

Steinway Gallery Recital Hall

AN EVENING OF CHAMBER
MUSIC

featuring
The Nocturne String Quartet

June 27, 2024

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Violin I, Mariya Potapova, Violin II, Andrea Pettigrew, Viola, Arthur Ross,
Cello, Daria Yevgenievna Titova Janssen

John Wyeth (1770 – 1858) Arr. Dan Forrest (1978–)
“Come Thou, Fount of Every Blessing” for String Quartet (2005)

Adam Jacob Simon (1987–)
String Quartet in G minor (2010)

- I. Largo Cantabile
- II. Grave
- III. Allegrissimo Maestoso

South Carolina premiere

~Intermission~

David C. Janssen (1982–)
String Quartet No. 3 (2023-2024)

- I. Molto Allegro
- II. Pastoral
In memory of Joshua Raines
- III. Scherzo
- IV. Tarantella

world premiere

Program Notes

String Quartet No. 3

Work for String Quartet No. 3 began in late fall of 2022 and was completed spring of 2024. In 2016, when Vivian, my second child was born, I had made my String Quartet No. 2. I very much enjoyed the symmetry of writing a quartet for every baby. Therefore, I had in my mind to make a third quartet as we were seeking to have a third child. Before we got pregnant with our now son, we lost two babies. On our way to the doctor, we witnessed a fatal collision involving a motor cycle driven by a kid, just 14 years old.

It is an incredible paradox, as this world so full of beauty and goodness should have such concurrent tragedies. The suns grace ripped away by asphalt into a cruel hot field, smoke and pieces of what should be a toy scattered on the pavement accompanied a quickly gathered crowd of people who tried desperately to save the kid's life-vain as the effort was. This all happened at the same time we were grieving the loss of a baby. Yet the story does not end there, 10 months later we welcomed Marc Edward Janssen into the world. This very complicated and multi-faceted experience served as inspiration for my third quartet.

The first movement begins the drama with a great storm, followed by a solace giving pastorale movement which is a meditation on the natural paradise of Eden. Movement three is a more or less traditional scherzo with a mood that reprises the storm of movement one. The fourth and final movement departs from the tumults of earlier and has a celebratory and festive mood with hints of the heroic. This is different than the usual mood of a tarantella. The popular dance form, tarantella whose name is related to the same word for tarantula, is an Italian dance in which a victim of a spider bite would dance vigorously as a remedy to the venom of a spider. I allude to the dance metaphorically to represent the mad dash struggle to avoid death. If the music would slow than the person would be become victim to the poison, or death. My tarantella uses a trick by taking the same theme at three slowing tempos but all the while never slowing the pulse. Therefore, the music slows down, even though it never slows down. This is meant to be tone painting of Jesus' promise uttered in the Gospel of John at the burial of Lazarus that "You will not die, even though you die". In the same way the dance does not slow down even though it slows down. The mood is jubilant which is also a staunch contrast to the usual tarantella. This is the meaning of the work- the answer to the storm. Movement two is dedicated in memory of my friend Joshua Raines, who passed away this last February.

– David C. Janssen

About the Composers

Dan Forrest

Dan Forrest (b. 1978) has been described as having “an undoubted gift for writing beautiful music...that is truly magical” (NY Concert Review), with works hailed as “magnificent, very cleverly constructed sound sculpture” (Classical Voice), and “superb writing...full of spine-tingling moments” (Salt Lake Tribune). His music has sold millions of copies, has received numerous awards and distinctions, and has become well established in the repertoire of choirs around the world via festivals, recordings, radio/TV broadcasts, and premieres in prominent international venues. Dan’s work ranges from small choral works to instrumental solo works, wind ensemble works, and extended multi-movement works for chorus and orchestra. His Requiem for the Living (2013) and Jubilate Deo (2016) have become standard choral/orchestral repertoire for ensembles around the world, with LUX (2018), the breath of life (2020), and his new CREATION oratorio (2023) also receiving critical acclaim.

