Morris and is performing as concertmaster of the Korean Chamber Orchestra.

Nick Rzonsa, violin, has been teaching and playing stringed instruments from a very young age. He gave private lessons as early as high school and then continued along that path to build a teaching career in the public schools. He started in the Chatham, NJ public schools, and now teaches at Tenafly Middle School, where he has been for three years. At TMS, he teaches

small group string lessons, extra-curricular ensembles, and general music. He is credited with the formation and direction of the Tenafly Middle School “Fiddle Club,” a group of advanced string players who play alternative style music, such as Irish and American fiddle, as well as jazz and bluegrass. He also conducts the TMS Philharmonic Orchestra. His chamber music experience includes coaching groups that were accepted to the Young Ensembles Program at the Lincoln Center, as well as forming and coaching many student groups that perform in the NJ/NY area.

Outside of TMS, Mr. Rzonsa is very active in the string teaching community. He was the manager of the North Jersey School Music Association’s Region Orchestra in 2005. In addition, he is very active in the American String Teachers Association. He is the Editor of the New Jersey chapter newsletter, *New Jersey Strings*, which goes out to 500+ ASTA members across the state and country. He is also the chapter’s website creator and webmaster.

Mr. Rzonsa received his Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education from the University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music, where he studied violin with Constantine Kiradjieff, and his Master’s degree in Music Education from New York University.

Barbara Vierschilling, violin, has been teaching strings in Summit for fifteen years. She conducts the High School String Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra and several quartets and quintets. The Hilltop String Quartet, coached by Mrs. Vierschilling will be performing at Alice Tully Hall this spring as winners of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center’s Young Musicians Program (they were also selected in 2005). Mrs. Vierschilling was selected as Teacher of the Year last year in Summit.

Mrs. Vierschilling earned her Bachelor’s Degree in performance from The University of Maryland and did graduate work in Music Education at Kean. She is a frequent orchestral clinician and adjudicator in New Jersey and maintains a leadership role in many state Orchestra committees and panels. She is Past President of the New Jersey Chapter of the American String Teacher’s Association and currently serves as National Honors Orchestra Chairman. Previous positions in ASTA include Composer Competition and Quartet Competition Chairman. Barbara is currently an Honorary Chair on the Board of Trustees of The Summit Symphony and is on the Education Committee of the New Jersey Youth Symphony. In addition, she teaches private violin and viola lessons. Her private students have won many competitions including The ASTA Solo Competition, The Suburban Community Concerto Competition and The MTA Solo Competition. They have performed at Steinway Hall and Carnegie Hall. Mrs. Vierschilling looks forward to coaching at the Chamber Music Institute again this summer with the hope of getting students passionately excited about Chamber Music.

VIOLA

Craig Mumm, violist, is associate principal violist with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. He began his career in the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra and went on to become the assistant principal violist of the Lyric Opera Orchestra of Chicago and also the Grant Park Symphony Orchestra. He grew up in Chicago and Milwaukee, where his musical studies began with his father, Edward Mumm, retired concertmaster and assistant conductor of the Milwaukee

Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Mumm earned his Bachelor of Music Performance degree from Northern Illinois University as a student of Shmuel Ashkenasi of the Vermeer Quartet. He furthered his studies in Switzerland with Zino Francescatti, and while in Europe, played with the Folkwang Chamber Orchestra in Essen, Germany. Along with his position in the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, Mr. Mumm is a regular performer with James Levine's MET Chamber Ensemble-Weill Hall Concert series. He maintains an active career as a teacher, soloist, chamber and recording musician.

Brett Deubner, is one of this generation's leading violists. He has thrilled audiences with his technical mastery and soulful playing. The New Jersey Star-Ledger said, "There is a burning intensity to Deubner's playing, and a refreshing variation in the color of his viola tone." Brett Deubner has made concerto appearances with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, the Knoxville Symphony, the North Shore Philharmonic of Boston, the Eastman Philharmonia, as well as the Bacchanalia Chamber Orchestra in New York City. Upcoming solo appearances include performances with the National Symphony Orchestra of the Ukraine and Orchestra 2001 at the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia and the release of a recording of two concertos with the New Symphony Orchestra of Sofia, Bulgaria on the Albany label. He has premiered and received viola concerto dedications by Lalo Schiffrin, Samuel Adler, Andrew Rudin, Frank Lewin, Trent Johnson, Frank Ezra Levy, Sergio Parotti and Jose Lezcano. Chamber music commissions include works by David Del Tredici, Joelle Wallach, Edie Hill, David Sampson, Raymond Wojik, Matthew Halper, Paul Mack Somers and Andrew Rudin. He has performed with members of the Tokyo, Vermeer, Cassatt, Chicago, and Colorado quartet, as well as the Amadeus and Claremont Trios. Mr. Deubner has been on the Concert Artist Faculty at Kean University since 2004.

