

Barbara Kensler *Sunday Afternoon* 2013

Monday February 3, 2014 ♦ Wildish Community Theater

Piazzolla

Oblivion

Strong

Village Music-Director

Smetana

Trio for piano, violin and cello

Amici

Holland Phillips **violin**

Steven Pologe **cello**

Sharon Schuman **violin**

Victor Steinhardt **piano**

Guest

Leslie Straka **viola**



Season Co-Sponsor

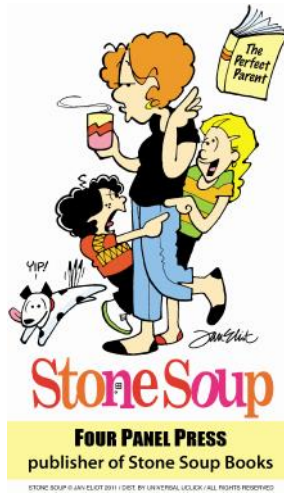
Concert Shared Sponsors



RAVEN
FRAMEWORKS, INC.



S H I B O S K I
FINE JEWELRY DESIGN



Welcome to our third concert of the season! Tonight will be especially fun, because we get to announce our Art Contest winners, and one piece, Templeton Strong's "The Village Music-Director" calls for the Music-Director to fall asleep while his two unruly students run amok. The passion of Piazzolla's "Oblivion," and the beauty of Smetana's Piano Trio in G Minor will bring us back to earth. Please join us on stage afterwards for food and more fun.

Sharon Schuman, Artistic Director



Program

Oblivion: Tango and the Mystery of
Divine Love (1984)
Milanga lenta

Astor Piazzolla

The Village Music-Director (1904)
Allegro Pastorale

Templeton Strong

*“A blue sky and rolling meadows,--
Feathered songsters and murmuring brooks,--
These, O ye luckless dwellers of towns,
Were his musicians and hall.”*

Andante Sostenuto

*“In all his life he loved but once
And so but once he suffered.”*

Allegro Scherzando

*“The music-director and his two unruly pupils. The Fugue-lesson.
To the fugue subject given by the director the pupils give hair-raising
answers, which provoke his wrath. He falls asleep—until awakened
by his riotous pupils. Further wrath and discouragement.”*

Trio in G Minor, Op. 15 (1855)
Moderato assai
Allegro, ma non agitato
Finale. Presto

Bedřich Smetana

Flowers by Eugene’s Flower Home, Springfield
Reception Sponsor Excelsior Inn/Brindiamo Catering



Program Notes

Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992), a child prodigy of Argentina's national instrument, the *bandoneón* (the accordion used for Tango) was born in Mar del Plata but spent his early years in New York City. At sixteen he returned to Argentina, eventually leading his own successful *orquesta típica*, the standard dance band of Tango. He went on to study classical music with Alberto Ginastera and in 1954 won a scholarship to work with Nadia Boulanger in Paris. She said of his tangos, "Here is the true Piazzolla—do not ever leave him!" He seems to have taken her advice to heart, though his distinctive style, eventually known as "New Tango," proved controversial. He abandons traditional instruments in favor of electric guitar and synthesizer, and he infuses tango with jazz and classical idioms. Eventually his music was embraced worldwide and performed by luminaries like Yo-Yo Ma and Gidon Kremer. He composed "Oblivion: Tango and the Mystery of Divine Love," for the soundtrack of Marco Bellocchio's 1984 film *Enrico IV*. That year it was nominated for a Grammy. Its hauntingly beautiful melody, which we present here in the piano trio arranged by José Bragato, has been configured for a variety of arrangements with great success on the concert stages of the world. Instead of the dark sultry mood so often associated with tangos, in this brief, four-minute piece, there is a melancholic sweetness, with soaring melodies in the cello, violin, and piano, that evoke more nostalgia than struggle.



