

Musical Program

David Felberg & Friends

Vijay Gupta & Greg Ewer, Violins
David Felberg, Violin, Viola
James Holland, Cello
Judith Gordon, Piano

Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)

Piano Trio in C Major, Hob. XV, No. 27
I. Allegro
II. Andante
III. Finale (Presto)

Jean-Marie Leclair (1697-1764)

Sonata for 2 Violins in A major, Op. 3, No. 2
I. Allegro
II. Sarabanda
III. Allegro

Kenji Bunch (b. 1973)

Foilie à deux ("Shared Delusion") for three violins

INTERMISSION

Dmitri Shostakovich (1906-1975)

Piano Quintet in g minor, Op. 57
I. Prelude: Lento - Poco più mosso - Lento
II. Fugue: Adagio
III. Scherzo: Allegretto
IV. Intermezzo: Lento
V. Finale: Allegretto

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The Placitas Artists Series

Presents


David Felberg & Friends

Sunday, February 16, 2025



Chamber Music

Concert generously sponsored by

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Notes On Today's Concert

Joseph Haydn was an Austrian composer and pianist of the Classical period who was instrumental in the development of symphonic and chamber music and was a friend and major influence on both Mozart and Beethoven. His contributions to musical form have led him to be called "Father of the Symphony" – he wrote 106! – and "Father of the String Quartet." According to musicologist Kai Christiansen, founder of EarSense.org, one should also include at least two other genres: "the keyboard sonata and the keyboard trio, both transitioning from the harpsichord to the piano during the course of his career."

Haydn published his final piano trios, including today's piece, in 1797. According to Hans Christoph Worbs, in notes to a Beaux Arts Trio recording of this and other late Haydn trios, they were actually labeled "sonatas for the pianoforte with an accompaniment for the violin and violoncello." The concept of the "accompanied" piano sonata, composed with the idea that amateur performers were frequently supporting the more accomplished pianist, was common in the day. Worbs observes, "In the C Major trio, the piano does have the lead, but at least in places the violin joins the piano as an equal partner, e.g. in tossing the motives to and fro in the lightning *Presto*."

French Baroque composer **Jean-Marie Leclair** was a virtuoso violinist whose music career took him all over Europe. The vast majority of his surviving works feature the violin. He wrote at least 48 sonatas and 12 concertos for solo violin; he also composed many pieces for two violins, either as duos or as trios for two violins and continuo.

Leclair's Op. 3 was a set of six sonatas for two violins. Violinists Gwen Hoebig and Karl Stobbe recorded all six for an Analekta CD. Stobbe, in his album notes, says Leclair "defined a style of French virtuosity that was never showy but held reserve and elegance alongside technical mastery. His compositions have moments of wonderful genius, developing effortless dialogue between instruments – sometimes tender, yet other times combative." Of the Op. 3 sonatas, Stobbe says, "These are technically demanding works, requiring precision and delicacy, but always in the service of great music. Leclair's genius shines in his ability to create colours and characters that continuously evolve." He also notes that the two violin parts (these "characters" in a musical dialog) "are always of equal importance."

Kenji Bunch is an American composer and violist who has served as the artistic director of Fear No Music and taught at Portland State University, Reed College, and for the Portland Youth Philharmonic. According to his website, KenjiBunch.net, he is "one of America's most engaging, influential, and prolific composers, with genre-defying music that has been performed on six continents and by over 70 American orchestras."

Bunch describes today's piece in notes for the streamed version on SoundCloud.com: "This work draws inspiration from two sources: Micah Fletcher's poem 'False Idols,' written as part of a cycle dealing with his personal experience as a survivor of the horrific Portland MAX train attack of 2017, and the early 17th century 'Echo Sonata' for three violins and continuo by Biagio Marini. ... I call this piece 'Folie à deux,' a term used by psychologists to describe a 'shared delusion' between two or more people closely associated with each other."

Notes (Continued)

It is scored for solo violin with two additional offstage violins who do their best to 'capture' parts of the solo part but are inevitably at the mercy of their limited perspectives, celebrating the fragile poetic fallacy of our attempts to capture a singular 'truth.'"

Russian composer **Dmitri Shostakovich** was a major force of 20th century classical music. He completed his first symphony, his graduation piece at the Petrograd Conservatory, at the age of 19. That work received immediate international acclaim, and he went on to produce dozens of orchestral, chamber, and solo compositions. But his reputation did not protect him from condemnation by the Soviet government in the 1930s and 1940s. At one point, Shostakovich was forced to publicly recant in the face of accusations that his music represented "formalistic perversions and anti-democratic tendencies in music."

This five-movement quintet was composed in 1940. Some accounts of the piece's origin claim Shostakovich decided to expand what was to have been a string quartet, written for the Beethoven Quartet, into a piano quintet so that he would be allowed to travel more widely to perform it with them. The official premiere, held at the Moscow Conservatory in November 1940, did indeed feature the composer playing with his Beethoven Quartet friends. The work was an instant success, with audiences demanding encores of individual movements and even of the entire piece.

[Notes compiled by Jay Rodman from sources mentioned above and from Wikipedia.]

About David Felberg & Friends

Leading today's ensemble is violinist **David Felberg**, concertmaster of the Santa Fe Symphony. He also performs with Santa Fe Pro Musica and has been a featured soloist with the Santa Fe Symphony, New Mexico Philharmonic, New Mexico Symphony, Albuquerque Philharmonic, Los Alamos Symphony, Palo Alto Philharmonic, Balcones Orchestra, and the Chatter Orchestra. Felberg's first Placitas Artists Series appearances were with Willy Sucre and Friends; he has also organized several PAS concerts in past seasons. For this performance, he will be playing violin and viola. Cellist **James Holland** has also performed for PAS with Mr. Sucre and has led PAS concerts with violinist Megan Holland. In 2013 Holland became president and artistic director of Albuquerque Chamber Soloists. As a chamber musician, he has performed with Chatter, the Taos Chamber Music Series, and Chamber Music Amarillo, among others. Pianist **Judith Gordon** has performed for PAS with Kim Fredenburgh's groups and led her own ensemble's PAS performance in April 2024. Having recently relocated to New Mexico, she performs frequently with other musicians at Chatter and other area chamber music concerts. Violinist **Vijay Gupta** is a speaker and citizen-artist dedicated to creating spaces of wholeness and belonging through music. His influence reaches worldwide. Violinist **Greg Ewer**, hailed by the New York Times for his "refinement and spirit," has been a member of the Oregon Symphony since 2001.

Exhibit Three Artists

Mary Hoffman

"After years of doing production pottery I now enjoy creating my own shapes and pieces. I enjoy choosing designs and glazes to decorate my pieces and like to create things that are also useful and functional."

Anna Escamilla

"I love the outdoors and plein air painting has become something I look forward to doing. The New Mexico skies and landscape provide beauty throughout the year. I am also exploring abstract, mixed media and drawing."

Joanne Fredrikson

"I love designing and creating quilted art. It is a passion that engages me in exploring and learning new techniques, sourcing new fabrics and working in a community of quilters."

Carolyn Grady

"I explore a broad gamut of states of mind. Fear, anxiety, happiness, confusion – all of the feelings that make us human and form our individual paths. I'm also interested in portraying the physics of matter, energy, space, and time in the world."

Art On Exhibit
1/24/2025 - 3/6/2025



Mary Hoffman
stoneware



Anna Escamilla
acrylics & oils



Joanne Fredrikson
art quilts



Carolyn Grady
abstract acrylic painting