

3-19-2006

## Mostly Music: Mar. 19, 2006

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### Recommended Citation

Staff, Mostly Music, "Mostly Music: Mar. 19, 2006" (2006). *Mostly Music*. 101.  
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Mostly Music at  
Northeastern Illinois University  
Presents

The Metropolis Quartet

Hosted by Eileen Mackevich  
Sunday, March 19, 2006  
1430 N. Lake Shore Drive  
Chicago, IL



## **The Metropolis Quartet**

Deb Stevenson, *Oboe*

Thomas Yang, *Violin*

Jeri-Lou Zike, *Viola*

Steven Houser, *Cello*

### **Program**

Quartetto in F Major

Allegro

Adagio Cantabile

Rondo - Allegretto

Luigi Gatti

(1740-1817)

Quatuor

Allegro Vivace

Jean Francaix

(1912-1997)

Nocturne

Alexander Borodin

(1833-1887)

Quartett, KV 370

W.A. Mozart

(1756-1791)

### **Intermission**

Quartett in Bb Major

Allegro

Rondo

J.C. Bach

(1735-1782)

Adagio

W.A. Mozart

(1756-1791)

Phantasy Quartet

Benjamin Britten

(1913-1976)



## The Metropolis Quartet

Metropolis performs the major oboe quartet repertoire written by composers such as Mozart, J.C. Bach and Benjamin Britten. They also seek out lesser-known works by composers of all periods, and take familiar melodies and perform their own arrangements. Each performance is a sparkling mix of wonderful compositions, memorable melodies and fun conversation between the musicians and audience members.

The quartet is also the driving force behind the Metropolis Symphony — an orchestra that can be found at Symphony Center for the Apollo Chorus' Messiah and Chicago's premiere St. Patrick's Day event; at the Oak Park Handel Week Festival; and in performance and recordings with some of Chicago's major vocal groups such as the St. Charles Singers and the choirs of Holy Name Cathedral, St. Clement Church and Old St. Patrick's Church.

A Metropolis Quartet performance is an experience that will not soon be forgotten. These four musicians bring to the stage musical energy, an obvious love of what they do, and a true affection for each other. These qualities combine to truly make Metropolis a one-of-a-kind quartet.

## Deb Stevenson, Oboe

Deb Stevenson is oboist with the Metropolis Quartet and Symphony. She also plays frequently with the Milwaukee Symphony. Other performances include shows at the Shakespeare Theatre and the Marriott Lincolnshire and concerts with Ars Viva, the Apollo Chorus, the Joffrey Ballet, Chicago Sinfonietta, The Chicago Symphony, Lyric Opera, Lake Forest Symphony, Music of the Baroque, the Nashville Chamber Orchestra, Civic Orchestra of Chicago, and the Milwaukee Ballet Orchestra.

Deb can be heard on recordings of the Strauss "Alpine Symphony" and Stravinsky's complete "Firebird" with the Chicago Symphony; "I know Where I'm Going" with the St. Charles Singers; numerous recordings for GIA music publishing company; "Music from the Bolivian Rainforest" with the Metropolis Symphony; and on "Foundations" — a cd of hymntune arrangements by her husband, Scott Stevenson.

Aside from performing and teaching the oboe, Deb is also a music contractor. She has hired performers for the St. Charles Singers concerts and recordings and for the Heartland Voices. She has brought the Metropolis Symphony to Baker Memorial Methodist Church in St. Charles for performances of Handel's Messiah, the Mozart C minor Mass and the entire Bach Christmas Oratorio, and hired a brass choir for performances at the United Methodist Church of Geneva. She has also provided musicians for Bob Newhart, Smokey Robinson, Jerry Butler, Rich Little, Bobby Vinton and the choir from Old St. Patrick's Cathedral for the Paramount Arts Center in Aurora, Illinois.

Deb's formal music education began in Louisville, KY with Marion Gibson and continued through college culminating in a masters degree from Northwestern University. She has studied with Grover Schiltz, Ray Still and Larry Thorstenburg.