George Templeton Strong (1856-1948) was born in New York City, the son of a well-known lawyer of the same name, who was a friend of Abraham Lincoln. As a child, Strong studied piano, viola and oboe. In 1879 he traveled to Germany to attend the Leipzig Conservatory, staying in Germany for 10 years, performing viola in the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, where he met both Liszt and Wagner. In 1891, he returned to the US to teach composition at the New England Conservatory of Music. A few years later, though, he moved to Switzerland, where he remained for the rest of his life. Strong was equally interested in painting, which perhaps explains why "The Village Music-Director," dedicated to the members of the Flonzayley String Quartet, is such a visual piece. It is easy to picture the meadows, birds, and murmuring brooks of the carefree opening *Allegro*, as the two violins and viola cavort with playful

melodies far away from the concert hall. The second movement, dedicated to the Music Director's one, unsuccessful, love, has a touching and innocent sweetness. The finale *Allegro scherzando* is the most visual movement of all. In rollicking rhythms reminiscent of Dvořák (who also wrote for this combination of instruments), it presents a hilarious music lesson from hell, where two students run amok. It starts out well enough, but then the director tries to teach his pupils about fugues. They mock him by responding to his stately theme with racing runs. He becomes angry, but worn out by their antics, he falls asleep. As in the Sorcerer's Apprentice, the students at first tip-toe about, then become bolder, descending into pandemonium. They wake up the dozing master, who restores order, if not his dignity.

Bedřich Smetana (1824-1884), composer and pianist, is considered the father of Czech music. He is best known for his opera, *The Bartered Bride*, and for a symphonic cycle that portrays legends of his homeland. As a young man in Prague he was briefly involved in the revolutionary movements of 1848, at one point manning the barricades on the Charles bridge against invading Austrian forces. Unlike some other rebels, he was not forced into exile afterwards, saved by his reputation as a musician and teacher. In 1850 he became court pianist for the former Emperor Ferdinand in the Prague Castle. Just after the death of his four-year-old daughter Bedřiška in 1855, he composed his first masterpiece, the G minor piano trio, a tribute to her memory. The violin opens the piece alone, with a dramatic lament on the lowest string that sets the tone for much of the first movement. A lyrical second theme provides only momentary respite. At the end of a turbulent development section, a serene piano solo in free rhythm creates a moment of dreaming. The second movement seems to start out as a cheerful dance, yet with dark overtones. There are two trios, the first lyrical, with a distinct Czech flavor, the second, a dirge with bold dissonances. The last movement's theme comes from, "I was Sowing Millet," a protest song from the failed rebellion of 1848. Near the end of the piece, in an interesting set of transformations, this theme turns into a chorale and then into a funeral march, while a lyrical episode becomes a song of triumph. In the trio's final movements, life seems to overcome death.



Core Musicians

Holland Phillips, core violinist and violist with Chamber Music Amici, also serves as principal violist of the Salem Chamber Orchestra and the Eugene Symphony. Reviewers praise the “spirit and clear tone” of her playing (*Leipziger Volkszeitung*) and the “serious intensity” that she brings to performances (*Register-Guard*). She also performs on violin and viola with other Oregon-based ensembles: Oregon Mozart Players, TARDIS Ensemble, the Eugene Opera Orchestra, and the Oregon Bach Festival. In 2012 she completed her doctoral studies in violin performance at the University of Oregon with her dissertation, “*Tidens Fylde*: Temporality and Tradition in Carl Nielsen’s Works for Violin.” She also holds degrees from Vanderbilt University and the New England Conservatory. Her principal teachers include Dr. Leslie Straka, Kathryn Lucktenberg, James Buswell, and Connie Heard. In addition to performing, she currently teaches applied violin and viola at Willamette University in Salem.



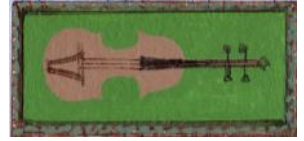
Sharon Schuman grew up near San Francisco, where she studied violin with Carol Weston, a student of Leopold Auer. After a summer grant to the San Francisco Conservatory of Music she won a full scholarship in music to Stanford University, where she graduated in English. She later completed a Ph.D. in English at the University of Chicago. She has been a concerto soloist with Oregon Mozart Players and the Salem Chamber Orchestra and acted as Concertmaster for the Eugene Opera, the Eugene Ballet, the Eugene Concert Choir, and the Oregon Mozart Players. She has also performed with the Oregon Bach Festival and the Eugene Symphony. She co-founded the Chamber Music and Chocolate Series of Oregon Mozart Players, and she has organized and performed in over a decade of chamber concerts to raise more than \$250,000 for Fanconi anemia research. Her concerto and chamber music performances have been broadcast on KZSU (Palo Alto, California) and KWAX (Eugene). In addition to being a Core Musician and Artistic Director of Chamber Music Amici, she serves as Assistant Concertmaster of the Eugene Opera Orchestra. Her book, *Freedom and Dialogue in a Polarized World*, will be released by the University of Delaware Press in 2014.