Margaret Zufall Roberts, viola, is the Orchestra Director at the Randolph Middle School in Randolph, NJ. She has been conducting middle school and high school orchestras since 1987. Ms. Roberts grew up in a musical family in Mountain Lakes, NJ. She and her sisters performed for many years as a string quartet. They performed often in their schools and at church, and were featured twice on television.

As a Viola Performance Major, Ms. Roberts was the principal violist in the Ohio University Orchestra. After receiving her Bachelor's in Music Degree from Ohio University, she completed a degree in Music Education at Fairleigh Dickinson University, and later did graduate work at California Institute of the Arts, where she was awarded a full scholarship to be in a graduate string quartet. Her teachers include Charles Ponall, Eugenie Dengel, Howard Beebe, Paul Doktor, Alan DeVeritch, and Jesse Levine. She was the principal violist of the Duluth Symphony Orchestra, and has performed at the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria, the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, and with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra.

Besides being the principal violist in the Montclair Chamber Orchestra, Ms. Roberts is a frequently heard performer of chamber music in the New York/New Jersey area. She has been featured during Music Week at the historic Mohonk Mountain House with members of the New York Philharmonic, and has performed with members of the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra at Weill Recital Hall.

Ms. Roberts coaches chamber music and sectional rehearsals for the New Jersey Youth Symphony, and the Youth Orchestras of Essex County. She was president of the New Jersey Chapter of the American String Teachers Association from 2004-2006, where she developed the renowned Chamber Music Institute with Chris Kenniff and Mary Ann Mumm.

Currently, Ms. Roberts is serving on the executive board of the North Jersey School Music Association as co-chairman of the Orchestra Division, and co-chairs the Orchestra Procedures Committee for the NJ All State Orchestra. Ms. Roberts is currently the Chamber Music Director at the Thurnauer School of Music in Tenafly

CELLO

Caroline Stinson, has a B.M. with honors from the Cleveland Institute and a Performance Diploma with distinction from the Hochschule für Musik Köln, where she lived for three years, performing across the continent, and where she was awarded first prize in the Hohnen Foundation Cello Competition. Winner of the 2007 J.B Watkins Prize from the Canada Council for the Arts, she appears in Canada, the United States and Europe each season as a soloist and chamber artist. From 2000-3, she was a member of the Cassatt String Quartet, with whom she performed and taught extensively, and premiered some two dozen new works. Through solo and ensemble work, Caroline has worked closely with composers George Crumb, Peter Eötvös, John Harbison, Aaron Jay Kernis, George Rochberg, Steven Stucky, Joan Tower and Anna Weesner. She is a member of the original cello quartet CELLO, the Athabasca String Trio, the Contrasts Quartet, and the new music and improvisation ensemble Open End, which she founded with her husband and composer Andrew Waggoner. Professor Stinson is crafting programs for virtuoso cello, the first of which she presented at the 2006 Winnipeg New Music Festival. She has recorded for Albany, Bridge, Koch, and Naxos, as well as CBC Radio Canada, Radio France and WAMC New York, and is on the affiliate artist faculties of Syracuse University (NY); she joined the Kean faculty as a concert artist in 2006.

Joseph Meyers, cello, received his Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from the Manhattan School of Music where he studied 'cello and 'cello pedagogy with Marion Feldman. He joined the faculty of LaGuardia High School for Music and Art and the Performing Arts in the fall of 2001. He is an assistant conductor for the New York City All-City High School Orchestra and a coach for the Youth Orchestras of Essex County. He is currently on the faculties of New York University and Brooklyn College's Conservatory of Music. Former teaching positions include The Manhattan School of Music Preparatory Division; Montclair State Preparatory Division; The Brearley School; St. Thomas Choir School; the Inter-School Orchestra; St. Hilda's and St. Hugh's School; and Stecher and Horowitz School of the Arts. He has taught and performed at the Hartwick College Summer Music Festival and Institute; the Elizabeth Morrow School Summer String Festival; the Summit Music Festival; and the First International Youth Music Festival of Bulgaria. Mr. Meyers has served as principal 'cellist for PALA Opera Association; Queens Opera; and the Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts Ballet Series. As a chamber musician, he performs with the Cayenne Piano Trio and the 'cello-classical guitar duo Atlantic Crossings.

