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Chamber Music Amici bids farewell to Amy Goeser Kolb

Chamber Music Amici opens its third season in the Wildish Theater Oct 10 without founding core musician Amy Goeser Kolb, who has moved with her family to Amarillo, Texas, to be principal oboist with the Amarillo Symphony. A lightning rod for exciting concerts, and a fountain of ideas, Goeser Kolb was integral to the success of the group, which has sold out every concert since its inception. The four other founding musicians--Victor Steinhardt, piano; Steven Pologe, cello; Sharon Schuman, violin; and Pilar Bradshaw, violin—will announce a replacement for her mid-season and plan also to bring her back in 2012-13 for a reunion and world premiere of Hal Owen's "Quintet for Amici."

Meanwhile, Goeser Kolb's departure opens new opportunities for collaborations with guest musicians. Over the course of this season ten will perform with Amici: Julia Brown, harpshichord; David Chinburg, cello; Jason Duckles, cello; Fritz Gearhart, violin/viola; Kristen Halay, flute; Kathryn Lucktenberg, violin/viola; Holland Phillips, viola; Jonas Pologe, flute; Jerome Simas, clarinet; and Laura Decher Wayte, soprano. No other chamber music series in this community can boast such a diversity of instrumentation and expertise, concert after concert. The program October 10 features Brahms' String Sextet no. 1. Also included will be Haydn's Gypsy Piano Trio, and Victor Steinhardt's Tanguette for two violins. On November 21 all the music will be Baroque, featuring J. S. Bach's "The Musical Offering," as well as works by Telemann, Leclair, and Rameau. On February 27 Amici introduces the newest member of the UO Music Faculty, clarinetist Jerome Simas, fresh from a year of performing with the San Francisco Symphony, playing trios by Mozart and Milhaud. At that concert winners of this season's Amici Art Contest will also be announced.

Between March 6 and 8, Amici will collaborate with Eugene Ballet to present for the second year, free performances of Peter Schickele's "The Emperor's New Clothes," for third through fifth graders from Springfield Public Schools. The performances include actor Bill Huling's presentation of Hans Christian Anderson's classic tale, followed by Amici's performance of Peter Schickele's hilarious musical update for oboe, piano, and strings, for the first time anywhere presented with the addition of ballet. Eugene Ballet choreographer Ben Goodman has created roles for five dancers. A public performance will take place March 10.

On April 16 Amici presents Brahms' piano trio in C minor, Mozart's duo in G major for violin and viola, and variations on "The Magic Flute," for cello and piano. The final concert of the season, May 21, repeated on May 22 in Cottage Grove, includes Beethoven's piano trio in G major and Piazzolla's "Spring in Buenos Aires."

Other activities this season include free performances for children in public schools and presenting the student chamber musicians of the UO Community Music Institute in performance at the Amici Art Contest reception February 27 at the Emerald Art Center in Springfield. The group is also inaugurating the Lacy Cascade Concert Series, free pre-concert performances at 3:00 pm on the Saturdays before concerts, at Cascade Manor Retirement Community at 65 W. 30th Avenue in Eugene. This series honors the memory of Bob and Jonnie Lacy, founding supporters of Amici and longtime arts lovers in this community.

For tickets call 541-953-9204.