



PALISADES VIRTUOSI

MARGARET SWINCHOSKI, FLUTE DONALD MOKRYNSKI, CLARINET RON LEVY, PIANO

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2024 - 7:30pm

CEDAR CREST RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

~program~

George Washington Slept Here! [2004]
(Variations on "Soldiers Joy")

commissioned by Palisades Virtuosi

John Lampkin
(b. 1946)

Musings on the Beauty of Three [2022]

commissioned by Palisades Virtuosi

Rita Blacker
(b. 1957)

Suite in A major, Op. 35, for Piano Trio [1893]
for flute [orig. violin], clarinet [orig. cello] & piano

Horatio Parker
(1863-1919)
[corr. PV]

I. Prelude: Moderato

II. Tempo de Minuetto

III. Romance: Andante con moto

IV. Finale: Allegro

Carmen Fantasy for flute, clarinet & piano [1997]

Michael Webster
(b. 1944)



Winners of the 2022 American Prize - Ernst Bacon Award for their performances of American music, and dubbed "The Commissioners" by Chamber Music America magazine, **Palisades Virtuosi** has established an enviable presence in the chamber music world since its inception in 2002. The founders are three friends, all who had hitherto enjoyed considerable success as individual performers, and who also shared a love of ensemble playing. After performing a few concerts together as a trio, they discovered that they had virtually exhausted the existing repertoire for flute, clarinet and piano. In the

midst of gathering frustration an idea presented itself: why not begin commissioning new works [by American composers] written specifically for their instrumental configuration? The concept was enthusiastically embraced and implemented. Now, to date, PV's portfolio boasts 100 new pieces, acquired either directly through PV's "Mission to Commission"®, or by a work being gifted to PV by several and various composers. The collection, taken as a whole, exhibits an astounding richness and depth; the ages of the composers range from sixteen to eighty, displaying a staggering array of styles and approaches. (For a comprehensive listing of the "Honor Roll," you are invited to visit the composers page at our website).

The geographical "home-base" of PV is Bergen County, NJ, where they have performed their subscription concert series since 2003. They have also traveled extensively, appearing at important venues which have included Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall at which they celebrated their 20th Anniversary in 2022, the Bruno Walter Auditorium/NY Public Library at Lincoln Center, the 2022 International ClarinetFest in Reno, NV, the venerable Stratford Summer Music Festival (founded by Glenn Gould), the University of Hawaii, Honolulu (where they have an informal "residency"), and the New York Flute Club, to name a few. PV has been named "Visiting Artist" at Bergen Community College (NJ) and is also "In Residence" at The Ridgewood Conservatory.

An important part of Palisades Virtuosi's mission is to record and disseminate its new compositions. With the assistance of substantial grants from the Argosy Foundation Contemporary Music Fund, the Alice M. Ditson Fund of Columbia University, and private donations, six volumes of CDs have been recorded and released [by Albany Records]. In 2021, they released Volume 7, "Songs & Stories", a 2-Cd set of all their commissioned works that include narrator or voice, on the 4-Tay Records label. These recordings have garnered rave reviews from such publications as Fanfare Magazine, American Record Guide, and Living Music Journal. Equally passionate about more traditional music, PV has recorded an album ["Palisades Virtuosi in Recital"/High Point Records], which features music of Bloch, Gaubert, Debussy, Scriabin, Saint-Saens and Danzi.

Palisades Virtuosi is the artist ensemble of PV Music Trio, Inc. (formerly known as Palisades Virtuosi, Inc.) which is a 501(c)(3) organization established to promote and enrich the repertoire for flute, clarinet and piano. Please visit www.palisadesvirtuosi.org to learn more about us!

MARGARET SWINCHOSKI, flutist, began her musical studies at the age of nine in Vermont. She graduated with degrees and high honors both in Performing Arts and Music Education from Johnson State College, Johnson, Vermont. She received her Master of Arts degree from Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College. Currently principal flute with the NY Gilbert & Sullivan Orchestra, she has served as principal flutist with the Westchester and Harrisburg Symphony Orchestras, and travels to Ohio each summer to play principal flute with the Lancaster Festival Orchestra. Ms. Swinchoski was recently appointed to the faculty of the Music School of Delaware (Milford) and she is also on the faculty of The Ridgewood Conservatory (NJ). She was a featured soloist at the National Flute Association Convention in the World Premiere of Leo Kraft's "From The Hudson Valley" and also premiered Richard Lane's Flute Concerto with the Adelphi Chamber Orchestra. She has appeared as a concerto soloist with many other orchestras. Ms. Swinchoski was presented in her debut recital by Artists International at Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall. Her solo debut CD "From The Hudson Valley" was released by Albany Records in 2000 and garnered rave reviews from "Fanfare" magazine and "American Record Guide". Ms. Swinchoski can also be heard on the Newport Classics, CRI and High Point labels. Recently moved to Delaware she has just formed Duo Dolce, a new flute & harp duo with harpist, Joy Slavens.

DONALD MOKRYNSKI, clarinetist, is a native to metropolitan New York and has played with many of the area's finest ensembles. Currently principal clarinetist with the Garden State Philharmonic, Don has played principal with the Albany Symphony and was recently principal clarinetist with the national tour of "Phantom of the Opera" and with "The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber" starring Michael Crawford. Mr. Mokrynski has also performed with the New Jersey Symphony, the New Haven Symphony, Solisti New York, and Orchestra New England, as well as the Jersey Lyric, New Haven and Connecticut Grand Opera Companies. An avid chamber musician, Don has performed with members of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. Graduating with honors from the Eastman School of Music and completing a master's degree from the Juilliard School, Don has also attended the music festivals of Aspen, Waterloo and Heidelberg and has recorded for Koch International, Soundstream, Elektra and High Point records.

RON LEVY, international acclaimed pianist, has been called "first-class" by the New York Times. He regularly appears in major venues, both as a soloist and collaborative artist, and has been pianist and harpsichordist of many symphony orchestras. Ron has been Associate Artist with the highly acclaimed All Seasons Chamber Players; he was a frequent guest soloist with the resident chamber ensemble of the NY Metropolitan Museum of Art. A resident of Vermont for over 20 years, Ron was a faculty and Board member of the Manchester Music Festival, Music Director and Conductor of the Opera Theatre in Weston, Program and Music Director at the historic Equinox Hotel, and impresario of the "Music On The Hill" chamber music series of the Southern Vermont Art Center.. A graduate of Oberlin College, he has taught at numerous colleges, and is currently on the faculty of Montclair University's Cali School of Music, as well as The Ridgewood Conservatory. In addition, he is Music Director of the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood, pianist & Assistant Conductor of the Orpheus Club Mens' Chorus, a member of the Arundo Trio, and pianist of the award-winning Palisades Virtuosi, of which he is a founding member. A prolific recording artist, CDs by Mr. Levy are available on the Albany, Centaur, Eroica, 4-Tay, Great Kate, High Point, Koch International, Phoenix, South Mountain and Summit labels. A two-term President of the Professional Music Teachers' Guild of NJ, Mr. Levy is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Rockland [NY] and Monmouth [NJ] symphony orchestras; he is also a consultant to BIM Music Publications, Switzerland. (Ron is the unintentional star of the YouTube video "Five Top Worst Page Turn Fails," which has gone viral with over two million hits!)