## **Thomas Yang, Violin**

In much demand as a performer throughout the Chicago area, Thomas Yang is familiar to his audiences through his work as concertmaster of Metropolis Symphony (formerly Symphony of the Shores), as well as the violinist of Metropolis Quartet and Trio Capriccio and first violinist of the Chicago Classical String Quartet.

Mr. Yang's musical leadership has been recognized by many other musical organizations for which he has served as concertmaster including the Lake Forest Symphony, Chicago Sinfonietta, and Illinois Chamber Symphony. His solo performances have included works by Beethoven, Tchaikovsky, Massenet, Vivaldi, Ysaye, and Vaughn Williams.

Beyond orchestral and solo music performance, Mr. Yang's creativity and leadership skills have led to the success of his contracting company, the Chicago Musical Connection, which provides live music for a wide variety of events. He has developed strong relationships with many organizations, churches and choral groups, frequently serving on their committees, and has been instrumental in the creation and establishment of many projects which have resulted in highly-acclaimed music series, fundraising concerts, and recordings. Some of these include Old St. Patrick's Church's Deck the Hall, St. Patrick's Day Fundraiser at Symphony Center, Handel Week in Oak Park, St. Ignatius' Sing-a-Long Messiah, and St. Charles Singers' Christmas Oratorio by Bach (the complete series 1-6) — many of which have continued for more than 10 years now.

Mr. Yang has also performed with and/or provided orchestras for many of today's popular artists and yesterday's legends including Frank Sinatra, Ray Charles, Josh Groban, Lyle Lovett, Trans-Siberian Orchestra, Smokey Robinson, Natalie Cole, John Denver and a host of others. His quartet has even been the opening act for Meatloaf!

Additionally, Mr. Yang is a member of the Grant Park Symphony Orchestra and has performed with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Symphony II, Basically Bach and many other musical organizations. He is currently an artist-in-residence at Robert Morris College, where his ensemble brings music educational programs to the local high schools and colleges.

## **Jeri-Lou Zike, Viola**

Jeri-Lou Zike is a versatile, energetic musician who enjoys a variety of artistic activities in symphonic, baroque and chamber music. In addition to her work with the Metropolis Quartet, she is assistant concertmaster of the Metropolis Symphony and principal second violin of the Lake Forest Symphony and Chicago Opera Theater. Additionally, she is a member of the Chicago Philharmonic and the Ravinia Festival Orchestra, and has performed with the Grant Park Symphony.

As a period instrument performer, Jeri-Lou recently played Music of the Baroque's first performance on period instruments. She has also appeared as soloist with the Chicago Baroque Ensemble, Apollo's Fire, His Majestie's Clerkes, Kansas City Music Consort and the James Chorale. She also performs regularly as concertmaster of the University of Chicago Rockefeller Chapel Concerts and the Bach Week Festival. Jeri-Lou studied baroque performance practice with Monica Huggett and was a member of The City Music and Basically Bach.

Jeri-Lou is a founding member and leader of Trio Elan as well as a frequent performer with the Chicago Classical String Quartet. She is heard frequently on WFMT, Chicago's Fine Arts Radio and has recorded with GIA, Centaur and Cedille Records.

## **Steven Houser, Cello**

Steven Houser began playing the cello at age 13, teaching himself for a period of 6 years. He began formal lessons at the onset of his college years, first at Olivet College in Michigan, and then at DePaul University in Chicago studying on scholarship with Frank Miller.

Mr. Houser currently plays principal cello with the Metropolis Quartet and Metropolis Symphony as well as with the Lake Forest Symphony, Park Ridge Orchestra and is assistant principal cello with the Ars Viva Orchestra and is also a member of the Grant Park Symphony. Steven has been the principal cellist of the Chicago Civic Orchestra, Chicago String Ensemble, Chicago Sinfonietta, Orchestra of Illinois and the Northbrook Symphony. Teaching, playing chamber music and doing commercial recordings round out some of Mr. Houser's many activities.



**NEXT CONCERT:**

**March 26, 2006**

**James Giles, Piano**

**Mozart, Gershwin, Medtner & Liszt**

**Evanston Residence**

**For more info call 773-442-4978 or**

**email: CL-Miller@neiu.edu**