Steven Polage earned his Bachelor of Music degree from the Eastman School of Music and his Master's degree from the Julliard School, where he was a three-year scholarship student. He is cellist with the Oregon String Quartet and Trio Pacifica. He has performed as a soloist and chamber musician throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, Taiwan, Korea, Thailand, and New Zealand. Prior to moving to Oregon where he is now Professor of Cello at the UO School of Music, he served as principal cellist with the Honolulu Symphony, New York String Ensemble, Rome Festival Orchestra, the Aspen Chamber Orchestra, and the Philharmonic Symphony of Westchester. While in Hawaii he co-founded and directed the Honolulu Academy of Arts' "Academy Camerata" series. Since joining the UO music faculty, he has appeared frequently as a concerto soloist throughout the northwest and has performed as Principal Cellist of the Oregon Bach Festival. In the summers he played 31 years with the Grand Teton Music Festival and currently plays annually with the Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival in Burlington, Vermont. With the Oregon String Quartet he has released two CDs: String Quartets by William Grant Still, and Oregon String Quartet and All That Jazz. Other CDs include music by John Deak for Solo Cello and Piano Trio, and the Piano Trio by Lev Abeliovich.

Victor Steinhardt comes from Los Angeles, California, where he studied with Aube Tzerko. He made his debut as piano soloist with the Los Angeles Philharmonic at age 15. He studied composition with Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco and Henri Lazarof and earned an M.A. in Composition at UCLA, which led to the creation of many works for chamber ensembles and for piano. From 1968 to 2007 he was a professor of piano at the University of Oregon. He has performed often as a soloist with the Oregon Mozart Players and the Eugene Symphony. He has also been a featured artist at the Oregon Bach Festival, the Oregon Coast Music Festival, the Ernst Bloch Music Festival, the Grand Teton Music Festival in Wyoming, the Mohawk Trails Concerts in Massachusetts, the San Luis Obispo Mozart Festival in California, Chamber Music Northwest in Oregon, and Bargemusic in Brooklyn. He has performed chamber music in Oregon, Washington, Wyoming, Hawaii, Taiwan, Germany and the Czech Republic. His recordings include Chamber Works by Jon Deak (CRI); David Schiff's Scenes from Adolescence (Delos); An American Sampler (Olympic), Songs of Bartok and Kodaly (Vox-Turnabout); and a disc of his own compositions, Sonata Boogie (TownHall Records). With his brother, violinist/violist Arnold Steinhardt, he has recorded music of Robert Fuchs (Biddulf) and "American Journey" (Naxos).

Guest

Leslie Straka joined the University of Oregon faculty in 1987, teaching viola and chamber music and performing regularly in Eugene. She served as chair of the string department from 1993–2006. Prior to joining the University of Oregon faculty, Straka was on the faculty at the University of Miami. She received the B.M., M.M., and D.M.A. degrees from Arizona State University. Straka has performed extensively as a soloist and chamber musician throughout the United States and Europe, collaborating with many outstanding musicians. With pianist Walter Cosand, she recorded the Brahms viola sonatas, released in 2004. Straka has been a member of the Oregon String Quartet since 1987. The quartet has recorded two compact discs, both released by Koch International Classics.



Barbara Kensler describes *Sunday Afternoon*: “The pleasure of listening to beautiful music on a quiet day or enjoying fantastic Amici music-making at the Wildish. Either one...life is good!”

