

KEAN STAGE



Concert Artists Ensemble

Kean University Concert Artist Ensemble

Kean Hall

Union, New Jersey

Sunday, August 3, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.



Brennan Sweet, *violin*

Brett Deubner, *viola*

Susanna Chapman, *cello*

Caroline Stinson, *cello*

Christopher Kenniff, *guitar*

Allison Brewster Franzetti, *piano*

Program

Le Grand Tango Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992)

Brennan Sweet, Brett Deubner, Christopher Kenniff

Six Studies in English Folksong (arr. Duo Fresco) Ralph Vaughn Williams (1872-1958)

Adagio

Andante sostenuto

Larghetto

Lento

Andante tranquillo

Allegro vivace

Brett Deubner & Christopher Kenniff

Fantasy-Pieces for Cello and Piano, Op. 73 Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

Zart und mit Ausdruck

Lebhaft, leicht

Rasch und mit Feuer

Susannah Chapman, Allison Brewster Franzetti

Quartet for Piano and Strings in Eb Major, K. 493 Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Allegro

Larghetto

Allegretto

Brennan Sweet, Caroline Stinson,

Brett Deubner, Allison Brewster Franzetti

Performers

BRENNAN SWEET, concert artist in violin, was born in New York City but 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, he earned a Bachelor of Music degree from Indiana University, where he served for three years as teaching assistant to the eminent Josef Gingold. He then joined the Indiana faculty for two years as lecturer in violin. Concertmaster of several orchestras including the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra and Owensboro Symphony Orchestra, Professor Sweet 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 2003 he was named concertmaster of the Brooklyn Philharmonic Orchestra, a position he currently holds in conjunction with the associate concertmaster position of the NJSO. Professor Sweet performs on the 1713 Antonio Stradivarius ex "Prince Ferdinand of Bavaria" violin from the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra Golden Age Collection. He joined the Concert Artist faculty of Kean University in 2007.

BRETT DEUBNER, concert artist in viola and one of this generation's leading violists, 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 Schifrin, 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.

CAROLINE STINSON, concert artist in cello, 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 to 2003, 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

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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.

SUSANNAH CHAPMAN, concert artist in cello, is well established as a chamber musician, soloist, teacher, and performer in leading chamber orchestras. She has performed as principal cellist of Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra and in both principal and section positions in the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra; currently she performs regularly with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and serves as principal cello of Helmuth Rilling's Oregon Bach Festival. Ms. Chapman has appeared at Jacob's Pillow as a soloist with the Mark Morris Dance Company in works designed for and premiered by Yo-Yo Ma. She is a member of the Cygnus Ensemble, a contemporary music sextet with a concert series New York and residencies at both Sarah Lawrence College and City University of New York. She has traveled to Australia with Bang-on-a-Can All-Stars to perform contemporary concertos in the Sydney Opera House as part of the Olympic Arts Festival. She has spent several summers at the Marlboro Music Festival and has toured with Musician from Marlboro. Her chamber music performances with other New York groups have been heard at the 92nd Street Y, Weill Recital Hall, Merkin Hall, Miller Theatre, the Metropolitan Museum, on NHK Television, and on WNYC. Ms. Chapman holds a Doctorate of Music from SUNY Stony Brook and is a cello instructor at Sarah Lawrence College and at Princeton University. She has taught masterclasses at Manhattan School of Music, Mannes College of Music, Stony Brook University, and University of Florida. She joined the Concert Artist faculty of Kean University in 2008.

ALLISON BREWSTER FRANZETTI, concert artist in piano, received a B.M. degree from the Manhattan School of Music and an M.M. 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

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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.