Dan holds a doctorate in composition and a master’s degree in piano performance, and served for several years as a professor and department head (music theory and composition) in higher education. He currently serves as Editor at Beckenhorst Press, Chair of the American Choral Director’s Association Composition Initiatives Committee, adjunct Faculty at Furman University, and Artist-In-Residence at Mitchell Road Presbyterian Church (Greenville, SC). Details about Dan and his work can be found at www.danforrest.com.

David C. Janssen

Composer David C. Janssen has been described as “an American Sibelius” in the way he uses the music of the past into a contemporary idiom, being inspired by the classic western composers of the last 400 years. His list of works includes Symphony No. 1, String Quartet No. 1 & 2, Suite for Unaccompanied Cello, Piano Sonata No. 1 & 2, 12 Psalms in Verse and Meter, among others.

In the Spring of 2022 Wilderness Overture was commissioned and premiered by the Bob Jones University Symphony Orchestra and was subsequently a finalist in The American Prize 2023. David’s orchestral work The Return of the Son of Man was released by Ablaze records Orchestral Masters CD volume 5, with the Brno Symphony Orchestra conducted by Nikel Toms. Other prizes and acknowledgments include 2nd Prize in MA-ASTA Composition Competition for Courante for solo Cello, and a composer fellowship for the Wyoming New Music Festival, commission by Canterbury Choral Society, and more. Recently activities include the world premiere of String Quartet No. 2 and the premiere of String Quartet No. 3. David has served on the faculty at Boston University, New Hampshire Institute of Art, Middlesex Community College, Boston Baptist College and University of

Massachusetts – Dartmouth. He has also served as a jurist at the regional and national level for the National Federation of Music Clubs Junior Composer Contest. David C. Janssen received his D.M.A. from Boston University, M. M. from Manhattan School of Music and a B. M. from Oklahoma City University. He currently resides in Greenville, South Carolina with his wife cellist Daria Janssen and children Kristina, Vivian and Marc.

Adam Jacob Simon

Composer Adam Jacob Simon (b. 1987) has enjoyed many recent performances and commissions from nationally acclaimed ensembles including Lorelei Ensemble, A Far Cry, Cantus, Tiny Glass Tavern, Palaver Strings, Conspirare, Seraphic Fire, WordSong Boston, and the Oriana Consort. His music has been praised as "...full-throated and exhilarating..." - The Boston Globe and "...swept with a mercurial traversal of emotions..." - The Boston Musical Intelligencer. In 2010 he won the St. Botolph Club Emerging Artist Award to record his String Quartet #1 with the Mt. Auburn String Quartet, founded by popular Boston cellist, Rafael Popper Keizer. His compositions are regularly performed throughout the US and Europe. He is an accomplished singer as well, recently performing the tenor solos in Mozart's Mass in c minor with the Onion River Chorus in Montpelier VT. His voice is described as having a "wonderful romantic lyricism" and "reassuring warmth" - Times Argus. Recent solo highlights have been the tenor Evangelist in Arvo Pärt's "Passio" and baritone in Duruflé's Requiem with the Trinity Church Choirs in Boston, where he serves as staff singer.

He is an avid folk singer performing frequently with VT based vocal ensemble Northern Harmony, traveling throughout Europe, South Africa and the U.S. As co-founder of the folk music duo "Sophie et Adam" alongside French mezzo-soprano Sophie Michaux, he frequently performs a varied repertoire of European and American folk music.

Adam has a Master's degree in Music composition from Tufts University in Medford MA, where he studied with Boston composer John McDonald. He completed his undergraduate studies at the Longy School of Music in Cambridge MA, studying composition with Howard Frazin, and music theory with Judy Ross. Adam lives in the foothills of the Berkshires in Western MA, where he serves as Director of Music at Edwards Church in Northampton.

About Performers

Mariya Potapova

St. Petersburg native Mariya Potapova leads a multi-faceted performing life in the Asheville area. Mariya holds bachelor degrees in Music and Psychology from University of North Carolina Asheville. She is a member of the Asheville Symphony, Associate Concertmaster of Hendersonville Symphony, member of the Opal String Quartet, and Temple Trio, and performs with the Greenville Symphony, Symphony of the Mountains, TN, SC Philharmonic, Winston-Salem Symphony, and other local orchestras. She collaborates with a wide range of classical and non-classical ensembles, including Pan Harmonia, The Dead Eduards: A Piano Trio, Free Planet Radio, and The Get Right Band. She also collaborated with various artist on recording projects, including music for films. Equally at home performing musicals, Mariya has frequented the orchestra pit at the Flat Rock Playhouse and Western Carolina University.