Artistic Director Sharon Schuman

Executive Director Loi Heldt

Core Musicians

Pilar Bradshaw *sponsored by*

Julie Haugen & Tom Brase

Holland Phillips *sponsored by* David Guy

Steven Pologe *sponsored by*

P. Patterson

Sharon Schuman *sponsored by*

Lynn & Dave Frohnmayer

Victor Steinhardt *sponsored by*

Chris Holzapfel & Bill Bradshaw

Board of Directors

Jonathan Stafford, *President*

John Moseley, *Vice President*

Amy Danziger, *Secretary*

Nancy English

Steve Kilston

Holland Phillips

Steven Pologe

Sharon Schuman

Jonathan Stafford

Victor Steinhardt

Founding Supporters \$5,000

Vicky & Howard Fine

Lynn & Dave Frohnmayer

David Guy

Chris Holzapfel & Bill Bradshaw

Isler CPA

P. Patterson

Josephine & Peter Von Hippel/Bob Lacy

Season Co-Sponsor \$2,000

Oregon Allergy Associates

Education Sponsors

Jed Barahal \$1,000

David Guy \$3,000

Musician Sponsors \$2,000

Lynn & Dave Frohnmayer °

Sharon Schuman

David Guy ° Holland Phillips

Julie Haugen & Tom Brase °

Pilar Bradshaw

Chris Holzapfel & Bill Bradshaw °

Victor Steinhardt

P. Patterson ° Steven Pologe

Josephine & Peter Von Hippel °

Guest Musicians

Amici Intimi \$1,000+ yearly

Tom & Nancy English °

Diana Gardener °

Donald Gudehus °

David Guy °

Jenny Jonak, Mike Bragg & Lucy Bragg

Jeannette Kimball °

Suzanne Rowe & Mark Corley °

Jonathan & Molly Stafford °

Martha Stewart *

Marion Sweeney, Kate & Cama Laue °

Katherine Tippens Wiper °

Musician Sponsors above

Guest Musician Travel \$1,000+

Anabel & Allan Barahal

Concert Sponsors \$3,000

Concert 1 Wildish Families & Wildish Companies

Concert 5 Friends of Guy Few Thomas & Sarah

Bascom, Tom & Nancy English, Louise Furukawa,

Geoff & Therese Hughes, Marché, Theodore &

Laramie Palmer, Jonathan & Molly Stafford,

Peter & Josephine Von Hippel

Concert Co-Sponsor \$1,500

Concert 3 Four Panel Press

Concert Shared Sponsor \$500

Concert 3 Newman's Fish Company

Raven Frame Works

Concert Shared-Sponsors \$300

Concert 2 Brothers Carpet Cleaning, Ryan

Darwish Fee Only Investment Advisor, EuroAsian

Automotive, Focus 4 CPA, Folkways, David

Gusset Violin Maker, Isler CPA, Long's Meat

Market, Paul's Bicycle Way of Life, Rainbow

Valley Design & Construction

Concert 3 Shiboski Fine Jewelry Design

Community Outreach

Christa & Andrew Grant Foundation \$1,500 *

Doyle and Donna Shepherd Foundation \$1,500

Friends of MarshAnne Landing Winery \$2,600

Woodard Family Foundation \$1,000

° Multi-year pledge

* Lacy Cascade Concert Series Supporters



Art Contest Sponsor \$1,500

Rosaria P. Haugland Foundation

In-Kind Sponsors

Excelsior Inn/Brindiamo Catering \$1,500

The Shedd Institute \$420

Dot Dotson's \$150

Sustainer \$500-\$999

Anonymous

Robert & Friedl Bell

Pam Brills

Sally Bonzer*

Marie Dixon & Thomas Singer

Larry Dunn

Mira Frohnmayer & Marcia Baldwin

Cathy Gilham & Shirley Saries

James Harper

Dr. Keith & Trish McGillivray

Harold & Joyce Owen

Jim & Yvonne Wildish

Paul & Lory Utz

Supporter \$250-\$499

Anonymous

Peter & Nancy Carlson

Russell Donnelly & Joyce Benjamin

Ryan Darwish

Vicky & Howard Fine

Claudia & John Hardwick

Don & Lin Hirst

Marie Jones

Marilyn Kays

Steve & Vera Kilston

Rebecca Weedon Lacy *

John & Patricia Lorimer

Joanne McAdams*

John & Susan Moseley

Theodore & Laramie Palmer

Nan Phifer

Erna Rockey *

Ken & Ruth Ross

Margo & Richard Savell

David & Sharon Schuman* *