Diane Farrell, formerly the Assistant Principal Cellist of the San Francisco Symphony, graduated from both the Juilliard and Eastman Schools with Highest Distinction. Her cello teachers include Harvey Shapiro, Robert Sylvester, Paul Katz, Alan Harris and Gabor Rejto. She studied chamber music with the Juilliard and Cleveland Quartets. In addition to playing in the San Francisco Symphony for 10 years, Ms. Farrell was the founding member of

the DonatelloString Quartet which was active for many years in the SF Bay Area. She has appeared at the Aspen, Grand Teton and Olympic Music Festivals, and was the Co-Director of the Olympic Music Festival's Chamber Music Institute for 6 years. With her background in the Feldenkrais® Method of Somatic Education, Ms. Farrell brings special insight into the physical and psychological challenges faced by performing artists and students. She has worked extensively with musicians for nearly a decade to help them find ways to play their instruments with more ease, grace and pleasure. She is dedicated to being a supportive advocate for her students so that they may fulfill their unique potential.

Double Bass

Linda McKnight, double bass, has taught double bass at the Manhattan School of Music college division since 1987 and the preparatory division since 1979. She has developed numerous innovative programs in bass performance and education for Manhattan and other institutions, including Columbia University, Columbia Teachers College, and Montclair State University of New Jersey.

Ms. McKnight earned her bachelor of music degree from The Juilliard School under Frederick Zimmermann and pursued additional studies with Stuart Sankey, Joseph Cascelli, Warren Benfield, Henry Portnoi, and Homer Mensch. She is a member of the Colonial Symphony of New Jersey and has appeared in chamber groups in Michigan, Iowa, and Indiana during conventions of the International Society of Bassists. Her summer teaching has included the ASTA/NJ Chamber Music Institute, the New Jersey Summer Conference for String Education and Chamber Music (formerly NJ-ASTA Summer Conference), Manhattan School of Music Summer Music Camp, and the Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute.

Linda McKnight has been a featured guest artist at workshops and clinics from Maine to Texas, addressing groups of parents, educators, and students on the contrabass and music education. In 1986 she was honored with the NJ-ASTA (American String Teachers Association) Distinguished Service Award for her seven-year term as NJ-ASTA president from 1979 through 1986. Her writings have appeared in *String Tones*, *Tempo*, *American String Teacher*, and *International Society of Bassists* magazines, and she is the editor of Paul Ramsier's *Pieces for Friends*, published by Boosey & Hawkes. Ms. McKnight has been a faculty member of the Manhattan School of Music since 1987.

CLASSICAL GUITAR

Christopher Kenniff, classical guitarist, is a critically acclaimed recitalist and chamber musician who performs throughout the New York metropolitan area and abroad. The Newark Star Ledger has described him as “a young player with a lush, liquid tone, remarkably clean fingering and a nicely varied touch,” while Classical New Jersey writes “Kenniff’s presentation and playing stood out among the concerts of the 2002 Access to Art Series. His quiet, poignant play with dynamics was mesmerizing... his playing was idiomatic, beautifully voiced, and technically flawless...he left the listeners with the impression that he himself was thrilled to give the performance.”

Mr. Kenniff performs frequently with violist Brett Deubner in Duo Fresco with soprano Katherine Harris in Duo Cantiga. Mr. Kenniff is featured in the NJN cable network's documentary "Morris at the Millennium," and was appointed to the New Jersey State Council on the Arts' Artist in Residence Roster as well as the roster of Music for All Seasons, a non-profit organization that presents live, professional musical programs in all types of facilities where people would not otherwise have access to live music.

Active in the performance of contemporary as well as traditional repertoire for the classical guitar, Mr. Kenniff has premiered works by composers Samuel Adler, Emma Lou Diemer, John Sichel, Matthew Halper, Victor Kioulaphides, Jose Lezcano, Frank Ezra Levy, Sergio Parotti, Paul Mack Somers and Raymond Wojcik. Mr. Kenniff has performed at the Juneau Jazz and Classics Festival (Juneau, Alaska), the Chautauqua Festival (Chautauqua, NY), the Bowdoin Festival (New Brunswick, ME), The Crossroads of Tradition Festival (Bloomington, IN) and the Access to Art Chamber Music Festival (Cape May, NJ).