CHRISTOPHER KENNIFF, concert artist in classical guitar, is a critically acclaimed soloist and chamber musician who is frequently heard as a member of the acclaimed ensemble Duo Fresco: New Directions for Viola & Guitar (www.duofresco.com) and with acclaimed soprano Katherine Harris in Duo Cantiga (www.duocantiga.com). *The (Newark) Star-Ledger* has described him as having “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 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.” Christopher has won first prizes in several competitions (most notably *Concour de Guitarre*, Domaine Forget, Quebec, Canada; Music Teachers’ National Association Wurlitzer Collegiate Artists’ Competition). Mr. Kenniff has premiered works by Emma Lou Diemer, Frank Ezra Levy, Matthew Halper, Raymond Wojcik, Paul Mack Somers, John Sichel, Sergio Parrotti and others. He will premiere a new work for guitar, viola and choir composed for him by Samuel Adler and a new concerto by Max Simoncic this season. Mr. Kenniff has performed at the Juneau Jazz and Classics Festival (Juneau, Alaska), the Chautauqua Festival (Chautauqua, N.Y.), the Bowdoin Festival (New Brunswick, Maine), The Crossroads of Tradition Festival (Bloomington, Ind.) and the Access to Art Chamber Music Festival (Cape May, N.J.). He is the founder and director of the American String Teacher’s Association of New Jersey’s annual Chamber Music Institute at Kean University. He has been recognized for contributions as a music educator by the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts and was named 2008 Studio Teacher of the Year by the American String Teacher’s Association of New Jersey. His students are frequent award winners and many have continued their studies at the nation’s top collegiate and conservatory programs. Mr. Kenniff has presented workshops and master classes for ASTA/NJ, MENC, NJ State Council on the Arts, Music for All Seasons, the St. Louis Guitar Society and various collegiate/university music programs. He has recorded two compact discs: *Transfiguration* (works by Halper, DeFalla, Purcell, Kioulaphides and Adler) and *Christopher Kenniff plays works by Turina, Ponce, Roussell, Tedesco, Dowland, Scarlatti and Mertz*.

The Concert Artist Program

The Concert Artist Program of Kean University celebrates its 10th Anniversary Concert Season. The program brings world-renowned performing musicians onto the faculty of its vital and growing Department of Music. While maintaining successful careers as professional performers, concert artists perform solo, chamber music, and jazz recitals at Kean; teach private, weekly studio lessons to Kean students; and conduct masterclasses and other community outreach services in the public schools and junior colleges. Some concert artists also coach ensembles and teach classroom courses related to their special-ties.

Dr. Anthony Scelba first proposed the program in 1998 (then called the Affiliate Artist Program) as part of an overall plan for advancement of the Department of Music. Since then the program has expanded from three to 18 concert artists. Musicians are chosen for the program after a regional search. Eminent artists with high reputations for excellence and thriving careers, who are eager to devote themselves to Kean as performers and teachers, and who would contribute to the program's outstanding chamber music series are selected.

The CAP Concert Series includes performances on Thursday evenings and "Informances" (lecture concerts) on Sunday afternoons. In 2008, the CAP appointed Frank Ezra Levy its first Composer in Residence. The Concert Artist Series and Enlow Hall — its new state-of-the-art concert hall (opening January 2009) — are helping to realize President Dawood Farahi's vision to make Kean University an artistic and cultural center for the region.

Since the program's inception, Kean's concert artists individually have performed as soloists and chamber musicians here and abroad, recorded CDs, been nominated for a Grammy and several Latin Grammys, performed on Live from Lincoln Center and Kennedy Center broadcasts, won glowing reviews (including 4 1/2 stars from *Down Beat Magazine*), debuted at prestigious venues and received numerous awards and recognitions. In 2004, "Concert Artist" was recognized by Kean University as a distinct category of faculty.

Information about these wonderful musicians, about the Concert Artist Performance Series, and about their two CDs — the crossover album, *The Great Kean Way: Concert Artists on Broadway* and *Schubertiana* — can be found at www.keanconcertartists.com

Acknowledgements

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KEAN STAGE

SAVE THE DATES

Sunday, September 28, 3 p.m., Kean Hall

Words and Music Rising (Joanna Frankel, *violin* & Gabriela Martinez, *piano*)

Poetry and music for violin and piano

Mozart, Szymanowski, Ysaye, and Brahms

Thursday, October 2, 8 p.m., Kean Hall

The Levy Piano Quintet (Lisa Hansen, *flute*; Brennan Sweet, *violin*;

Brett Deubner, *viola*; Susannah Chapman, *cello*;

Anthony Scelba, *double bass*; & Allison Brewster Franzetti, *piano*)

Includes the World Premiere of Frank Ezra Levy's *Quintet for Violin, Viola, Cello,*

Double Bass, and Piano; the Franck Violin Sonata; and the Schubert

Introduction and Variations on a theme from the Müllerlieder for flute and piano

Thursday, October 23, 8 p.m., Kean Hall

Duo Fresco Returns (Brett Deubner, *viola* & Christopher Kenniff, *guitar*)

Music for viola and guitar by Vaughn-Williams, Marais, U.S. premiere of music

by Stephen Dodgson & Greg Caffrey.

Thursday, November 6, 8 p.m., Kean Hall

Felix Draeseke (Brennan Sweet, Victoria Stewart, *violins*; Brett Deubner, *viola*;

Caroline Stinson, *cello*; Alexander Fiterstein, *clarinet*; & Gabriela Martinez, *piano*)

Draeseke Clarinet Sonata, Second Viola Sonata, and String Quintet op. 77

<http://www.draeseke.org/news/20081106keanunivca.htm>

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