Ray Staton

Josephine & Peter Von Hippel

Louise Wade *

Sponsor Mentor Donor \$200

David & Sharon Schuman

Downtown Renaissance

Springfield Utility Board

In Memoriam

Marilyn Bradetich, Dolly Harrell, Bob

Lacy, Trish McGillivray, Anne Dhu

McLucas, Michelle Pauley, Robert Phifer,

Peter Roberts, Kingsley Weatherhead,

Beth Westcott

Donor \$100-\$249

Joyce & Fred Andrews*, Sue Bach, George Bateman, Jack & Toni Brown, David & Shelly Call, Dorothy Becker Clark, Terry & Lynne Copperman, Nan Coppock-Bland, Greg & Fran Cramer, Lawrence Crumb, John & Linda Cummens, Marcia Daneman, Arlene Dayton, Kenneth Duckworth, Margot Fetz, Ann & David Fidanque°, Don & Laurel Fisher, Jim & Barbara Gant, Barbara Gates, Melinda Grier & Jerry Lidz, Margaret Lacy Golston, Elizabeth & Roger Hall, Marc Hansen, Marilyn & Andrew Hays, Charles Henry, James & Helen Jackson, Benton Johnson, Carole Kirkpatrick, Janet & Jim Kissman, Judith Knight, Gayle Landt & Martin Jones, Deborah Larson, Mark & Denise Lyon, Evie Matthews, Robert & Joan Mazo, Elliot & Marina McIntire, M & J McKern, L.B. McQueen, Bill & Maxine McWhorter, Gerald D. Morgan, Steven Pologe & Kathryn Lucktenberg°, Robert Phillips, Kathryn & Stuart Porter, Jim & Ginevra Ralph, Nancy Raymond, Mary Jayne Robert*, Linda Roehl, Miriam St. Claire, Royce & Phyllis Saltzman, Jim & Paula Salerno, Robert & Georgette Silber, Mary & Everett Smith, David, Emily & Jonah Sokoloff, Ray & Cathie Staton, Victor Steinhart°, SUB, Philip Swanson*, Marion Sweeney, Michael & Candace Syman-Degler, Wayne & Jean Tate, John & Linda Van Peenen*, David Westcott, Richard & Jean Weick, Sandra Weingarten, Jim & Sally Weston, George Wingard, Woodard Family Foundation, Catherine York & Kevin Strode

Friend \$50 - \$99

Lucille Allsen, Amici Ushers, Robert Alminana, Florence Alvergue, Janet Anderson a& Evelyn Anderton, Melissa Aubin & Stephen Shoemaker, Tom & Patti Barkin, John Bascom*, Frank & Nancy Carlton*, Dorothy Dodson, Ellie Dumdi, Glenn Gordon, James Harper & Michelle Pauly, Don & Mary Jacobson, Kenneth & Elizabeth Kodama, Evelyn McConnaughey, Sandy & Nancy Naishtat, Ginny & Roger Reich, David Riley, John Schellman*, Jay Silverman, Marjorie Simon, Mary & Everett Smith, Harold & Sue Sonduck*, Lucille Sonduck*, Susan Staffel, Carol Thibeau, Mary Wagner & Doug Mitchell, Alvin Urquart, Gerald Webking

Thanks

Rosemary Barr, Caitriona Bolster, Pam Brills, Tony & Jeanette Buxton, Fred Crafts, Barbara Gates, Carolyn Flatley-Gilkey, David Guy, Gwen Hanger, Carolyn Hannah, John Heintz, Beverly Henderson, Don & Lin Hirst, Margit Hollerud, Anne Korn, Teresita Ladd, Laurene Larson, Tony Metcalf, Jane McCleery, Jan Moursund, Russ Norberg, Isabel Papagno, Todd Peterson, Gail Pioso, Ruth Romoser, Kay Rumsey, Marcia Shankman, Janet Smith, David Sonnichsen, Betsy Steffensen, Kris Stewart, Marion Sweeney, Chris Wesley

Chamber Music Amici

Next Performances

Concert 4

Monday April 7, 2014, 7:30 pm Richard E. Wildish Community Theater

Program

Beethoven "Ghost" Piano Trio

Deak Wager at the Eldorado Saloon

Gliere Duos for violin and cello

Amici

Steven Pologe **cello**

Victor Steinhardt **piano**

Guest

Kathryn Lucktenberg **violin**

Concert Sponsor

Amici Intimi



Rhapsody Irene Henjum

Tickets \$20-\$30, Students \$5
541-953-9204



Resident Company

Chamber Music Amici
PO Box 50824
Eugene, Oregon 97405
541-953-9204
<http://www.chambermusicamici.org>