Andrea Pettigrew

Andrea Pettigrew began studying the violin at the age of 10 and makes her living as an orchestral and chamber musician throughout the Southeast. She is a member of the Asheville Symphony, and the Greenville Symphony and maintains a thriving private teaching studio. She has 25 years of teaching experience and recently began teaching middle-school in Greenville, SC.

A native Canadian, Ms. Pettigrew grew up in Halifax, Nova Scotia, surrounded by classical and traditional “old-time” musicians. She has a Bachelor of Music in violin performance from Dalhousie University. She is a student of Philippe Djokic and Jan Wicha, and was strongly influenced by the teachings of Vladimir Landsmann and Ryan Kho.

Ms. Pettigrew is a member of The Dead Eduards: A Piano Trio.

Arthur Ross

Arthur Ross is an extremely active performing artist in both the orchestral and chamber music worlds. He has served as Principal Violist of Symphony Orchestra Augusta, Assistant Principal Violist of the Greenville Symphony, and as tenured member of the South Carolina Philharmonic. He has been a soloist with all three groups, and has played with orchestras and ensembles throughout the southeast. He has performed chamber music with the Vega Quartet, collaborated with the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, and participated in the International Chamber Music Festival in Athens, GA.

Arthur earned a Bachelor's of Music degree in Viola Performance from the Eastman School of Music, and was a pupil of George Taylor. He studied chamber music with cellist, Stephen Doane, violists, James Dunham and John Graham, violinist, Charles Castleman, clarinetist, the late Peter Hancock, and members of the Ying Quartet. He has worked with some of the world's great conductors including Christoph Eschenbach, Leonard Slatkin, Roger Norrington, and Michael Tilson Thomas.

When not playing the viola, Arthur has studied martial arts (Jeet Kune Do, Kali, Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu), is an avid reader and podcast listener with wide-ranging interests including history, philosophy, religion, politics, technology, business theory, and science fiction. He has also performed and competed as a salsa dancer, but now, just dances for fun!

Check out Arthur's YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/@arthurross2974) where he discusses music and music performance, art and its significance to our culture, and the life and work of the performing artist.

Daria Yevgenievna Titova Janssen

Internationally acclaimed Russian-Ukrainian-American cellist Daria Y. T. Janssen began her cello adventure in 1990 studying under Igor Danilovich Rojavsky at the Special Music School for gifted children in Kharkiv, Ukraine. Daria first appeared as a soloist with the Kharkiv Philharmonic Orchestra at the age of nine, shortly before she began competing internationally.

In 1999, Daria became the youngest student of Terry King at the Longy School of Music in Boston, where she studied piano with Lyubov Shlain, jazz improv with Peter Cassino, chamber music with Victor Rosenbaum as well as theory and harmony with Nadia Boulanger's student Judy Ross.

Currently, Daria is a cellist at the Greenville Symphony Orchestra and a music director at Southside and Traveler's Rest high schools in Greenville, SC.

Outside of frequent solo appearances, Daria is the founder and cellist of the Nocturne String Quartet and DJMS (Daria Janssen Music School), based in Greenville, SC.

Daria holds the Doctorate of Musical Arts degree from the Boston University, where she met her husband, composer David C. Janssen. Together Drs. Janssen collaborate on premiering and performing new music.

Acknowledgements

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Special thanks to **Daria Yevgenievna Titova Janssen** for her profound generosity and professionalism.

Thank you to all our performers **Maryia, Andrea, Arthur** and **Daria**.

Thank you to **Yelizaveta** and **Yevgen Titov** for their essential help in making this performance possible.

Finally, special thanks to each of you for coming and being a part of the world premiere of my String Quartet No. 3.

Have a great evening!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David C Janssen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'D' and 'J'.

David C. Janssen
dcjanssen.com