Mr. Kenniff holds BM and MM degrees Magna cum Laude from Southern Methodist University and an Artist Diploma from Indiana University. He was awarded first prize at the Councour de Guitarre (Quebec, Canada), the Music Teachers National Association Competition and the National Federation of Music Clubs Biannual Competition. He was also the winner of the Dallas Classical Guitar Society's Young Artist Auditions and a prizewinner in the American String Teacher's Competition. Upon his graduation from SMU, he was awarded the Dallas Music Teacher's Award which "is presented to an outstanding undergraduate or graduate performer upon graduation from Southern Methodist University."

Mr. Kenniff is member of Kean University's Concert Artist Faculty. He also directs the American String Teacher's Association (New Jersey Chapter) Solo Strings Competition, and the annual ASTA NJ Chamber Music Institute at Kean University which he founded in 2005 along with Mary Ann Mumm & Margaret Zufall Roberts. Mr. Kenniff has released a solo CD featuring works by Turina, Tedesco, Ponce, Dowland, Scarlatti and Mertz as well as a CD with Duo Fresco titled Transfiguration.

PIANO

Allison Brewster Franzetti, Piano, received a BM degree from the Manhattan School of Music and an MM degree from the Juilliard School. A multiple Grammy® Nominee, she has received international acclaim for her virtuosity, musicality, and versatility. She won a First Prize from the Paderewski Foundation, and awards from the Kosciuszko Foundation and the Denver Symphony. She has appeared as guest artist with numerous orchestras and has collaborated as accompanist and chamber musician, with renowned artists internationally. Among her many CDs are "20th Century Piano Sonatas" on Naxos for which she received a 2008 Grammy® Nomination for Best Instrumental Soloist Without Orchestra; "Reflexiones," a double concerto album, released on Amapola Records; "Tango Bar," a Latin Grammy® Nominee for Best Tango Album released on Chesky Records; and "Poeta de Arrabal," a Grammy® Nominee for Best Classical Crossover Album. She is a featured soloist on the 2001 Latin Grammy® Award Winner, "Tango Fatal," and has recorded Latin American and English chamber music for the

Musical Heritage Society. She is also the featured piano soloist for music in the 2003 French-Spanish film, "Dans le rouge du couchant," the 2005 Argentine film, "Ronda Nocturna," and the 2006 Argentine film, "Tango Fatal." Ms. Brewster Franzetti is the author of synopses for 101 Opera Librettos, published by Black Dog & Leventhal in New York. An edition of Ecuadorian Mestizo Music done in collaboration with flutist and former faculty member Sharon Levin was published in 2006. She joined the Concert Artist faculty in 2001.

COMPOSITION

Paul Somers studied composition with Warren Benson and George Andrix at Ithaca College, and participated in master classes with Norman Dello Joio under a Ford Foundation Grant. Somers' theatric works include the film score to the American International release "Without Getting," incidental music to a New Jersey Shakespeare Festival production of "Macbeth," and a full-length ballet "A Pine Barrens Legend." The Summit Chorale commissioned several choral works from him including "Noe, Pastores," a piece for three antiphonal choirs. Somers' "A Modal Mass" was commissioned by and premiered at the First United Methodist Church in Westfield, New Jersey. "Antiphonien für zwei Bläserquartette" was commissioned and premiered by the C. S. Bläserchor in Frankfurt a. M., Germany. Somers' "Meditations on a Theme of Eric Routley" was chosen for performance by the Halcyon Trio (clarinet, viola, and piano) as part of the Ars Vitalis new music concert at Kean University in New Jersey during the spring of 2003.

The 2005 season saw not only the premiere and recording of "An Arch of Miniatures" commissioned by the Palisades Virtuosi (flute, clarinet, piano), but the premieres of "Evolving Chaconne" commissioned by the Colonial Symphony of Morristown and "New Jersey Camp Meeting: a Bloomfield Sabbath" for flute and piano.

In the spring of 2006 "Ondine Visions," a work commissioned by the Palisades Virtuosi, was premiered by them in Bruno Walter Auditorium at Lincoln Center, New York City. February 2007 saw the premiere of "Eight Epigrams" for viola and guitar, premiered by the Duo Fresco — violist Brett Dubner and guitarist Christopher Kenniff — at Maurice River Music. Somers recently finished "Moonrise Over the Saltmarsh," a new piano work for Ron Levy's upcoming CD "Moonstruck 3." Somers is currently working on more piano music as well as a violin concerto for Jorge Avilá.

Somers has also lectured at Lincoln Center in New York City on "Les Six and the Modern Esthetic." During the past year his monthly lectures on various musical topics have expanded to include not only Millville Public Library in Cumberland County but Atlantic County's Galloway Township Library and Cape May County's Avalon Free Public Library.